

Study #1: Who is the Holy Spirit? What does He do?

The Holy Spirit, My Life in 3D - Philip Nunn - Jeune Federal - Sept 2015

(a) When did the HS start 'doing things'?

The HS was involved...

1. In **creation**: Gen 1:2; Ps 33:6, 104:30
2. In **leading** the people of **Israel**: the column of cloud and fire (Ex 13:21-22)
3. In **promoting unity** among the people "The **hand of God** was also on Judah to give them **one heart** to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD." (2 Chron 30:12).
4. In **inspiring** the OT **prophets**: Neh 9:30; 1 Pet 1:10; 2 Pet 1:21

⇒ In fact, the HS is involved in all the works of the Godhead!

(b) How did the HS interact with people in the OT?

Four examples:

- (1) Bezalel: Ex 31:1-4
- (2) Miriam: Ex 15:20
- (3) 70 elders: Num. 11:25
- (4) Samson: Judges 13:24-25

(c) What or Who is the Holy Spirit? – Power or Person

- **Ephesians 3:20** "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power [Holy Spirit] that is at work within us..."

HS as a Divine PERSON

- (a) The HS has characteristics of a person
- (b) The HS is God/Divine
- (c) The HS is distinct from the Father and the Son

We learn a lot about who the HS is and what He does through METAPHORS

1. Wind: John 3:8; John 20:22
2. Water: John 7:38-39; 1 Corinthians 12:13
3. Fire: Luke 24:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:19
4. Oil: anointed with. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:
5. Wine: Ephesians 5:18-19; Acts 2:13; Acts 13:52
6. Seal: Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
7. Hand/Finger: 2 Kings 3:15-16; Matthew 12:28 cp Luke 11:20
8. Dove: Luke 3:22

Person or Power?

Conclusion:

Study #2: The Holy Spirit's work today

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Important distinction in reading the Bible:

- (a) History of Salvation: [*historia salutis*] Like building a house, making a car or fitting a kitchen... events reefered to in the Bible that make salvation possible.
- (b) Application of Salvation: [*ordo salutis*] Like living in the house, driving the car, cooking a meal... the Christian life... saving faith, justification, sanctification...

Dilemma: What about the existence of apostles and prophets? Of miraculous signs and wonders? Does Pentecost (Acts 2) belong to (a) or (b)?

Concern: If we see no difference between pre-apostolic and post-apostolic times, how do we know the Bible is complete? But we all agree that the canon is complete!

(a) The Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus

His ministry was the result of the work of the HS on him:

- **Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

(b) Importance of Acts 2: Baptism and Filling

Baptism in the HS: 'baptism' 7x

- 4x: used by John the Baptist about the ministry of Jesus (Matt 3:11, Mk 1:8, Lk 3:16, Jn 1:33)
- 1x: used by Jesus refereeing to the teaching of JdB (Acts 1:5-8) and that it would occur within a few days
- 1x: used by Peter quoting Jesus from Acts 1:5-8 to prove that God had done for the Gentiles what He had done for the Jews at Pentecost (Acts 11:15,18).
- 1x: used by Paul to explain that all believers (mature and immature) are baptized into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13 "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

Filling with the HS: Used in the NT is 3 ways

- (a) Not often: From birth – John the Baptist – Luke 1:15-16.

- (b) Most often: For a particular task or situation: to give witness, to be joyful in a difficult situation, to worship, to prophesy, to obey, to drive out a demon...
- (c) Sometimes: used as a characteristic of a godly person (7 deacons), perhaps because they were often filled.

Ephesians 5:18-19 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord...”

(1) What is being filled?

(2) How are we filled?

(3) What can hinder me being filled?

Eph 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,

1 Tes 5:19 “Do not put out the Spirit's fire”

(c) The Holy Spirit wants to empower the Christian

Luke 24:49 “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Colossians 1:28-29 “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

⇒ We need this power to...

- Become more like Jesus
- Be effective in ministry

Conclusion:

Study #3: The Holy Spirit's work 'through us' - ministry

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The HS and us today: three activities

(1) **The HS does something 'to us': Regeneration** – new birth, new nature, new ownership, makes us holy, children of God, joins us to the Body of Christ: EVENT
- Baptism in the HS

(2) **The HS does something 'in us': Sanctification** – make us more like the Lord Jesus, character, practical holiness, the fruits of the HS in us: PROCESS

⇒ Activities (a) and (b) are internal

(3) **The HS does something 'through us': Ministry** – be witnesses, serve others, gifts of the HS:

⇒ Activities (b) and (c) require practical Empowerment – the Filling of the HS, the power of the HS. We cannot do these things in our own strength.

(a) The HS does something 'through us': Ministry

⇒ Difference between talents and gifts

Needed:

- 1) Knowledge: **1 Cor 12:1** “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”
- 2) Deep desire: **1 Cor 14:1** “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”
- 3) God's sovereignty: **1 Cor 12:11** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Q: How deep is your desire?

(b) Which Gifts of the Spirit are available to Christians today? (Some arguments for and against 'cessationism')

(1) **UNIQUE PERFORMERS**: The purpose of 'signs and wonders' was to validate or authenticate Jesus, the Apostles (as inspired witnesses). This era has now passed. (3 periods)

(2) **FOUNDATIONAL**: Apostles, Prophets and their miraculous gifts were foundational in nature. Once the foundation is laid, they are no longer required.

(3) TEMPORAL: The miraculous 'signs and wonders' were temporal in nature 'until' -
1 Corinthians 13:8-12

(4) ACTS – A UNIQUE TRANSITION: The book of Acts describes a transition from Judaism to Christianity (it belongs to HoS). It should not be used to determine what should be normal Christianity today.

(5) DECREASE FREQUENCY:

(6) MIRACLE QUALITY:

(7) CHURCH HISTORY:

(c) Gifts of the Spirit: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Charisma – a portion of charis (=grace) - All the gifts are inter-related

A: Illumination gifts

(1) A word of wisdom:

(2) A word of knowledge:

(3) Distinguishing between spirits:

B: Power gifts

(4) Gift of faith:

(5) Gifts of healing:

(6) Gifts of powers:

C: Communication gifts

(7) Prophecy:

(8) Tongues:

(9) Interpretation of Tongues:

Conclusion

Study #4: The Holy Spirit's work 'in us' - sanctification

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Galatians 5:16-25

(a) Sanctification: we are holy and are being made holy

- Holy: separation from 'bad'
- Holy: separation unto 'good' – devoted to God

- Holy: position
- Holy: Lifestyle – not so popular among some today!
- **1 Timothy 4:16** "Watch your life and doctrine closely"

- ⇒ Seek to show in your daily living who you already are in Christ.
- ⇒ Become who you are!

(b) Is Jesus or the Holy Spirit living in us?

JESUS

John 15:5 "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ephesians 1:13-14 "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance

Ephesians 2:22 ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

BOTH?

Romans 8:9-11 "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead [Spirit of the Father] is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

⇒ **The HS mediates the presence of Christ**

GOAL: Be more like Jesus - Galatians 4:19

(c) The Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal 5:22-23

Contrast: works of the flesh is our own work. The fruit of the Spirit is the work of the Spirit of God in us. It is not achieved by rules, discipline and self-effort. It is also not 'automatic'.

A: Inner beauty

(1) Love:

(2) Joy:

(3) Peace:

B: Social virtues

(4) Patience:

(5) Kindness:

(6) Goodness:

C: Other moral virtues

(7) Faithfulness:

(8) Gentleness:

(9) Self-control:

Conclusion