

The Holy Spirit Part 1

Why the Holy Spirit and The *Person* of the Holy Spirit

- I. THE DIVINE OR GREAT COMMISSION
- II. IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH (that's why Jesus told the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem till they receive the endowment, the Holy Spirit)
- III. THE DIVINE HELPER (that which is impossible for man is possible with the Holy Spirit Zechariah 4:6)
- IV. HE IS A PERSON NOT AN "IT" OR AN ENERGY OR A FORCE
- V. THAT IS WHO HE IS (abiding in the Spirit of God we can experience the miraculous being revealed through a very natural and un-miraculous life. The biggest miracle of all is experiencing a fresh and living relationship with Him [the Holy Spirit] on a daily basis)

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I. THE DIVINE COMMISSION

- A. In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus gave us very specific instructions and a commission to carry out those instructions. This passage of scripture is known as the "great commission" and the most familiar account of this great commission is found here in Matthew 28. It says...
 1. "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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." **Matthew 28:18-20**

II. IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH

- A. This task is impossible! Especially for the early church. They had very slow means of transportation and no electronic communication was even remotely available. Nonetheless the command was given and we know the early church carried it out and at an alarming speed. Paul wrote to the Colossians only about 30 years later that...
 1. he gives... "thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as [it doth] also in you, since the day ye heard [of it], and knew the grace of God in truth:" **Colossians 1:4-6**
- B. How is this possible? Just thirty years after the commission was given Paul could say that the gospel is in all the world! The question to us, when we look at the early church and their incredible effectiveness, is how? by what means was this made possible? was it the power and ingenuity of the apostles and early church? was it their deep spirituality and incredible missions programs? No. Paul himself said...
 1. We are not... "sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;" **2 Corinthians 3:5**

...Moses also sensed this incredible inadequacy when he said...

2. Lord... "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." **Exodus 33:15**

...furthermore Jesus tried to teach us that we really can't do anything apart from Him...

3. When He said... "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." **John 15:5**

C. This last verse is particularly interesting, given the fact that not too long after Jesus spoke these words he was crucified, buried, rose from the dead and then ascended up into heaven where God the Father has "set Him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:20).

D. Did you catch that? Jesus said that "*without me* you can do nothing" and then Jesus leaves! What's up with that?

E. In fact, from John chapter 14 up until the time of his death he prepared His disciples for his soon and coming departure. But at the same time He told them that apart from Him they would not be able of accomplishing anything and then, on top of that, proceeded to give them an (as we stated earlier) impossible task, the great commission.

F. But did Jesus leave them and us? Did he abandon us? Did He leave us to fend for ourselves and accomplish the impossible apart from Him? No! A thousand times no! Nonetheless the disciples were afraid of this and so Jesus said...

1. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me... I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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. **John 14:1,16-17**

...and he also said...

2. "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." **John 16:17**

a) This is a profound statement. Jesus says that its good for us that He departs! Imagine how the disciples felt when they heard these words. "What is he saying?" they must have asked themselves, "How can that be a good thing that he leave us?"

b) The disciples learned over and over for the last three years that it's great to have Jesus around. Every time a tempting Pharisee came Jesus handled it. Every time they found themselves in the midst of a storm, Jesus handled it. Every time there was a multitude to feed with no food present Jesus handled it. All the difficult questions, people, and circumstances that life could afford Jesus handled flawlessly and fearlessly. "The disciples discovered that Jesus was a handy Person to have around. They never had to worry when Jesus was present. They learned to relax and be confident because they knew the Lord was there to help." (Chuck Smith)

c) But still Jesus insisted that it was better that he go in order that he send the Comforter. Listen to what He promised them...

(1) the He... "not leave us comfortless: I will come to you." **John 14:18**
(comfortless = *orphanos*, literally orphans)

G. The glorious thing about our Lord and His economy is that from the beginning of our salvation experience (including salvation itself) and all the way through our sanctification process and on further still into seeing us arrive in glory, He and he alone is the one accomplishing all of it. Has he left us? no way and he never will *but Jesus spoke of the absence of His physical presence on earth to let His disciples know that the coming Holy Spirit is going to be the agent through whom God will continue His work on earth.*

H. "This is why we need to become acquainted with the Holy Spirit because it is He whom the Lord has placed over the church to guide, direct and empower it's activities." (Chuck Smith)

I. This answers the WHY question.

III. THE DIVINE HELPER

A. The Lords presence does go with us! through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

B. Jesus did ascend up into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father but at the same time He is with us till the very end of everything working mightily by way of the Holy Spirit.

1. "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." **Matthew 28:18-20**

C. Did you notice the two bookends of this passage. The first part says...

1. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"

...and the second part says...

2. "and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

D. All power is Jesus'! And not just all power but all power in heaven and in earth belongs to him!

E. But then it gets even better, He says "lo, I am with you always..."

F. This means that all the resources we will ever need will be with us in order to carryout all that we are called to do. So Jesus ascended and departed but he did not forsake us because His Spirit descended! *And now, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father with all power in heaven and earth will work out their eternal counsels on this temporal planet.*

G. It is important for us to understand that when Jesus told his disciples that He would "pray the father, and he shall give you *another* (allos) Comforter (helper)," **John 14:16** He was not saying someone different (i.e. of a different kind) is coming to help.

1. The word another in the greek is *allos*. It means another of the same kind or equal in quality; another of the same order. But there is a second greek word for *another* which is *heteros* and means another of a different kind or quality.
2. When Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is the same quality as Himself, He means the Spirit possess the same essential qualities that He Himself does, *especially those of divinity and personality*.
3. In essence what Jesus told his disciples in **John 14:16** was that He would pray the father to send another comforter of the same quality as Himself and of the same kind as Himself. He was telling them that just as I was with you and took care of every situation for you, so now the Holy Spirit will be with you and will take care of every situation for you.

IV. HE IS A PERSON NOT AN “IT” OR AN ENERGY OR A FORCE

- A. So if the Holy Spirit is another helper of the same kind and quality as Jesus, especially when it comes to *divinity and personality*, we can conclude that just as much as Jesus is a person so is the Holy Spirit.
- B. If we are to have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit then we need to understand this point first.
- C. If we think that he is some kind of force or power then we will not be able to have a relationship with Him. You can't get personal with a force or a power. Have you ever gotten personal with an electrical socket? it doesn't work!
- D. There are those like Jehovah Witnesses that say the Holy Spirit is simply an essence or influence and nothing more. But the Bible teaches us the opposite. He indeed is a person.
- E. Now, for a being to be considered a person he must possess certain characteristics.
 1. **Intelligence**
 2. **Will**
 3. **Emotion**
- F. If the Holy Spirit truly is a person we should be able to see these things about Him in scripture, and we do. Turn with me to...

1. Intelligence,

1 Corinthians 2:10-11,13

“But God hath **revealed them unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God **knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God**... Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the *Holy Ghost teacheth*; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

- a) The Spirit **reveals** things to us
- b) The Spirit **searches** the deep things of God.

- c) The deep things of God that man does not know the Spirit knows. The Spirit **knows** the things of God, only a person with intelligence can can “know” something.
- d) The Holy Spirit **teaches** us, helping us to compare spiritual things with spiritual.

2. Will,

- a) **1 Corinthians 12:11,**
“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

Speaking of the distributing of spiritual gifts. The Spirit decides who should have what gift.

- b) **Acts 15:28**
“For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;”

Speaking of a judgment passed on the question of church doctrine it says that it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to the apostles, indicating to us that the holy Spirit has the same kind of judgment making ability as they did themselves.

- c) **Acts 16:6-7**
“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.”

Only a persons with a will is able to forbid others from doing something. The Holy Spirit disallowed paul and his companions to go to certain places.

3. Emotion,

- a) **Ephesians 4:30**
“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Isaiah 63:10

“But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.”

Only a person can experience the emotion of being grieved and vexed. These both the Holy Spirit experiences. The Holy Spirit is a Person who loves you and can be grieved and vexed by you.

- b) **Romans 15:30**
“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in [your] prayers to God for me;”

Paul speaks of the Love of the Spirit of God. Only persons can love. Forces and powers are emotionless and therefore can not love.

- 4. Intelligence, will and emotion are all ascribed to the Holy Spirit throughout the Scriptures.

G. Not only do we see intelligence, will and emotion ascribed to the Holy Spirit in the Bible but we also see the use of **personal pronouns** used to refer to the Holy Spirit throughout the Scripture.

1. 16 times through the new testament the greek pronoun for the Holy Spirit is *echein*, which means “He”, a pronoun in the masculine gender.

a) **John 14:26**

“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.”

b) **John 15:26**

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he** shall testify of me.”

c) **John 16:13**

“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.”

d) **John 16:7-14**

H. The Spirit is **treated like a person**

1. He can be lied to

Acts 5:3

a) “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land?”

2. He can be resisted

Acts 7:51

a) “Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers [did], so [do] ye.”

3. He can be blasphemed

Mark 3:28-29

a) “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”

I. The Spirit **acts like a person**

1. He Speaks, Acts 13:2; 1 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 2:7

2. He intercedes, Romans 8:26; John 15:26

3. He teaches, John 14:26; Nehemiah 9:20

4. He communes, 2 :Corinthians 13:14

5. He strives, Genesis 6:3

6. He guides us, Acts 16:6-7

J. Only a person can do all these things. unmistakably the Bible teaches us that the holy Spirit is indeed the third *person* of the Holy Trinity

V. THAT IS WHO HE IS

- A. After seeing all of this we should respond by seeking to have a deeper personal relationship with the Lord. For he is the one we need to intimately connected with in order for us to be effective in fulfilling the great commission.
- B. That is why the early church was so effective, they were completely dependent upon Him as He spoke with them, interceded for them, taught them, communed with them and guided them.
- C. Jesus knew they could go about their mission without the Holy Spirit and so he commanded them...
 - 1. “that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [saith he], ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. **Acts 1:4-5**
 - ...why?...because...
 - 2. “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 uttermost part of the earth” **Acts 1:8**
- D. We need to baptized in the Holy Spirit in order to be effective for His glory
- E. This topic we will take up next time

Amen