

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 14

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

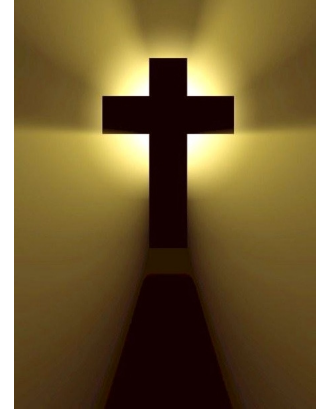


January 2, 2010

"...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God (Jesus) in true righteousness and holiness."

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 is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

We are going to continue our deeper study about the Holy Spirit in order for you to know Him so well that He will be your best friend. He's a good friend, too. He's loyal and He there for you in all ways and remember He gets jealous when you go off into the cosmic system. That's when you sin and forget to confess right away.



We learned that He has been given to us, the church, to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and that means that He has a passionate desire to produce in we believers the virtues of Christ. He will make us like Christ if we let Him do His job in us.

Paul said this in **Gal 4:19** about becoming like Christ. **"My children, with whom I am again in labor (working hard to teach believers) until Christ is formed in you..."**

However, I hope this next verse doesn't apply to you guys. **Gal 4:20** **"...but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone (he was scolding them), for I am confused about you."** You see Paul was confused and upset with the Galatian believers because they were not growing up spiritually, using their gifts, or imitating Christ. They were off in the cosmic system being fooled by false doctrines from false Jewish teachers and going back to the Jewish sacrifices. They weren't applying the new mystery doctrines Paul taught them for the Church Age, staying filled with the Spirit, learning the Truth, or applying it!

One of the tests to tell if you are ready for your spiritual gift or using it is whether or not we are thinking like Christ and have the attitude of Christ?

Here is the attitude of Christ review:

Are we regarding ourselves as less important than others?

Are we constantly submitting to authority?

Are we obedient to the authority of the Word of God in particular?

Is the cross evident in our behavior, where we are laying down our lives for the Royal Family?

Remember the cross humbles us, and the Rapture motivates us to continue in the plan of God knowing someday we will soon be in our resurrection bodies in heaven with Jesus and free of these earthly bodies that suffer from time to time. However, have to make the most use of our time on earth to honor and obey Jesus. We do this by denying ourselves and making others more important than ourselves. We MUST reflect the light of Christ so unbelievers and cosmic believers will want what we have in Christ...TRUE HAPPINESS.

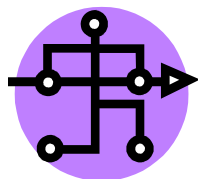
Now lets really look at the Person and work of God the Holy Spirit and the proofs in the Bible concerning two key facts about the Holy Spirit.



The first fact is that He is a distinct Person, or what is known in theology (the study of GOD) as the Personality of the Holy Spirit.

The second fact is that He is God.

So here we go. Let's start learning the Doctrine of the Personhood and Deity of the Holy Spirit. Open your Bibles to **1 Cor 2:10**.



When it comes to the Holy Spirit, two things get attacked by the kingdom of darkness. His deity is sometimes questioned. And then again others want and try to say that He is simply a force, or an extension or side or part of God the Father.

So in dedicating some time to the Holy Spirit, we are going to make sure you are well armed not only to defend the deity of the Holy Spirit but also the fact that He is a distinct Person.



The Holy Spirit is NOT a blind force. The Holy Spirit is NOT simply an influence, or a symbol. The Holy Spirit is NOT the breath from the Father.



Now picture the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a Person, distinct from God the Father and God the Son in personality, and yet equal to them in deity, that He is God. There are those who attack the truth of the Trinity and one of the ways they do it is to question whether the Spirit is a Person at all. They want to downgrade our Holy Spirit to be just a small influence, just as they seek to downgrade our Savior, God's Son, to just being a man and nothing else. But we know they are both God because our Bible teaches this and God's Bible is TRUTH.

There are several different proofs for the fact that the Holy Spirit is a distinct Person of the Trinity.

To begin with, what is a person? Silly question right? Not really. We need to know so we can know the Holy Spirit is truly a Person.

There are three things needed in order to qualify as a person. To be a person means you must possess an intellect (you can think), sensibility (deep feelings, awareness, emotion), and will (that's your volition or decider).

We are going to look into the Bible to see whether or not in fact the Holy Spirit possesses these three elements: intellect, sensibility, and will.

All three of these requirements acting together require FREEDOM. That is freedom to act and then to be able to make a choice of what direction our action will take when we get there. Intellect (or the ability to think) must be allowed to direct. Sensibility must be allowed to desire or want. Your will or volition must be allowed to decide in the direction of normal or rational ends. In other words you must be sane and act sanely and have normal feelings for you to qualify as a person.

So our job today is to inquire of God's Holy Word whether or not in fact the Holy Spirit possesses these three elements: intellect, sensibility, and will.

So let's get going, okay? Don't worry if this sounds a bit hard to understand. You all have so much basic Bible and a lot of advanced doctrine that the Holy Spirit will be able to teach this to you with ease!!!

The Bible presents TREMENDOUS evidence that the Holy Spirit is a PERSON...not a force, or a symbol, or the wind! Remember Satan is a genius and he comes up with some pretty convincing ideas! But you won't fall for it because you're all getting taught by the Holy Spirit and you WANT TRUTH!

Okay, let's take a look at the evidence in the Bible describing the Holy Spirit in terms of what makes up a person...intellect, sensibility and will.

- 1) A person has intelligence or intellect. The Holy Spirit has intelligence. He knows and searches the things of God, **1 Cor 2:10-11**. "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God." He teaches people. **1 Cor 2:12-13**. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the (Holy) Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, (13) which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." He possesses a mind. **Rom 8:27** "He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He negotiates for the saints according to the will of God."
- 2) A person has sensibility (understands and shows feelings) and the Holy Spirit has sensibility. He understands us and shows feelings towards us. He can be grieved by the bad decisions of believers. **Eph 4:30** "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (make Him sad), by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Listen up...a breath or influence or symbol CANNOT be grieved (sad), can it? Of course not!!!! He possesses joy, which is a feeling! **1 Thess 1:6** "You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the Word in much trouble with the joy of the Holy Spirit..." He has love also, which is a feeling. **Rom 15:30**. "Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the (Holy) Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God (the Father) for me..." And what do we have here? Notice anything special? This is a Trinity verse!! Every member of the Trinity is mentioned in this verse.
- 3) A person possess a will and the Holy Spirit has a will as you will see in the following verses. He uses His sovereign will to distribute spiritual gifts to the Body of Christ...all believers. **1 Co 12:11**. "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." So the Holy Spirit possesses a sovereign will and He acts upon that will independently on behalf of each individual believer. He gives you the perfect spiritual gift and the ability to know what it is when you are in the plan

of God daily. He actually directs the activities of Christians, as in **Acts 16:6-11**. Let's read it together. Open your Bibles to **Acts**. You will see how the Holy Spirit stopped them from going where they were not supposed to go.

Since genuine persons or personalities possess intelligence, feelings, and will, and since the Holy Spirit has these attributes, He is a Person.

But wait – there's more! However, we'll wait until next time to learn about that.

Close in prayer

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

