

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT: THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. HE IS GOD.

1. The Holy Spirit is the third personage of the Trinity. (Father, Son & Holy Spirit).
2. He then is co-equal with the Father and the Son for He is one with them.

a. I John 5:6-7 states:

"This is he that came by water and blood, [even] Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

3. Because He is God, He has all of the attributes of God.
 - a. He is Eternal.
 - b. He is Omni-present.
 - c. He is Omni-scient.
 - d. He is Omni-potent.
4. The Holy Spirit is properly referred to as "He" and NEVER "It".

B. THE NAME BY DEFINITION.

1. The Greek name for the Holy Spirit is "Pneuma Hagios".
2. Pneuma means "breath or air".
 - a. The English words "pneumonia" and "pneumatic" come from this word.

- b. "Pneuma" is necessary for life as illustrated in Genesis 2:7 which states:

"And the Lord God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

- c. Without "pneuma" the human body is just a shell as clearly seen in I Kings 17:17 which states:

"And it came to pass after these things, [that] the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him."

3. Hagios means "holy" or "of God".
4. Therefore the term Pneuma Hagios means "the breath of God" or "the Holy Spirit of God" or "the Holy Spirit".
5. In the term "Holy Ghost", "ghost" is an Old English word that meant "Guest" in 1611 when the King James Version was translated from the Greek language.
6. Thus the meaning of the words are more properly "the Holy Guest" or "the Holy Spirit."

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE UNSAVED.

A. THE UNSAVED CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. I Corinthians 2:14 states this principle:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

2. The things of God are foolish to the unsaved.
3. The Holy Spirit will not lead, guide or comfort the lost until they are saved!

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT DEALS WITH THE UNSAVED ONLY ONE WAY.

1. The single most important need of the unsaved is to see their lost condition and their need to be saved.
2. There can be no salvation until a person realizes that he is lost.
3. The only way for one to become aware of his lost condition is through the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

- a. Jesus said in John 6:44.

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

- b. This "drawing" or conviction is not done by the preacher or the church, but it is accomplished only by the Holy Spirit of God.

4. Jesus told His Apostles (the Church which He started) that the Holy Spirit would convict the whole world.

- a. John 16:8-11 states:

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Of sin, because they believe not on me:

Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more:

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

- b. Paul stated in Titus 2:11:

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"

- c. John emphasized this truth in John 1:6-9 which states:

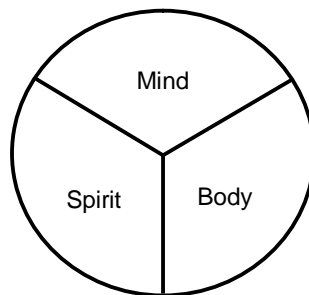
"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

5. So, it is clearly seen, the only possible contact between the Holy Spirit and the lost is to show them their need of a savior.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHRISTIAN.

A. MEN ARE "BORN AGAIN" BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. Man, like God, is a three-fold being.
 - a. Mind - intelligence.
 - b. Body - flesh.
 - c. Spirit - our eternal being.



2. Only the spirit of man is eternal and therefore must be "born again".
3. This rebirth of our spirit occurs when one responds to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, repents and places his trust in Jesus Christ.

- a. Jesus said in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- b. Jesus also said in John 5:24:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

4. When "born again," the flesh and mind of the believer were not changed.
5. Only the spirit is reborn and this re-birth, is accomplished by the Holy Spirit of God.

- a. Jesus stated in John 3:5:

"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."

- b. Titus 3:5 states:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

c. Ephesians 5:26 states:

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

6. It is the Holy Spirit that gives the individual believer a new reborn spirit, actually and literally born of God.
7. God the Father devised the plan of salvation; God the Son (Jesus) paid the price for salvation; God the Holy Spirit the Spirit actually makes the change.

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN EVERY SAVED PERSON.

1. If an individual has been saved, the Holy Spirit of God lives within him.
2. This is called the "Indwelling of the Holy Spirit" and it occurs once and for all at the moment of salvation.

a. I Corinthians 6:19 states:

"What: know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

b. Romans 8:9 states:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

3. If the Holy Spirit does not live in the individual, then he is lost!
4. The believer has a new spirit that is eternally sure of heaven!

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:17 states emphatically:

"Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

5. God's Spirit lives within every believer, and everywhere he goes, the Spirit goes with him.

6. God's Spirit is the guarantee of heaven.

- a. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 states:

"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, [is] God;

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

- b. Paul further stated in Ephesians 1:13-14:

"In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

7. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives the believer assurance of his salvation.

- a. Romans 8:15-17: states:

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint- heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT THEN SEEKS TO DIRECT THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS.

1. God has a perfect plan for the life of the believer and seeks to direct his life by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit who lives within.
2. However, the believer has the choice of yielding to or rejecting the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
3. This truth sets the stage for a tremendous conflict in the life of the believer.
4. The Holy Spirit pulls one way and the flesh pulls the opposite direction.
5. Paul described this conflict in Romans 7:15-19, 22-25 which states:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [it is] good.

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not.

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

6. This conflict is not unique, all who are saved go through the same struggle every day.
7. However, the believer can win, for the Holy Spirit lives in him.
 - a. I John 4:4 states:

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

D. CHRISTIANS SHOULD DESIRE TO BE "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT".

1. The Apostle Paul exhorted saved people to be "filled with the Spirit."
 - a. He said in Ephesians 5:18:

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"
2. This is accomplished when saved people allow the Holy Spirit to completely control their lives.

3. The question then is never "be saved or be lost," it is "yield to or reject" the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Holy Spirit within the believer wants him, as a Christian, to pray, study God's Word, be faithful in church, witness about His saving grace, sing, give and many other things.
 - b. That is the Holy Spirit of God Who is living within him and leading him to live as a Christian.
4. Yet they have the final choice to obey or not.
5. If they refuse, He will not leave them, but He will not quit convicting them.
6. Therefore, to be "filled with the Spirit" means that His child is giving Him complete control of his life.
7. Obviously, this decision must be made each day by the child of God.
8. When the believer refuses to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, he grieves Him.
 - a. Ephesians 4:30 states:

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

E. THE BENEFITS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. When the believer allows the Holy Spirit to control his life, some wonderful benefits will surely follow.

- a. Paul stated in Galatians 5:22-25:

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness,
goodness, faith,**

**Meekness, temperance: against such
there is no law.**

**And they that are Christ's have
crucified the flesh with the affections
and lusts.**

**If we live in the Spirit, let us also
walk in the Spirit."**

- b. Love
- c. Joy
- d. Peace
- e. Longsuffering
- f. Gentleness
- g. Goodness
- h. Faith
- i. Meekness
- j. Temperance
2. Obviously, these characteristics do not describe the lives of believers most of the time.
3. Yet, they are NOT lost!
4. The believer can have a life that will manifest these characteristics, IF HE CHOOSES.
5. God is to be, not only Savior, but also Lord!

- a. Psalm 144:15 states:

"Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord."

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH.

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS LEAD SAVED PEOPLE INTO A SCRIPTURAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

1. The first act of obedience to the leadership of the Holy Spirit is to follow the Lord in Scriptural baptism.

- a. Galatians 3:27 states:

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

2. The only agency authorized to administer Scriptural baptism is one of the Lord's churches.

- a. Matthew 28:18-20 states:

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."

3. The next step in the leadership of the Holy Spirit is for the Scripturally baptized believer to join himself to a Scriptural

church where he may be taught the Word of God.

4. A scriptural church can be defined as follows: A local visible assembly of Saved Scripturally baptized believers who are called out and are covenanted together to give glory to God through obedience of His Word.

- a. Ephesians 3:21 states:

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

- B. IN ADDITION TO INDWELLING EVERY CHILD OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL HELP NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES CARRY OUT THEIR WORK.

1. Listen to the Word of God (the Final Authority):

- a. John 14:16-17 states:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

- b. John 14:26 further states:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

c. John 15:26 states:

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

d. John 16:6-14 states:

"But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart; I will send him unto you.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment;

Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

e. Then He stated in Acts 1:4,8:

"And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the utter most part of the earth."

2. Jesus was speaking to saved men who were already indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
3. Yet, He spoke to them about the coming "Comforter" who was also the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Malachi 3:6 states regarding God:

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
 - b. Hebrews 13:8 states further:

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
4. The word "Comforter" is from the Greek word "Parakletos", which literally means "one called along side."
5. These men to whom Jesus was speaking constituted not all of the saved, but His Church as defined above.
6. Therefore Jesus was speaking of an "additional work" or "office," which would be filled by the Holy Spirit to help His churches!

7. In addition to living within each of them individually, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be "called to stand beside" these men, corporately, as a church, and all future Scriptural churches, to help them accomplish the great work which He would give them to do.
8. He said that this "Comforter" would be "in them" collectively as a church.
 - a. Ephesians 2:21-22 states this concept:

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."
9. The task of the Lord's churches is huge, so He gave them the help of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it.

C. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP A CHURCH?

1. Review John 16:8-11 as quoted above.
 - a. He will reprove, or "convict," the world of sin.
 - b. He will reprove, or "convict," the world of righteousness.
 - c. He will reprove, or "convict," the world of judgment to come.
2. Jesus said to believers in Matthew 11:28-30:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

3. When the Holy Spirit has convicted lost men of their condition and their need of a Savior, they will be receptive to the message of the Gospel!
4. How can one recognize a church that the "Comforter" is helping, or a "Spirit filled" church?

- a. Jesus stated in John 16:13-14:

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you."

5. A church can lose this special help of the "Comforter."

- a. Revelation 2:1-5 states:

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles; and are not, and hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless, I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou has left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove they candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

The Three Offices of

Holy Spirit

