

Module: 1

Course: The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

During one of his missionary trips, the Apostle Paul questioned a group of believers about the Holy Spirit. He asked if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed. Their answer was, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost" (Acts 19:2). * Paul shared the message of the ministry of the Holy Spirit with these Christians (Acts 19). Today it is equally important that believers understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. God promised:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh... (Acts 2:17)

The fact that God is willing at this time to pour out His Spirit upon us makes this study important. We must understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in order to be part of this special revelation of the power of God. The study of the Holy Spirit is one of the major doctrines of the Bible. A doctrine is all the teachings that relate to a particular subject. Paul said:

...give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (I Timothy 4:13)

It is not through the natural powers of man that God moves in our world. It is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

**Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord.
(Zechariah 4:6)**

This course examines the nature and personality of the Holy Spirit. It discusses the titles given to the Holy Spirit and the emblems which represent Him. Both reveal much about His ministry. The purposes, gifts, and fruit of the Holy Spirit are examined in detail. Practical guidelines are given for experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit, identifying spiritual gifts, and developing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

* The term "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible refers to the Holy Spirit. He is called either the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the personality of the Holy Spirit.
- List various names and titles of the Holy Spirit.
- Identify emblems representing the Holy Spirit.
- Describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- List and define the gifts of the Spirit.
- Identify your spiritual gift(s).
- Identify the fruit of the Spirit.
- Identify the works of the flesh.
- Develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCING THE HOLY SPIRIT

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter, you will be able to:

- Identify the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity of God.
- List personality traits of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain the nature of the Holy Spirit.

KEY VERSES:

And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him;

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:16-17)

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the Holy Spirit. It explains His position in the Trinity of God, discusses His personality traits, and warns about His sensitive nature. As previously noted, the title "Holy Ghost" is used to identify the Holy Spirit. The personal pronoun "He" is also used, as the Holy Spirit is one of three persons of the Trinity of God.

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as "He." Jesus said:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| -He shall speak of me. | John 15:26 |
| -I will send Him unto you. | John 16:7 |
| -He shall glorify me. | John 16:14 |
| -He shall not speak of Himself. | John 16:13 |

THE TRIUNE NATURE OF GOD

There are many gods worshiped throughout the world, but there is only one true God. The Holy Bible contains the story of this true God. The Bible is the Word of God which reveals His special plan for all mankind.

One of the things the Bible reveals is that God has a triune nature. This means His personality is revealed in three different forms. He is three persons, yet one God. The Holy Spirit is part of the triune nature of God which consists of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The three personalities are united as one in the Godhead.

Each part of the Trinity...the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit...have special functions on behalf of mankind. This course concerns the ministry and purpose of the Holy Spirit.

GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is called God:

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost...thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:3-4)

Since He is called God, the Holy Spirit is equal with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. The Key Verses for this chapter reveal clearly the triune nature of God. Jesus is being baptized, the Holy Spirit descends on Him, and God speaks:

And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him:

And lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:16-17)

Prior to returning to Heaven after His ministry on earth, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit:

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)

The Apostle Paul spoke of the triune nature of the Holy Spirit:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. (Romans 8:2-3)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. (II Corinthians 13:14)

For through Him [the Son] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (Ephesians 2:18)

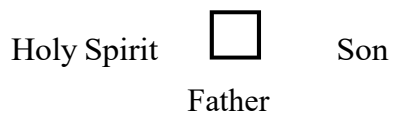
The Apostle Peter also spoke of the triune nature of God:

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. (I Peter 4:14)

The book of Acts also verifies the triune nature of God:

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. (Acts 2:33)

The following diagram illustrates the triune nature of God. There are three personalities...God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit...yet they are one God:



NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As part of the Trinity of God, the Holy Spirit has a special nature. When we speak of His nature, we mean the basic qualities which describe Him. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is:

OMNIPRESENT:

This means He is present everywhere:

**Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
(Psalms 139:7)**

OMNISCIENT:

This means He knows all things:

**But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth
all things, yea the deep things of God.**

**For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in
him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
(I Corinthians 2:10-11)**

OMNIPOTENT:

This means the Holy Spirit is all powerful:

**God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto
God. (Psalms 62:11)**

**But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...
(Acts 1:8)**

ETERNAL:

This means He is everlasting. He had no beginning and will have no ending:

**How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit
offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works
to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)**

The eternal nature of the Holy Spirit can be illustrated by a circle. The circle has no starting or ending points, yet it exists:



The Eternal Nature Of The Holy Spirit

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is part of the triune nature of God, but the Holy Spirit also has an individual personality. The Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit...

HAS A MIND:

**And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit...
(Romans 8:27)**

SEARCHES OUT THE HUMAN MIND:

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (I Corinthians 2:10)

HAS A WILL:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will. (I Corinthians 12:11)

The will of the Holy Spirit guides believers by denying permission for certain actions:

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not. (Acts 16:6-7)

The will of the Holy Spirit also guides believers by granting permission:

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the Gospel unto them. (Acts 16:10)

SPEAKS:

He spoke to Philip:

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. (Acts 8:29)

He spoke to Peter:

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. (Acts 10:19)

He spoke to the elders in the city of Antioch:

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (Acts 13:2)

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 records several messages spoken by the Holy Spirit to seven churches in Asia.

LOVES:

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. (Romans 15:30)

INTERCEDES:

One of the personality traits of the Holy Spirit is that He is an intercessor. This means He prays to God on behalf of others:

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered [spoken]. (Romans 8:26)

SENSITIVITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has a sensitive nature. This means He has feelings that can be affected by the actions of man. Because of the sensitive nature of the Holy Spirit, the Bible warns that you should not:

LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

...Thou has not lied unto me, but unto God. (Acts 5:3-4)

RESIST THE SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit has specific ministries on behalf of the believer which will be discussed in Chapter Three of this course. Resisting the Holy Spirit is not yielding to Him when He tries to minister in your life:

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. (Acts 7:51)

QUENCH THE SPIRIT:

You quench the Holy Spirit when you refuse to do what the Holy Spirit would have you to do. The word "quench" is used elsewhere in the Bible in reference to putting out a fire. When you quench the Holy Spirit it stops the flow of His power within you. It is like throwing water on a fire. The Bible warns:

Quench not the Spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:19)

GRIEVE THE SPIRIT:

Quenching the Holy Spirit is not doing what the Holy Spirit would have us do. Grieving the Holy Spirit is doing something that the Holy Spirit does NOT want us to do. The nation of Israel grieved the Holy Spirit:

How oft did they provoke Him in the wilderness, and grieve Him in the desert! (Psalms 78:40)

The Bible warns:

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

INSULT THE SPIRIT:

You insult the Holy Spirit by going back into sin after you have experienced forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ:

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:29)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6)

BLASPHEME THE SPIRIT:

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world neither in the world to come. (Matthew 12:31-32)

The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has been called the "unpardonable sin" because according to this passage it is the one sin for which there is no forgiveness. To blaspheme means to speak abusive words which reject the power of the Holy Spirit as being of God and claim it is of Satan. If a person totally rejects the power of the Holy Spirit, then he can never be saved because it is the Holy Spirit that draws sinful men to Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit produces many visible confirming signs of God's power. Jesus was saying that if a person could not accept these miraculous signs as proof of the truth of the Gospel, then what could ever possibly convince them to believe?

VEX THE HOLY SPIRIT:

To vex the Holy Spirit means to irritate, annoy, provoke, or make angry. The Holy Spirit is vexed by the disobedience and unbelief of mankind. The Prophet Isaiah records what happened to God's people, Israel, when they vexed the Holy Spirit:

But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit: therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them. (Isaiah 63:10)

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. The Holy Spirit is part of the triune nature of God which consists of God the _____, God the _____, and God the _____.

3. List the six personality traits of the Holy Spirit discussed in this chapter:

4. What does it mean when we say the Holy Spirit has "a sensitive nature"?

5. Because the Holy Spirit has a sensitive nature, the Bible warns that you should not:

_____ to the Holy Spirit _____ the Spirit. _____ the Spirit.
_____ the Spirit. _____ the Spirit. _____ the Spirit.
_____ the Spirit.

6. Read the words in list one and the definitions in list two. Write the number of the definition in front of the word which it best describes. The first is done as an example.

The Triune Nature Of The Holy Spirit

List One

 5 Equal
_____ Omnipresent
_____ Omniscient
_____ Omnipotent
_____ Eternal

List Two

1. This means He is all powerful.
2. This means He knows all things.
3. This means He is present everywhere.
4. This means He is everlasting.
5. This means He is one with the Father and the Son.