

# THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Last week we spoke about the importance of learning about the Holy Spirit. To recap briefly, we discovered that the reason why we must be interested in the Holy Spirit is that:

- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Holy Spirit is a person who can be known in an intimate way
- Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit no one can be saved
- All believers are to be born of, baptized in and filled with the Holy Spirit if they are to fulfill their God-given destiny
- The Holy Spirit is the source of all gifts of the spirit
- The believer is to be led by the Holy Spirit and is to walk in the Spirit
- The believer is to cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit in his/her life
- A dispensation of time has been especially allotted to the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- We are living in the end of the dispensation of the Holy Spirit when a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit has been promised
- There is a great deal of wrong teaching about the Holy Spirit in the church world today

In today's session I am going to cover with you an aspect of the Holy Spirit that will change the way you have been relating with the Holy Spirit.

How many of us here want the power of the Holy Spirit, how many of us want to experience heaven in your life? I bet its most of us.

But do you know that you can't talk about the power of the Holy Spirit without knowing Him. If you want the power without knowing Him, you fall in the danger of getting into fanaticism and heresy.

Lets talk about the personality of the Holy Spirit. How many of us view the Holy Spirit as a person? I would like to imagine that a number of you do. Your view of the Holy Spirit will influence how you treat Him and how you treat him determines how much you can get from Him.

## **1. When you understand that the Holy Spirit is a person, the following will happen:**

- a) You will render to Him what He deserves – love, worship and attention
  - You cannot worship a force
  - You can easily ignore a force

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- b) You can easily surrender to Him
- When seen as a force, you will say “How can I get hold of it and use it”. But seen as a person, you will say “Get hold of me and use me”
  - When you surrender, you handover control to another.
  - It also means letting go
- c) Creates the possibility of real fellowship
- Every believer is called to a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.
  - You can't have friendship with a force – it has to be something that gives you back what you give.
  - It's not about feelings, it's about companionship and fellowship
  - The word fellowship in Greek is Koinonia - The essential meaning of the *koinonia* embraces concepts conveyed in the English terms community, communion, joint participation, sharing and intimacy. *Koinonia* can therefore refer in some contexts to a jointly contributed gift.

### 2. What proof is there to indicate the person of the Holy Spirit

- a) Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a person

*John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He** will testify of Me.*

- Even though the word for spirit is neutral in its gender assignment, it is usually used with a masculine pronoun.
- The word “spirit” or “pneuma” in both the Hebrew and the Greek can be translated “wind, breath or spirit.” The Spirit exists in a form that defies male/female categories

*John 16:13-15 However, when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He** will guide you into all truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

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- We find it easy to believe that Jesus was a person but kind of battle to believe the person of the Holy Spirit
- The spirit does not have a physical body – guess who is the body of the spirit (it is you and I)

b) His work is to carry on the ministry of a person, the Lord Jesus Christ

*John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

- The “Another Helper” refers to “another of the same kind.”
- If the Holy Spirit is to be able to do the work of Jesus, He must be a person.

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*I Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

- Truth of the matter is that no one has heard Jesus speaking, no one has seen Jesus – actually Jesus is not in your heart, what is in your heart is the spirit of Jesus.
- Jesus is seated on the right hand side of the father. He has been there ever since he ascended on high.

*Mark 16: 19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked through them, confirming His word by the signs that accompanied it*

- The only time he stood up was when Stephen was stoned –  
*Acts 7:55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*

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- **Let me try and illustrate this to you...Ephesians 1:5; Matthew 24:14**

## ILLUSTRATION

The qualifications for a person are that they have

1. A mind - able to think and act upon their thinking
2. their own will – self-identity, self-asserting - recognition of one's characteristics as a particular individual, especially in relation to social context
3. and emotions - able to react cognitively. It is an affective state of consciousness in which joy, sorrow, fear, hate, or the like, is experienced

c) The Holy Spirit is a person because He has the three elements of personality.

- The Holy Spirit has a mind

Romans. 8:27 *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is...*

- The implication is that He has thoughts about the going ons of you
- He has thoughts about your next move – you need to take time to consult Him.

*1 Corinthians 2:16“For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct Him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.*

- The Holy Spirit has a will

I Corinthians 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

- He determines who should receive what – this is sovereignty
- No one should despise what he has received because it the will of God for you and for the completeness of the church
- The Holy Spirit has a will for you in every situation – he directs our paths

*Acts 17:26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,*

*Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.*

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- No explanation was given for the forbiddance – sometimes its not about questioning but obedience.
- The Holy Spirit has emotions (Rom. 8:26-27; 15:30; Eph. 4:30).  
*Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

*Romans 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me...*

*Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.*

- d) The Holy Spirit is a person because He has personal feelings ascribed to Him.

He can be:

- Vexed or Rebelled Against

*Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.*

- Insulted

*Hebrews 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*

- Treating the Spirit of God with disdain and contempt.
- It was by him that you have been renewed; by him that you have been brought to embrace the Saviour, and to love God
- Lied to (Acts 5:3).
- Blasphemed (Mt. 12:31-32).
- Resisted (Acts 7:51).
- Put to the Test (Acts 5:9).
- Quenched (I Th. 5:19).
- Provoked (Ps. 106:33).
- Pleased (Acts 15:28).

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e) The Holy Spirit is a person because He performs actions that only a person can perform.

- He speaks

*2 Samuel 23:1 These are the last words of David: "David, the son of Jesse, speaks—David, the man who was raised up so high, David, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, David, the sweet psalmist of Israel. 2 "The Spirit of the LORD speaks through me; His words are upon my tongue. 3 The God of Israel spoke. The Rock of Israel said to me: 'The One who rules righteously, who rules in the fear of God, 4 is like the light of morning at sunrise, like a morning without clouds, like the gleaming of the sun on new grass after rain.'*

*1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

*Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*

*Revelation 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

- He searches all things

*1 Corinthians 2:10b For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

*Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

- He intercedes

*Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

- He teaches

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*1 John 2: 27 And as for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But just as His true and genuine anointing teaches you about all things, so remain in Him as you have been taught.*

- He reveals what is yours

*1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

- He comforts (John 14:26).

*John 14:26 (KJV) 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.*