

THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE, THEOLOGICAL STUDY OF ALL BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. AS WE BEGIN A NEW STUDY TO READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR, PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP US RECOGNIZE THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTING IN, THROUGH, AND ON BEHALF OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

It is wonderful at Christmas to think about Baby Jesus being born of a Virgin in the manger at Bethlehem, leaving His throne in Heaven to become a man, Immanuel—"God with us." (Is. 7:114) But have you considered that God, in the Person of the Holy Spirit, is "God in us", the One who indwells every believer?

From *The Baptist Faith and Message*: **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. *Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

I. Who is the Holy Spirit ?

The 3rd Person of the Trinity, the same substance and character as the Father and the Son. Scriptures throughout the lesson are the basis for this belief. It is so important that statements confirming the Holy Spirit / Trinity doctrine are found in 24 of the 27 books in the New Testament.

Nicene Creed, 325 A.D. "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets."

The Holy Spirit has the same attributes, character, and power of God the Father and God the Son.

Jesus recognized the Trinity when He commissioned the apostles to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." Only one name *Matt. 28: 19*

II. Who has the Holy Spirit ?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALWAYS A GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE. He cannot be bought, borrowed, or bartered.

A. Some of God's people who lived before the Incarnation of Christ and the Church Age.

This was typically a short-term experience for a specific situation or purpose.

The Spirit of God "came upon" Joseph (Gen. 41:38); Moses (Num. 11:17); Joshua (Num. 27:18); Elijah (I Kings 18:12); and others.

The Spirit of God led Israel through the wilderness (Neh. 9:20)

David revealed God's truth through the Holy Spirit. *Acts 4:25.*

IN THE "CHRISTMAS STORY":

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. *Luke 1:41.*

Zechariah filled with the Holy Spirit. *Luke 1:67.*

Simeon filled with the Holy Spirit. *Luke 2:25-27.*

Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit. *Matt. 1:18-20; Luke 1:35.*

John the Baptist announced that Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. *Luke 3:16.*

B. The Church

1. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to do His work.

Acts 1: 2, 4-5, 8 [Jesus] was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit come on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2: 1-4: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

2. The Holy Spirit equips the Church by giving her spiritual gifts

for the benefit of the Body of Christ, not the individual believer who receives the spiritual gift(s). Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12 discuss spiritual gifts. **Eph. 4: 11-13** concisely says, "he gave some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all

reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

3. The Holy Spirit inspires the worship of the Church. Phil. 3: 3. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus. . .

4. The Holy Spirit inspires communication and singing within the Church Eph. 5: 18-20. . . be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to god the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. The Holy Spirit strengthens and encourages the Church Acts 9: 31. Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

6. The Holy Spirit is manifested in the lives of church leaders. THE FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR THE FIRST-APPOINTED DEACONS WAS TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT. Acts 6: 3 [The 12 apostles together announced a plan for helping those in need] Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be **full of the Spirit** and wisdom.

C. All Individual believers

1. Lost persons are convicted of sin and “lostness” by the Holy Spirit

John 16: 7-8 [Jesus told his disciples] It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment . . . *[Note: Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “Counselor”—a name of Jesus in Isaiah 9: 6. Counselor is parakletos]*

2. Being “born again” is the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 3: 5-6. Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” [Titus 3: 5]

3. Every believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2: 38-39 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of **Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our **God** will call”.

4. Every believer receives the full Holy Spirit –not a portion.

Does God pinch off little pieces and give you only a fragment of the Holy Spirit? No. **A. W. Tozer:** “An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others.” [Tozer, buried in Akron, wrote *The Pursuit of God* and *The Knowledge of the Holy*. His books stress the possibility and necessity for a deeper relationship with God.]

III. What does the Holy Spirit do in the believer’s life?

A. Preserves Secures the believer in a permanent relationship with Christ.

Matt. 28: 19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in **the name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—**only one name, Trinity**

John 10: 27-30 [Jesus said] My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of **my hand**. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of **my Father’s hand**. I and the Father are one.

Eph. 1: 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are god’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

1 Cor. 1: 21-22. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

II Cor. 5: 5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose [to dwell with God in heaven and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

WILL RAISE THE BODY Rom. 8: 11. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

B. Protects

1. From Satan Eph. 6: 10-18. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of god so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the whole armor of God so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm with the . . .belt of truth. . .breastplate of righteousness . . feet shod with the gospel of peace . . . shield of faith . . .helmet of salvation .

.. **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of god. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. . . .**

2. From doubt. Rom. 8: 16. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

I John 3: 24. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

3. In sorrow and discouragement [Vine, PARAKLĒTOS, "called to one's side, to one's aid, is primarily a **verbal** adjective. In its widest sense it signifies a succourer, comforter."] **John 14: 16-18.** I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter {Counselor} to be with you forever . . . I will not leave you as orphans. [**"another" is allos**—of the same sort; not *heteros*—a different sort]. Same usage in John 14: 26; 15: 26; 16: 7

4. In persecution / confrontation with unbelievers. This is one of the few teachings of Jesus that is presented in all four Gospels. **Matt. 10: 18-20; Mark 13: 11; Luke 12: 11-12; John 16: 5-15.**

C. Prays With and for us. Romans 8: 26. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

[4 possible answers to prayers:

Yes; No; Not now; Yes, but a different way]

D. Promotes Godliness II Cor. 3: 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **Gal. 5: 16-18, 24-25** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. . . . Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step the with Spirit. **I Cor. 3: 16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

1. Produces the Fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5: 22-23. But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. *Notice: fruit is singular.*

2. Empowers us to witness Acts 1: 2, 4-5, 8 [Jesus] was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit come on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

3. Sanctifies us: Ridding us of sin; Adopting sinless habits **Gal. 5: 16** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Baptist Faith and Message "SANCTIFICATION is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life." Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

4. Guides / gives understanding and discernment of God's word, truth, and purpose

John 14: 16-17, 25-26 [Jesus told his disciples] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever —the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him or knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

I Cor. 2: 9-12. However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

I John 4: 2-3. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the

spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

5. Helps us apply God's word in our lives

II Timothy 3: 16. All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Eph. 1: 17- I keep asking that the god of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead . . .

6. Gives and helps us use spiritual gifts

For the benefit of the body of Christ as seen earlier in lesson.

I Cor. 12: 4-31. there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit. . . All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. . . .(4-11)

Rom. 12: 6-8

Eph. 4: 1-14 vs. 12 [he gave various gifts to believers] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

THE BELIEVER CAN LIMIT OR PREVENT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

QUENCH **I Thess. 5: 19-24.** Quench not the Spirit [do not put out the Spirit's fire]; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

GRIEVE **Eph. 4: 30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Imagine that you were going to commit adultery or some other unrighteous act of thought. Would you take your child along for your liaison? Presumably not, because you would not want your child to see you engaging in that action. But the believer subjects the Holy Spirit to every action he commits and every thought he thinks.

RESIST THE SPIRIT **Acts 7: 51** [Stephen speaking] You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

LIE TO THE SPIRIT, TEST THE SPIRIT

Acts 5:1-11. Ananias & Sapphira. V. 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit . . . You have not lied to men but to God." [also shows HS in Trinity] v. 9, Peter said to [Sapphira], "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?"

BLASPHEMING THE HOLY SPIRIT Since this is the "unpardonable sin," it is not thought to be an act performed by regenerated people who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **Matt. 12: 31-32.** [Jesus speaks] And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or the age to come.

How will I let the Holy Spirit guide and empower my life this week? For example:

An area of my life that needs to be sanctified

My prayer and Bible study

Identify and exercise my spiritual gift(s)

Give me comfort or encouragement

Strengthen me in times of doubt