

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 14

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In this lesson we are going to discuss God the Holy Spirit. We shall begin with a verse of scripture that we first encountered in Lesson 1: *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one (1 John 5:7).*

In this verse the Bible states plainly that three personalities make up the one Godhead: the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost. The simplest illustration to understand the 3 in 1 or the trinity as commonly spoken is that of the perfect triangle. It has three equal sides; yet, it is but one triangle.

The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. He is also identified as the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, and by many other designations, some of which we will come across in our study.

As we are only going to spend one lesson on the Holy Spirit, we will just try to hit the high points of His person and work. This is not because He is of less importance, but simply because of the constraint of space in this particular series of studies. (Lesson 4 in the Basic Doctrinal series states more detail)

There is a division of labor between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What is revealed concerning each has to do largely with that One's relation to men in the plan of salvation. That is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit each perform different ministries; each operates in different ways in this present age.

The Holy Spirit aided in the creation work as recorded in Genesis 1:2: *And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

The Holy Spirit came upon men in Old Testament times and empowered them for service. At times He left them as soon as a task was finished; sometimes He stayed with them for the duration of their lives. Sometimes, He even joined Himself to them before they were born; at other times, He came upon them and left and came again. Below, are various scriptures where the Spirit of the Lord came upon people:

Gideon - Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him.

Samson - Judges 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Saul - 1 Samuel 10:6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

David - 1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

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Look what happened to Saul when he sinned against the Lord - *1 Samuel 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

We should be thankful of Ephesians 1:13 & Ephesians 4:30, we are sealed until the day of redemption.

There was no set pattern for The Holy Spirit's work prior to the first coming of the Lord Jesus. However, since the coming of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is doing His greatest work, and that is what we want to focus on in this lesson.

FIRST of all, He empowered John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles for their marvelous ministry.

The Bible says in Luke 1:13-15 *But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall hear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*

Look also in Acts 10:38: *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

Also, in John 20:19-23 we read, *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and with unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and with unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained*

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ; and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world; and the apostles, who went forth and proclaimed His death, burial, and resurrection, were all empowered by the Holy Spirit of God for their tremendous ministry.

The Lord Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come to abide and to carry on the work of God on earth following Christ's ascension into heaven. This was the promise of the Father, and its fulfillment is recorded in Acts 2.

Notice very carefully what Jesus Christ says in John 14:17: *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.*

SECOND, when Jesus Christ departed to heaven after being seen alive upon the face of this earth for forty days and forty nights following His resurrection, the Holy Spirit came to abide and to carry on the work of God here on earth.

In John 14:16-17 Jesus Christ says, *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.*

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Verses 25-26 add: *These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 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.*

THIRD, the work of the Holy Spirit since He has come to abide in the believers and to carry on the work of God on earth has been to convict those who hear the gospel and to enable them to believe it.

In John 16:7-8 the Lord Jesus Christ says, *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter (we learned earlier the Comforter is the Holy Spirit) 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.* This is the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

Then, Jesus Christ explains to you just what it means to reprove of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. Verse 9 says, *Of sin, because they believe not on me.* The reason you sin is because you do not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest of all sins is the failure or refusal to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 10 states, *Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more.*

When the Lord Jesus Christ was here on this earth He was the only righteous man, absolutely sinless perfect man who had ever lived. Now He has gone back up to heaven. We longer have an absolute standard of righteousness, absolute standard of sinless perfection in human flesh. So the work of the Holy Spirit in this age is to convince you that the Lord Jesus Christ was the only righteous man who ever lived and that you are not so righteous.

All have sinned and come short of His glory, and if you ever expect to get to heaven it will have to be on the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ and not on the merits of your own righteousness, for you have none. Continuing on in John 16:11, we see, *Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged*

Satan did everything he could to stop God's plan. He tried to have the baby Jesus killed soon after He was born in the manger. Herod had all the babies two years old and under killed. Then Satan tried to have the scribes, the Pharisees, and the religious leaders take up stones to stone Him. In the wilderness for forty days and forty nights Satan tempted Jesus Christ, trying every way that he knew how to get the Lord to sin. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' sweat became as it were great drops of blood as He considered the awful wrath of the Father that would be poured upon Him when He bore our sins. He had opportunity to call upon twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:52-54) to set Him free. He had power to come down off the cross. He was tempted to do so, as men said, come down and we will believe you. He had opportunity to destroy the world as He stood before Pontius Pilate and the mob of mad priests who were outraged that He had come to denounce their religious system.

Yet, for all that the prince of this world could do, Jesus Christ laid down His life to pay for our sins. Three days and three nights later He rose in triumph over the grave.

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Do not be deceived by the devil or his ministers. Do not be deceived by the things of this world that Satan offers you. The dragon has been judged. He has been found to be a liar. He has been proven to be a murderer. And the Lord Jesus Christ has proved that He and He alone is the Savior of the world.

The Holy Spirit of God will prove these facts to you if you will allow Him. If you will just hear God's word and believe it, you will be convinced of an absolute certainty of your sin, of Jesus Christ's righteousness, and of Satan's certain judgment.

FOURTH: If you will believe this message, the Holy Spirit of God will impart to you the new birth. By coming to dwell within you He brings with Him the very life of God, for He is God. The Spirit regenerates you, thus making you a new creature who has everlasting life dwelling within. In John 3:1-5 this story is told: *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 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 Nicodemus with 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? 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*

Then, in 1 Corinthians 3:16 the Bible has this to say about the Holy Spirit's work in regeneration: *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

Again, in 1 Corinthians 12:13, we read, *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, (not "by one man are we all baptized into the water") whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

That "one body," according to Ephesians 4, is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to regenerate and to indwell all those who will believe the gospel message.

FIFTH: He witnesses to those believers who confess the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior regarding their son-ship in God's family.

You may ask, "How will I know that I have truly been born again? How will I know when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within me?"

If I walked into your house you would know I was there, for I would make my presence known in a number of ways. In like manner, when you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and call upon Him from a sincere and believing heart, the Holy Spirit of God will come to live within you and, believe it, He will make His presence known. The Bible says in Romans 8:16, *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God* Then in John 3:8 Jesus Christ said of the Holy Spirit, *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.*

We cannot see or touch the wind, we cannot hold the wind in our hands. But when the wind blows there is no doubt that the wind is present. So it is with

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everyone who is born again of the Spirit of God. There will be such a radical change as the peace of God that passeth all understanding begins to keep your heart and mind.

The Bible says in Matthew 10:32, *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

The work of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness to those believers who confess Christ as their Lord regarding their son-ship in God's family.

SIXTH: The Holy Spirit will empower believers for service and will guide them in their service.

The Bible says in Acts 1:8-9, *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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

The word of God further states in Acts 2 that, just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit of God descended, and indwelled and filled those believers who were waiting for this very promise of the Father. When those men became filled with the Holy Spirit they immediately went forth onto the streets, into the market place, into the public arena of their city Jerusalem. There without fear, without hesitation, without any reservation, without any consideration of what anybody thought about them, they began to boldly proclaim the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, demanding that men repent and believe on Him.

This happened because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit of God. Nothing else gave these men the power to serve God and to bear witness to the truth of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans 8:14 the Bible says, *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God*

If you have truly been born again, God's Holy Spirit will begin to lead you to serve, to testify on behalf of, and to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. In God's provision for the saved child of God, the believer is empowered from within by God the Holy Spirit and is in Jesus Christ Himself

If we would rely on God's provision we would never need to be spiritual weaklings. You that are Christians, you have God's Holy Spirit, who is God's enabling power; there is no reason for not witnessing. There is no reason for not resisting sin, temptation, the world, the flesh and the devil. My friend there is NO reason for failure in the Christian life. We need to meditate upon this great truth; the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit in us.

It should be kept very clear that there are differences between regeneration by the Holy Spirit, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the witnessing of the Holy Spirit, etc. Each is a separate operation of the Spirit of God. Yet, if one has never been regenerated or born again by the Spirit, he cannot possibly be indwelled by the Spirit.

If one is not indwelled by the Spirit, he cannot possibly have the witness of God's Spirit.

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If one does not have the witness of the Holy Spirit, he can never be a witness for God in the power of the Spirit.

So, while each of these may technically be a separate operation, one follows the other and just as surely as the one takes place the other will follow.

You must be born again. Then, you must yield yourself to the work of God's Holy Spirit in your life. As we submit ourselves to Him, He guides and empowers us in the tasks God wants performed.

There are many of you who have tried your best to serve God, but you have been frustrated, defeated, and discouraged. Some of you may have even given up or considered giving up.

I say that the best thing that you could possibly do would be to give up. I did not say to quit, but give up. Give up your trusting of your own strength. Give up your striving and laboring in your own power. Give up working for God in your own way for your own reasons, and yield yourself to the Holy Spirit. Allow Him to work through you. Allow Him to manifest His power in you. Allow Him to guide and direct your thoughts, words, deeds, and actions.

Oh, what a difference it will make when you cease serving God in the energy of the flesh and begin to allow God's Holy Spirit to work through you in the service of Almighty God!

Others of you are sincerely serving God the best way you know how. You are faithful to your church, and to your minister. Perhaps you are working very diligently. You are actively seeking to proclaim certain truths that you know and understand from the Bible. Yet, you do not have in your heart the comforting certainty that you are God's child. You do not have within you the witness of the Holy Spirit that you are indeed a child of God and your sins are all forgiven.

It may well be that you are trusting your work for God to save you, rather than God's work for you.

You see, when Jesus Christ laid down His life upon Calvary's cross He cried with a loud voice, It is finished. He didn't begin the work and ask you to finish it. He finished the work.

Peace with God comes when you finally realize that the best you can do is not good enough and you forsake your own goodness, your own works, your own deeds, and you trust the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ for your soul's salvation.

Are you willing to do that today? Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to convict you and to convince you of your sin, God's righteousness, and God's judgment upon everything you are trusting apart from the Lord Jesus Christ?

Would you call upon Him today from a sincere and believing heart and ask Him to forgive your sins and to be your Savior? It would make the difference now and for all eternity.

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Name _____

1. What is the simplest way to understand the trinity?
2. What are some of the names of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
3. Where in scripture does it tell us that the Holy Spirit came upon people randomly?
4. Where in scripture does it show us that the Holy Spirit left people that sinned against the Lord?
5. Who did the Holy Spirit empower at His first coming?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. Why did Jesus need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit?
7. What was the purpose of the Holy Spirit according to John 14:25-26?
8. What is the significance to Ephesians 1:13 & Ephesians 4:30, in reference to Holy Spirit in this dispensation of grace?
9. If the Holy Spirit was given to empower those it came upon, what is our responsibility to God?

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10. According to our lesson, what is the reason why you sin?
11. What are some of the ways that the devil tried to stop what Jesus was doing?
12. What are the characteristics of the devil according to John 8:44? (Also, include some others you have learned in life and in the scriptures.
13. Explain regeneration:
14. How do you know that the Holy Spirit is dwelling inside of you?
15. If you are a Christian what is your reason for not witnessing?

True/false

- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit each perform different ministries.
- Presence of the Holy Spirit in me is proven by the fact that I can speak in tongues.
- The Trinity is best described as a triangle, 3 equal sides, one triangle.



Scripture memorization John 14:16-17, 25-26 (write out these verses on the back of this page) must be in KJV

Any questions?