

## **KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Acts 19:1-2 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."*

- Have you ever wondered why it is said that knowledge is power. I am sure you will have many reason as to why this is so. For me, one of the reasons why this statement is true is that what you don't know will exclude you. What this means is that when you are ignorant about something, you are limited to the extent to which you can engage with it.
- The less you know about someone the less you can say about them and the less you can benefit from them.
- Relationships get deeper and beneficial; the more people know about each other – you get to know who to go to for certain things and who to avoid for certain issues.
- This is so true when it comes to the Holy Spirit – how much do you know the Holy Spirit. Many believers don't know the person of the Holy Spirit.
- Like the disciples of Ephesus, they had not received the Holy Spirit because they had not heard of Him. They could not start a relationship with someone they did not know of.
- It means that it is possible to be a disciple of Jesus without having a clear conception of the character and operation of the Holy Spirit. This means that a disciple with an elementary understanding of the Holy Spirit can only engage Him at an elementary level.
- This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter of **KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT**.
- The more you know the Holy Spirit, the more you can relate with Him and the more enriched your spiritual journey becomes.
- In some of our charismatic and Pentecostal movements, we have narrowed the Holy Spirit to only speaking in tongues. In fact, many people speak in tongues in a mechanical way, rendering the experience ineffectual and non-productive.
- The Holy Spirit is the least understood of the Godhead. Maybe because He is invisible, and His operation is often subtle. The Holy Spirit is largely ignored by believers.

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- In today's teaching, I want to clear the mysticism that surrounds the Holy Spirit by doing an in-depth look at what the scriptures say who He is.

### **1. The Holy Spirit is God (Divine)**

- Often called the third person of the trinity (this is a Christian doctrine that says God exists in three distinct ways – the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit).
- This means the holy spirit is equal with God the Father and God the Son and is of the same essence.
- God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct from one another in terms of their personal relationship.
- The three co-exist and together they consist of the whole being of God. In other words, they cannot exist independently of each other.
- These three are each God, equal in power, nature, and attributes, and worthy of the same worship.
- God as revealed in the Bible cannot exist if one of the three persons of God is taken away. It is like a human being; for a human being to be defined as a human being, there must be the body, the spirit and the soul together.
- Let's dive into scriptures to see the divine nature of the Holy Spirit.

#### **a) He is called God**

- From time to time, the scriptures interchange the Holy Spirit with God to highlight that He is God.
- When Peter rebuked Ananias, he interchanged the Holy Spirit with God.

*Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back for yourself part of the proceeds from the sale of the land? Before it was sold, did it not belong to you? And when it was sold, was the money not at your disposal? How have you thought up this deed in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God!"*

- Here we can see the Holy Spirit being referred to as God.

*2 Corinthians 3:17–18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit*

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### **b) He is eternal**

- Eternal is our God, and it is an attribute of God.

*Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ (who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God) purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

- He is called the eternal spirit who helped Jesus to offer Himself to God. This means that like God, the Holy Spirit:
  - He is the beginning and end of time and yet He has no beginning or end.
  - His rule and dominion endure forever and transcends all generations.
  - Everything exists for Him and for His glory

*Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form and empty. And darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.*

### **c) He is omnipresent (all present)**

- He is capable of being in more than one place at the same time – this is again an attribute of the divine God.

*Psalms 139:7 Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? 8 If I go up into Heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the furthest parts of the sea; 10 even there shall Your hand lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.*

- This changes everything about how you feel regarding loneliness and the possibilities of failure because you know that an all-powerful person is right there with you.

### **d) He's omniscient (all knowing)**

- We all know in part but only God knows in full. This is the same character that the Holy Spirit exhibits.

*1 Corinthians 2:10 But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man within him? So also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

- Walking with the Holy Spirit means that you have access to His knowledge about the past, the present and the future.

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- Knowing that the Holy Spirit is God changes the way you relate with Him. It means that you can worship Him, you can praise Him in the same way that you worship God the Father.

### **2. He is a person.**

- Knowingly or ignorantly people have thought of the Holy Spirit as a force or an abstract concept.
- The way you relate to a car, an instrument, electricity or something like that is different from the way you relate with your child, your friend or your work colleague.
- The Holy Spirit is a person and that means he has personality attached to him. The Holy Spirit is relatable to because He is not a force.
- Gravity is a force, and we treat it as such – you cannot reason with a force, you cannot be taught by a force.

#### **a) He is referred to as a person**

- Whenever the scriptures talk about the Holy Spirit, the pronoun “he” is used and it is a singular, masculine, third-person pronoun. English grammar teaches us that a pronoun is used to refer to a man, boy, or male animal previously mentioned.

*John 14:26 But the Comforter, the **Holy Spirit** whom the Father will send in My name, **He** shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you.*

*1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water only, but by the water and blood. And the **Spirit is He** who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.*

#### **b) He speaks**

- I have never seen a force that speaks, or an animal that speaks but the Holy Spirit speaks, and this is a trait of a man.

*2 Samuel 23:1 And these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said: 2 **The Spirit of Jehovah spoke by me**, and His Word was in my tongue. 3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: he who rules over men justly, ruling in the fear of God,*

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*Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, Go near and join yourself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran there to him and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, Do you indeed understand what you are reading?*

*1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and teachings of demons,*

### **c) He can be upset (grieved)**

- Like a man who gets upset when something wrong is done to him, so does the Holy Spirit get upset or grieved.

*Isaiah 63:9 In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them, and carried them all the days of old. 10 But they rebelled, and troubled His Holy Spirit; therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.*

- This was in reference to Israel, how God was dealing with them and how in turn they responded to God.
- They rebelled against God and here it is mentioned that they troubled His Holy Spirit.
- It is important to know what behavior troubles the Holy Spirit when walking with Him.

*Ephesians 4:29 Let not any filthy word go out of your mouth, but if any is good to building up in respect of need, that it may give grace to the ones hearing. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you are sealed until the day of redemption.*

- Just like in any other relationship, the more you relate to someone, the more you understand what makes them happy or upsets them. Start relating with the Holy Spirit and you will soon find out.

### **d) He has a capacity to love.**

- Again, you cannot be intimate with a force or an entity, but the Holy Spirit has a capacity to love.
- It means He can receive and give love to those who walk with Him. The Bible says the Holy Spirit is the channel through which experience God's love.

*Romans 5:5 And hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.*

- When He dwells in you, He produces in you the fruit of the spirit and part of that fruit is love.

*Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

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- e) He can be tested (Acts 5:9).
- f) He can be resisted (Acts 7:5).
- g) He has a will (1 Cor. 2:11; 12:7–11).