

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

HOLY SPIRIT IS A DIVINE PERSON NOT JUST AN INFLUENCE OR POWER

Holy Spirit is co-equal with Father and Son in the triune nature of the Godhead. He is the Third Person in the God head.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE IN PERFECT UNITY

*“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, **and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14*

*“I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by **the love of the Spirit**, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.” Romans 15:30*

Often we use symbolism for Holy Spirit that speaks of elements such as the wind of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2), the fire of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3) or Holy Spirit like a dove (Matthew 3:16,17). This is not an exhaustive list. **These symbols indicate aspects of Holy Spirit’s nature and/or His activities.**

HOLY SPIRIT EXERCISES HIS RULE – HE IS NOT A PASSIVE OR DORMANT PART OF THE GODHEAD

Holy Spirit exercised His power through Jesus,

*“You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power**, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” Acts 10:38;*

Jesus wants to pour out the same Holy Spirit of power on us,

*“But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.**” Acts 1:8*

Our heavenly Father will give Holy Spirit to those who ask,

*“how much more will **your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**” Luke 11:13*

HOLY SPIRIT EXPERIENCES EMOTION AND PAIN

Scripture uses words that indicate Holy Spirit has emotions and experiences pain. One cannot be grieved, unless one has feelings!

*“Yet **they rebelled against His Holy Spirit**” Isaiah 63:10*

*“**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30*

*“and who **has insulted the Spirit of Grace**” Hebrews 10:29*

HOLY SPIRIT IS REFERRED TO AS PART OF THE GODHEAD AND PLAYS AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising in the name of the Father, the Son **and the Holy Spirit**” Matthew 28:19*

We cannot fulfil the Great Commission without him. There can be no revival without the Holy Spirit!

HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PROMISED GIFT FROM FATHER

(Acts 2:33, Acts 1:4, 5 Ephesians 1:3)

*“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for **the gift my Father has promised**, which you have heard them speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days **you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit**” Acts 1:4,5*

HOLY SPIRIT IS REFERRED TO AS LORD AND IN HIS PRESENCE THERE IS FREEDOM

*“Now **the Lord is the Spirit** and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

What joy and liberty we experience when we choose to bow to the Lordship of Holy Spirit and surrender to his infinite wisdom!

HOLY SPIRIT IS A GIFT TO US

*“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. **And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. The promise is for you and your children – and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.’” Acts 2:38, 39*

HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIFTS FOR US

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. **Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good**. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-12*

HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUITS IN US

If we tried to produce fruit it would just be rotten fruit – who wants to eat rotten fruit, but when God produces fruit in us it is glorious and of eternal worth.

*“But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22, 23a*

HOLY SPIRIT IS SENT FROM HEAVEN

*“by the **Holy Spirit sent from heaven.**” 1 Peter 1:12*

HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE GODHEAD

‘You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.’ ‘because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.’ Romans 8:9,14

Sons of God are led by God’s Holy Spirit and enabled by Holy Spirit to live the life of overcoming the sinful nature.

HOLY SPIRIT IS ETERNAL AND IS TRUTH

*‘And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor **to be with you forever** – the Spirit of truth’ John 14:16*

*“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit gives birth to spirit.** You should not be surprised at me saying **you must be born again.**” Jn 3:6,7*

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST WAS OFFERED THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT

*“How much more then, will the blood of Christ, **who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God,** cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living Go!” Hebrews 9:14*

The Cross broke Holy Spirit’s heart, just as it broke our heavenly Father’s heart. He, being in very nature, Comforter, had to turn away and allow Jesus to die on the Cross. The Spirit and the Cross are inseparable. The Blood and the Cross are inseparable.

HOLY SPIRIT IS BEAUTIFUL

Holy Spirit transforms us and conforms us to the nature of Jesus. He makes us beautiful!

It takes time to be conformed to His image. Our hearts are ‘hard’ until he softens them and changes us to be Christ like. Just like the Shulammite (Song of Solomon) we have to pass through various seasons and trials to mature and grow up into the love of God. Jesus is seed of life in us and Holy Spirit will nurture this seed and through fellowship, prayer, life in the Word of God we will grow

HOLY SPIRIT IS LOVE

God is love (1 John 3, 1 John 4)

HOLY SPIRIT CARES FOR US AND IS CONCERNED FOR US

HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US AND LIVES WITH US ON A DAILY BASIS

*“But you know him [Holy Spirit], **for he lives with you and will be in you.**” John 14:17 [emphasis mine]*

HOLY SPIRIT ALSO RESTS UPON AND REMAINS WITH US

*“Then John gave this testimony: **“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.”**” John 1:32*

HOLY SPIRIT IS TEACHER AND GIVES US WISDOM

*“The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, **but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.**” 1 Corinthians 2:10-14*

HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US INTO ALL TRUTH AND UNDERSTANDING

*“But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you **what is yet to come.** He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.” John 16:13-15*

HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES US TO WORSHIP

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. **God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth.**” John 4:23-24*

HOLY SPIRIT SHOWS US HOW TO PRAY – TO THE FATHER, THROUGH THE SON AND BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the **Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.**” Romans 8:26-27*

HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS JESUS AND THE FATHER – FEAR OF THE LORD

“Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement; in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer, and in regard to judgement, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” John 16:6-11

HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US JOY! \0/

The joy of the Lord is our strength! “Jesus full of joy through the Holy Spirit” Luke 10:21

HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS LIFE!

*“but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but **the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.** Romans 8:5, 6*

ADOPTS/BAPTISES/SONSHIP/NEW BIRTH/GIVES LIFE/SEALS

*“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba Father”.** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings, in order that we may also share in his glory.” Romans 8:15-17*

*“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit gives birth to spirit.** You should not be surprised at me saying **you must be born again.**” John 3:6, 7*

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT??

IT’S SIMPLE - WE PRAY AND ASK OUR HEAVENLY FATHER!!

*“So I say to you: **Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks find; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.** Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?** Luke 11:9-13*

HOLY SPIRIT CAN BE GIVEN SOVEREIGNLY (WITHOUT LAYING ON OFF HANDS)

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest one on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:1-4

HOLY SPIRIT MAY ALSO BE RECEIVED BY LAYING ON HANDS

“When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8:14-17

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM BRINGS FORTH SPEAKING IN TONGUES (heavenly language)

“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” Acts 19:6

HOLY SPIRIT IS A MISSION SPIRIT

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4b, 5

Holy Spirit is my friend and he is the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; Acts 5:9; Acts 8:39; Luke 4:18). He is a Divine Person and not just a divine power and is given to the church as a blessing. We are to bless others through Holy Spirit, not seek to impress others by the Holy Spirit.

“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.” Acts 1:8

Wonderfully, Holy Spirit enables us to be participators with Jesus and not just be spectators in the Kingdom. Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to be witnesses for Jesus in the resurrection power of Christ. Holy Spirit was given to the church at Pentecost (Acts 2) and has a mission focus.

HOLY SPIRIT DEMONSTRATES FATHER’S LOVE AND POWER

“Hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out his love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit, that he has given us.” Romans 5:5

Consider for just a moment how might one explain love to a newborn child? It’s a silly question really, because we don’t explain love to a newborn infant, rather we simply demonstrate love by nurturing and caring for the little one and by holding and cuddling and providing for the baby. The infant understands love through demonstration rather than by explanation. In the same way Holy Spirit demonstrates the heavenly language of Father’s love and power in us, to us and through us. He is a wonderful gift and the promise Jesus spoke of that would be sent from Father.

HOLY SPIRIT IS EXTRAVAGANT LOVE/GRACE

*“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.**” Luke 11:11-13*

It's so important that we grasp that Father wants to give us the Holy Spirit and all that we have to do is ask. Receiving the Holy Spirit is not task or works orientated. It is not dependent on our age, gender, skin colour, education, social standing or denomination. All we have to do is ask Father to fill our hearts with his Spirit. Over the years I've met many people who have been so nervous about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and were afraid they would not receive it. Beloved, the Scriptures teach us Father wants to give this precious gift and it is not to an elite few but to every one who is born again of the Spirit of God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS US INTO LIBERTY IN CHRIST

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus **the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death**” Romans 8:1,2 + v6*

As believers we are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness. Hallelujah! The law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death. The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace and the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in us! Paul teaches that we did not receive a spirit that makes us a slave again to fear but rather we receive the spirit of sonship who testifies with our spirit that we are God's children and heirs. As heirs with God and co-heirs with Christ, if we share in the sufferings of Christ in order that we may share also in his glory.

These Scriptures give us a tremendous insight into facets of Holy Spirit's nature as well as some of his titles and functions:

“PARAKLETOS” – [COMFORTER] INTERCESSOR, COUNSELLOR, ADVOCATE, CONVICTION, TRUTH, LEADS, DIRECTS, PRAYER WORSHIP

*“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. **Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.** When he comes, **he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and ...***

*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, **the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will **speak** only what he hears, and **he will tell you what is yet to come.** He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.” John 16:7-15*

*“When the **Counselor** comes, whom **I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26,27*

WHAT HOPE! HOLY SPIRIT IS POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS

“overflow with hope by the Holy Spirit” Romans 15:13

HOLY SPIRIT: ENABLER, TEACHER, TRAINER, EQUIPPER, EMPOWERS, SENDS, SEPARATES, COMMISSIONS, ANOINTS, APPOINTS

*“In the church at Antioch, there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “**Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.**” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:1-3*

*“The two of them, **sent on their way by the Holy Spirit,** went to ...*

HOLY SPIRIT HELPS

*“Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and **the help given by the Spirit of Jesus,** what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.” Philippians 1:19*

I am so grateful that Jesus helps us by His Spirit. We can do nothing apart from Christ!

HOLY SPIRIT APPOINTS MINISTRIES/GIVES AUTHORITY

*“Keep watch over yourselves and the flock of which the **Holy Spirit has made you overseers.**” Acts 20:28 (Paul speaking to the church leaders/overseers)*

HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD’S VOICE

SIGNS, WONDERS, MIRACLES, PROPHECY, VISIONS, DREAMS, WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

*“a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, ‘**The Holy Spirit says,** ‘in this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’” Acts 21:10, 11*

HOLY SPIRIT WARNS, PROTECTS, COUNSELS, KEEPS, DELIVERS!

*“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in **every city the Holy Spirit warns me that***

prison and hardship are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.” Acts 20:22-24

*“Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.**” Acts 26:6,7*

Paul in Malta *“But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects” Acts 28:5*

“If I cast drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Matthew 12:28

HOLY SPIRIT RELEASES PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*“about midnight **Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the other prisoners were listening to them.” Acts 16:25*

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. **God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.**” John 4:23,24*

HOLY SPIRIT RELEASES POWER

*“Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Holy Spirit**” Luke 4:14*

*Then Peter began to speak, “I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth **with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil because God was with him.**” Acts 10:34-38*

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO THE CHURCH AND EQUIPS TO THE CHURCH TO CALL THE LOST TO CHRIST

*“**The Spirit and the bride say Come!** And let him who hears say. Come! Whoever is thirsty let him come; and whoever wishes let him take the free gift of the water of life” Revelations 22:17*

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