

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity -- God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and the God the Holy Spirit -- Three Persons in One!

We are very familiar with God the Creator of the Universe, Jesus Christ the Savior of the World -- but in the past we knew very little of the Holy Spirit (referred to in the KJV as the Holy Ghost). But there is more and more knowledge (and abuse) of the Holy Spirit in these days of TV Evangelism and Mega Church Ministries where the abuse comes to play.

Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit as the Comforter (or Helper) two times in the Gospel of John -- (1) *"But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things I have said to you"* (John 14:26) -- and -- (2) *"But when the Comforter comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me"* (John 15:26).

These two Biblical references confirm the Trinity, and the promise that when the Lord Jesus returned to Heaven to be with the Father, He would not leave us alone to fend for ourselves -- *"I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you"* (John 14:18). The Holy Spirit took the Lord's place on earth to carry on His work in our hearts and lives.

Now, who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do for us -- I quote from the Thomas Nelson Publishers Holy Bible Expanded Edition reference for Isaiah 6:8:

"The moment a repenting sinner receives Christ by Faith into his heart and life the Holy Spirit immediately does five things for him --

1 -- He Regenerates the Believer -- He gives him a New Nature (John 3:5)

2 -- He Baptizes the Believer into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13)

3 -- He Indwells the Believer (Romans 8:9)

4 -- He Seals the Believer (Ephesians 1:13)

5 -- He Fills the Believer (Acts 4:8)"

All five of these Ministries occur at conversion -- we receive them as a "package." Quite often we don't realize all that we have in this "package" until we grow in our knowledge of the Bible and the Will of the Lord for our lives. Some erroneously believe that you have to pray, beg and even shout for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit later on -- not so -- it is part of the "total package" that you receive at conversion.

The Apostle Peter makes this very clear -- *“As His Divine Power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by Glory and Virtue”* (1 Peter 1:3). Note the “all things.”

The Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, with Power to Preach the Word in many different languages so those assembled from all parts of the world could understand the message in their own native tongues -- this was True Holy Spirit Power.

As a former alcoholic I particularly appreciate the verse in Ephesians 5:18 -- *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess -- but be filled with the (Holy) Spirit.”* To be drunk with wine (or any alcoholic beverage) is to be controlled by an outside force which enables you to do and say things you ordinarily would not do or say when sober. The same applies to the Filling of the Holy Spirit -- you can say and do things you never before would be able to do on your own.

The Holy Spirit makes all the difference in your life -- you are no longer controlled by the world: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that Good and Acceptable and Perfect Will of God”* (Romans 12:2). *“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not our own?”* (1 Corinthians 6:19). It is not how much we have of Him -- but -- how much He has of us!

Give some thought and consideration as to your personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. Remember this -- we Pray to God the Father, in the Name of Jesus the Son, and in the Power of the Holy Spirit -- you cannot separate them!

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