

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The principal work of the Spirit is faith;
the principal exercise of faith is prayer.

John Calvin

But when the Comforter is come,
whom I will send unto you
from the Father,
even the Spirit of truth,
which proceedeth from the Father,
he shall testify of me.

John 15:26

Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
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Introduction

It is our purpose to study the Biblical teaching concerning the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. That our God is of one Essence Who yet exists in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a truth that was proclaimed from the early days of the Church. This truth, which today is considered an essential tenant of orthodox Christianity, was not explicitly stated until the Church Councils of Nicea and Constantinople (325 and 381 A.D.).

The Church fathers in the first two centuries following the closing of the canon did not define their Trinitarian doctrine in explicit terms, but their expressions showed that they worshiped and served the Triune God. In the course of the years, certain errors were introduced into the Christian community that made it necessary to convene the Councils previously mentioned to make a more exact statement concerning the three Members of the Godhead. The first error, called Modalism, stated that there was One God Who appeared at various times in different modes – Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. This doctrine denied the individual personalities of the Godhead. The second error, Arianism, named after its chief proponent, taught that there was One God, the Father, Who created the Son, Who in turn created the Spirit. Arius taught that the Son and the Holy Spirit were higher than mere men, but creatures nonetheless. Clearly this was a denial of their Deity.

These errors were rejected by the early Church, as can be seen by reading the Nicene Creed with its modifications made later at Constantinople (see page 22). The truth of this declaration has stood the test of the ages. While those outside the Church will continue to deprecate our “polytheism,” no one within the pale of the Christian community seriously questions the doctrine of the Trinity. It is a part of the definition of orthodox Christianity.

Unhappily, there is not a similar unity concerning the particular work of each Person

of the Godhead. The Christian community continues to be divided in their understanding of the activities of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This can be seen in the ongoing debate over the electing purpose of the Father, the extent of the Son’s atoning work, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

While it would be valuable to examine the work of each member of the Triune God, in this study we will focus our attention on the work of the Holy Spirit. It is here that there is much confusion in the contemporary Church, and that confusion is projected into the pagan community. The phrase “born again” is widely recognized as a major tenant of the Christian community, yet the essential role of the Holy Spirit in this event is rarely mentioned. Rather, it is looked upon as a picturesque term for an emotional experience marking the conversion of a sinner. This emphasis upon emotional experience is also seen in the many churches where the chief work of the Holy Spirit is understood in terms of ecstatic experience. The Bible has much to say about the ministry of the Holy Spirit and challenges much contemporary thinking about the Third Person of the Godhead. It is the goal of this study to explore the Biblical texts which speak of His ministry and to come to a true understanding of His vital work. Failure to diligently “search the Scripture” as it speaks of the ministry of the Holy Spirit will promote the continued errors to the detriment of the souls of men.

While we will be primarily attending to the third Member of the Godhead in this study, an interesting fact will become apparent. A clear understanding of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit will bring us to a clearer understanding of the doctrine of salvation, often referred to as the doctrines of grace. It is not possible to understand one without the other. The Reformation, which “rediscovered” the true Gospel of the grace of God, also “rediscovered” the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. This is because the Reformation denied the autonomy of man or the authority of the Church in

Introduction (continued)

salvation and emphasized the sovereignty of God in salvation. That sovereign work is applied in us by the Holy Spirit. For those who understand the place of John Calvin in clarifying the doctrines of grace for the Church, it will come as no surprise that he has been termed “the theologian of the Holy Spirit” (by B. B. Warfield). Anyone who properly emphasizes the sovereignty of God in salvation will come to a clearer understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Our study will be conducted in four parts. In the first place, we will examine the evidence of Scripture supporting the doctrine of the Trinity--One God existing in three Persons. We will also look at the place of the Third Member of the Trinity in bringing to us God’s revelation, the Bible.

Secondly, we will survey the activity of the Holy Spirit as seen in the pages of Scripture. We will begin by looking at the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. This will include both an examination of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament life as well as the teaching concerning the Holy Spirit presented by the prophets. Next we will look at the Holy Spirit in the life of Christ. This is the centerpiece of our understanding of the Holy Spirit’s ministry. As the Incarnation is the apex of God’s revelation of Himself, so also are the members of the Godhead seen best here. God, although revealed clearly enough, yet is veiled in the Old Testament. It should not surprise us to find that the Spirit is seen less clearly in the Old Testament also, awaiting the Incarnation for His full revelation. The very Name of Christ in both Testaments, the “Anointed One,” suggests the ministry of the Holy Spirit. In addition to seeing the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ as a pattern for those who are now in Christ, we also have the benefit of the teaching of Christ on this important subject. Finally, our survey will take us to examine the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the establishment and

ongoing function of the Church as seen in the book of Acts.

The third phase of our study will be to focus upon the doctrinal teaching of Scripture concerning the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit with particular emphasis upon the New Testament writings. It is here that we will examine the essential role of the Spirit in the conversion of sinners and in their subsequent sanctification. We will also examine the ministry of the Spirit in giving gifts to the Church for the work of the ministry.

A fourth and final division of our study will be the concluding lesson where we examine what response the Scripture calls us to have toward the Holy Spirit.

As is our practice, we will memorize a hymn and a portion of Scripture during this course. The hymn, “Open my eyes, that I may see,” speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in enabling us to understand the Word of God in which we find Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Our Scripture memory passage is from Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus where the teaching that men must be born again to understand and enter the kingdom of heaven is set forth. It is to be hoped that this fundamental work of the Holy Spirit will be understood more clearly from our study and that there will be great blessing in meditating upon this truth as spoken by Jesus.

There are no unimportant subjects from Scripture which we could study. Yet, considering the ignorance of the Church concerning God the Holy Spirit and His essential role in the application of our great salvation, no study could be considered more vital to us. May the Triune God bless our understanding of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Schedule

June

- 1 Lesson 1: The LORD our God is One
- 8 Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit and the Word of God
- 15 Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
- 22 Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit in the Teachings of the Old Testament Prophets
- 29 Lesson 5: The Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus

July

- 6 Lesson 6: Jesus Teaches about the Holy Spirit
- 13 Lesson 7: The Holy Spirit in the Formation of the Church
- 20 Lesson 8: The Holy Spirit in the New Testament Church
- 27 Lesson 9: The Holy Spirit and the Work of Salvation

August

- 3 Lesson 10: The Holy Spirit in the Life of a Believer
- 10 Lesson 11: The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit in the Believer
- 17 Lesson 12: The Holy Spirit Gives Gifts to the Church
- 24 Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit Builds up the Church
- 31 Lesson 14: The Holy Spirit: Review and Response

Scripture Memorization

John 3:3-8

3. Jesus answered and said unto him,
Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4. Nicodemus saith unto him,
How can a man be born when he is old?
can he enter the second time
into his mother's womb,
and be born?

5. Jesus answered,
Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born of water
and [of] the Spirit,
he cannot enter
into the kingdom of God.

6. That which is born of the flesh
is flesh;
and that which is born of the Spirit
is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said unto thee,
Ye must be born again.

8. The wind bloweth where it listeth,
and thou hearest the sound thereof,
but canst not tell
whence it cometh, and whither it goeth:
so is every one
that is born of the Spirit.

Open my eyes, that I may see

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see Glimps - es of truth Thou hast for me;
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear Voi - ces of truth Thou send - est clear;
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear Glad - ly the warm truth ev - 'ry - where;

Place in my hands the won - der - ful key That shall un - clasp, and set me free.
 And while the wave - notes fall on my ear, Ev - 'ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear.
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare Love with Thy chil - dren thus to share.

Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;
 Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;
 Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;

O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine! A - - men.

Lesson 1: The LORD our God is One

MEMORY: John 3:3

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to begin our study of God the Holy Spirit by seeing that He is the third Person of the Godhead, co-equal in Deity with the Father and Son.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

1. What are we taught about God in this text?

Genesis 1:26-27; 3:22; 11:7

2. How do these passages suggest that God exists in more than one Person?

Matthew 3:13-17

3. What happened when John baptized Jesus?

Matthew 28:18-20

4. What is important about this passage in understanding the Trinity?

Genesis 1:1; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:16; Job 33:4

5. Who is the Creator?

Acts 5:1-11

6. What does this story of the sin of Ananias and Sapphira teach us about the Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

7. Who dwells in the temple of God?

Psalms 139:7; Isaiah 40:13-14; Acts 1:16; Hebrews 9:14

8. What attributes of God is the Holy Spirit seen to have in these passages?

Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

MEMORY: John 3:3-5

HYMN: “Open my eyes, that I may see”

PURPOSE: to see the activity of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times.

1. What do these passages teach about the activity of the Holy Spirit?

Genesis 1:2

Job 33:4

Psalms 104:30

2. What do we see the Holy Spirit doing in these passages?

Genesis 6:3

Exodus 31:1-5

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25

Numbers 27:18-21

Judges 3:9-11

Judges 13:24-25; 14:5-6, 19; 15:14-15

1 Samuel 11:6-7

1 Samuel 16:13-14

Daniel 4:18; 5:11-12

3. What does David say about the Holy Spirit?

2 Samuel 23:2

Psalms 51:11-12

Psalms 139:7

Psalms 143:10

Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit in the Teachings of the Old Testament Prophets

MEMORY: John 3:3-6

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see what the Old Testament prophets told of the coming work of the Holy Spirit with particular reference to the anointing of the Messiah.

1. What do each of the following prophets prophesy about the Holy Spirit?

Isaiah 44:1-5; 59:21

Ezekiel 11:17-20; 36:22-32; 37:12-14

Joel 2:28-32

Zechariah 12:10

2. What does Isaiah teach about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Messiah?

Isaiah 11:1-5

Isaiah 42:1-4

Isaiah 48:16

Isaiah 61:1-3

Lesson 5: The Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus

MEMORY: John 3:3-7

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: *to see the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Anointed One.*

Matthew 1:18-23

1. According to this text, how did Mary come to be with child, and what did the angel tell Joseph about Mary and her Child?

Luke 1:30-35

2. What did the angel Gabriel tell Mary about the Child she was going to have and how this would come to pass?

John 1:32-34

3. What was John told to expect, what did he see, and what did he report about this?

Luke 4:1-2

4. How is Jesus described here, and how did He come to be in the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:14-15

5. How is Jesus' return to Galilee described?

John 3:34-35

6. What does it mean that "God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him"?

Luke 4:16-21

7. What did Jesus say about Isaiah's prophecy?

Matthew 12:14-21

8. What prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in Jesus?

Acts 10:38; 1 Peter 3:18

9. What does Peter tell us about the Holy Spirit in the life of Christ?

Lesson 6: Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see what Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit and His ministry to the people of God.

Matthew 3:11

1. What did John announce that Jesus would do?

John 3:5-8; 6:63

2. What does the Spirit do so that we may enter into the kingdom of heaven?

John 7:37-39

3. What did Jesus say would happen when those who were thirsty came to Him to drink, and when would this happen?

Matthew 10:18-20

4. Why do the disciples of Jesus not need to worry about what they will say when they are brought before kings for Jesus' sake?

John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15

5. Jesus taught much about the Holy Spirit in the upper room discourse. Write down some of the teachings concerning each of the following:

Why does the Holy Spirit come to us?

What names are given to the Holy Spirit?

Why does the world not receive the Holy Spirit?

What does the Holy Spirit do for the world?

What does the Holy Spirit do for the believer?

Lesson 7: The Holy Spirit in the Formation of the Church

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see the first baptism of the Holy Spirit as He is poured out upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost and thereby established the Church.

Acts 1:4-8

1. What were the disciples to wait for in Jerusalem?

2. What would be the result of this event?

Acts 2:1-39

3. What was seen and heard among the disciples of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost?

4. What did the multitude hear?

5. How did the multitude react to what they heard?

6. What explanation from the Old Testament did Peter give for the remarkable events of that day?

7. What explanation from the life of Jesus did Peter give for the remarkable events of that day?

8. How did the multitude respond to Peter's message and what did they ask?

9. What was the promise that Peter spoke of and to whom was it given?

Lesson 8: The Holy Spirit in the New Testament Church

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early Church.

1. The book of Acts has much to say about the Holy Spirit. From each of the passages below, briefly record what is taught about the Holy Spirit or His work.

Acts 4:8-13

Acts 4:31

Acts 5:32

Acts 6:3-7

Acts 6:8-10; 7:55-56

Acts 7:51

Acts 8:14-17

Acts 8:29, 39

Acts 9:17-18

Acts 9:31

Acts 10:19-20

Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-18

Acts 11:28

Acts 13:2-4

Acts 13:9-12

Acts 13:52

Acts 16:6-7

Acts 19:1-7

Acts 19:21; 20:22-23; 21:4, 11

Acts 20:28

Lesson 9: The Holy Spirit and the Work of Salvation

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see that all men are separated into two classes by whether or not they have the Holy Spirit, and to see the work of the Holy Spirit in effecting this distinction through His application of God's salvation.

Galatians 4:29; Jude 19

1. What do these passages teach us about ungodly men and the Spirit of God?

1 Corinthians 2:6-8, 14

2. What does Paul tell the Corinthian church about the response of natural men to the wisdom of God?

John 14:17

3. What does Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit and the world?

Romans 8:5-9

4. What two types of people does Paul describe, and what is the difference between them?

John 16:8-11

5. What work does the Holy Spirit do in the world?

John 3:3-8

6. What essential work must be done for sinners to see and enter the kingdom of God, and how is this done?

1 Corinthians 12:3

7. What does Paul say about confessing that Jesus is Lord?

Titus 3:4-7

8. What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit and salvation?

Lesson 10: The Holy Spirit in the Life of a Believer

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see that every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Who then ministers to each one in such a way that the redemptive plan advances to a pre-ordained end in each believer according to the will of the Father.

John 14:16-17

1. What prayer request did Jesus say He would make of the Father?

Romans 8:8-10

2. Why is the Holy Spirit important to a Christian?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20

3. What does Paul ask the Corinthians if they know?

Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

4. What does Paul teach about the Holy Spirit in these passages?

1 John 3:24; 4:13

5. How do we know that Christ abides in us and we in Him?

John 16:13-15

6. What does Jesus say that the Holy Spirit will do when He comes to us?

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

7. How can the natural man, to whom the things of God are foolishness, understand and receive the things of God?

Romans 8:12-14

8. How can sinners live as sons of God?

Romans 8:26-27

9. What remarkable provision has God made for our weaknesses?

Lesson 11: The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit in the Believer

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: “Open my eyes, that I may see”

PURPOSE: to see that the Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, produces those fruits of righteousness which God has ordained that those redeemed by Jesus Christ should manifest in their lives.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

1. Why is Paul “bound to give thanks”?

1 Peter 1:22

2. How do we purify our souls?

Ephesians 6:17-18

3. What place does the Holy Spirit have in the spiritual warfare in which all believers are involved?

Galatians 5:16-25

4. What struggle is going on within a believer?

5. What are the works of the flesh?

6. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

Romans 14:16-18

7. In what does the kingdom of God consist?

2 Corinthians 3:18

8. What transformation is being accomplished by the Spirit of the Lord?

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

9. How was the preaching of the Gospel by Paul a “demonstration of the Spirit and of power”?

Lesson 12: The Holy Spirit Gives Gifts to the Church

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: *to see that the Holy Spirit gives special gifts to the Church for the work of the ministry.*

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1. What is indicated by how one speaks of Jesus?
2. Paul speaks of diversities and that which is the same. What are these?
3. Why does the Holy Spirit give various spiritual gifts?
4. What spiritual gifts are mentioned here?

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

5. How do we come to be in one body, and who determines what place we have in the body?
6. In what ways does a body help us understand the Church of Jesus Christ?
7. What attitude should the different members of the Body of Jesus Christ have toward one another?
8. What members does Paul tell us that God has appointed in the Church?
9. What does Paul tell us is even more excellent than the best gifts?

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit Builds up the Church

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to see that the Holy Spirit dispenses gifts for the edification of the Church so that those who have these gifts must exercise them in an orderly manner.

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

1. What is the difference between the gift of prophecy and the gift of tongues?
2. Why is the gift of prophecy greater than the gift of tongues?
3. What is a potential problem with the exercise of the gift of tongues in the church?
4. Paul was thankful to have the gift of tongues. Why did he prefer not to use it?
5. What is the effect of the gift of tongues and the gift of prophecy on the unbeliever?
6. What rules of order did Paul give for the exercise of the gift of tongues?
7. Why did Paul give these rules?
8. What did Paul teach about the conduct of women in the Church?
9. What test did Paul give for those who think themselves to be a prophet or spiritual?

Lesson 14: The Holy Spirit: Review and Response

MEMORY: John 3:3-8

HYMN: "Open my eyes, that I may see"

PURPOSE: to summarize the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and to particularly note that it is our duty to submit to the ministry of the Holy Spirit if we desire to exalt our Saviour.

1. From what we have learned in our study of the Holy Spirit, how does He bring us to salvation?
2. From what we have learned in our study of the Holy Spirit, what are some of the things that He does in a believer?
3. From what we have learned in our study of the Holy Spirit, what is He seeking to do?
4. From each of the following passages, what is our duty with regard to the Holy Spirit?
 - Matthew 12:31-32
 - Galatians 5:25
 - Ephesians 4:30
 - Ephesians 5:18
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19
 - Jude 20-21

The Nicene Creed

In the year 325 A.D., the leadership of the Christian Church gathered together in Nicea for a Council that was convened to refute errors then circulating and gaining adherents which denied either the Person of Jesus Christ or His equality with the Father. The result was the statement which follows, known as the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the FATHER Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, begotten of the Father; that is, of the essence of the Father, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; he suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And in the HOLY GHOST.

But those who say: "there was a time when he was not;" and "He was not before he was made;" and "He was made out of nothing," or "He is of another substance" or "essence," or "The Son of God is created," or "changeable," or "alterable"--they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.

As can be seen, the Nicene Creed did nothing to set forth the Biblical teaching concerning the Third Person of the Trinity. Errors concerning the Holy Spirit continued to unsettle the Church. Therefore, in 381 A.D., another Council was convened at Constantinople to settle this issue. The Creed adopted by this Council, retaining the statements concerning the Father and Son, but enlarging the statement concerning the Holy Spirit, and omitting the anathema, remains to this day as the foundational statement of all those who would call themselves Christians.

We believe in one God, the FATHER Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord JESUS CHRIST, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the HOLY GHOST, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. In one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; we acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.