

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 15

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Holy Spirit Acts like a Real Person



January 9, 2011

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose (make it real) to you what is to come."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Last time we learned that the Holy Spirit was a real Person and we found all the evidence we needed in God's Holy Scripture...our Bible to see that God the Holy Spirit is a real Person. Being a real Person, He must act like a real Person, too, right? Let's see.



Remember Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His Apostles and all Church Age believers. And after more than 2000 years, the Holy Spirit still indwells every believer until we die physically.

Let's review for a minute. Jesus is talking to the apostles here in **John 16:7**. "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." The Holy Spirit has a HUGE roll in our lives and we're going to learn all about it, okay?

The Holy Spirit exhibits the actions of a person in many verses in the Bible. Let's see what He does as a Person for believers and unbelievers.

He convicts or convinces the unbeliever of sin, righteousness and judgment. **John 16:8-11** "And He, when He comes, will convict (convince) the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they (unbelievers) do not believe in Me; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged."

Look at what Jesus says in this next verse. It tells us that without the Holy Spirit, we could NEVER understand anything spiritual. **John 16:12** "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." Why couldn't they bear it or understand it? Because they did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them yet. They would get the indwelling after Jesus went back into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father to be glorified. Then he sent the Spirit down to all believers so we could understand fully.

The Holy Spirit guides us in all the Truth by hearing, speaking, and showing. **John 16:13** says, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He

will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose (make it real) to you what is to come." He will teach us what is in the Bible.



The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus when He teaches us. (John 16:14-15) "He will glorify me, for He will take of mine (TRUTH) and will disclose it to you. (15) All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that He takes of mine (TRUTH) and will disclose it to you."

This one passage alone gives us enough firm evidence that the Holy Spirit is a Person that you don't even need to go anywhere else!

Remember just keep in mind what makes a person: intellect (you can think sanely), sensibility (you have sane feelings), and will (you can make sane decisions). Look at all the details that Jesus Christ includes in John 16:14-15 above concerning the Holy Spirit:

1. He visits people.
2. He is sent by God the Son on a mission.
3. He convicts or convinces people. He gives an ironclad case to all the people in the world.
4. So he is capable of reasoning, and wills for people to be saved.
5. He guides people.
6. He hears.
7. He speaks.
8. He knows all truth.
9. He can predict the future.



He also performs miracles. Let's look at one of the miracles in Acts 8:39. "When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the man no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing." Let's read this interesting story in Acts 8:16-40.

He intercedes for us. That means he negotiates for us or pleads our case before God. He prays for us. Rom 8:26 says, "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with moanings too deep for words..."

These are the activities of a Person that a simple influence or force could not possibly do but the Scripture clearly shows us that the Holy Spirit can and does do these things.

The Holy Spirit is given treatment that would be given only to a person. In other words we would not respond to Him if He was just a wind or a force or an influence, would we?

Let's look at some great examples from God's Word about the treatment given the Holy Spirit by believers and unbelievers:

1. He is one to be obeyed. Act 10:19-21 "And while Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you. (20) Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.' (21) And Peter went down to the men and said, 'I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?'"
2. He can be lied to in Acts 5:3. "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?'"

3. He can be resisted in **Act 7:51**. "You men who are stiff-necked (stubborn) and uncircumcised in heart (negative to God's plan) and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did."
4. He can be grieved (made sad) in **Eph 4:30**. "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
5. He can be blasphemed (shown great disrespect and evil) in **Matt. 12:31**. "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven." This blasphemy or evil is not believing in Jesus when the Holy Spirit makes the Gospel clear to the unbeliever!
6. He can be insulted, **Heb 10:29**. "How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which He was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

You can only do these things to a real person. I'm sorry, but people just don't do these things to simple influences or the wind!!! Do you understand that? Good because next lesson we are going to look at the Holy Spirit in action in the Book of Acts. Lots more to come!

Close in prayer

*Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, September 15, 2010
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