

## Who is the Holy Spirit? (20/9/14)

### Introduction

Since as a Christian at the age of 15, I have not heard much teaching from the pulpit on the subject of the Holy Spirit. Maybe, because I came from a word based conservative church where they believe in the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity.

Even while I was in this Church for the last 4 years, I cannot recall any teaching on the Holy Spirit. If our Church, (the church comprises of you and I) were to move further in the realm of the supernatural, we need to know more about the Holy Spirit – who he is, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit in us, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and others. This morning and during my future allocation to share the word of God, I would want to take these opportunities to share with you on the topic of the Holy Spirit. I will be as practical as I can.

I confess that I am not an expert on this topic but I will share with you what I know – as least it is a start. God willing, He will bring speaker(s) who are much more knowledgeable and full of the Holy Spirit to teach and show us more of the Holy Spirit so that you and I will be greatly blessed.

### Content

#### Who is the Holy Spirit?

Holy Spirit is a Person. It is not an “it” or a “ghost” or “Casper the friendly ghost”.

Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead.

Throughout scripture “seven” is the number particularly associated with the Holy Spirit.

(Rev 4:5 speaks of “the seven Spirits of God”)

In Isaiah 11:2, the prophet Isaiah foreshows how the Holy Spirit will set Jesus apart as the Messiah. He list 7 distinct aspect of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) The Spirit of the Lord
- 2) The Spirit of Wisdom
- 3) The Spirit of Understanding
- 4) The Spirit of Counsel
- 5) The Spirit of Might
- 6) The Spirit of Knowledge
- 7) The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

A few of the many titles given in scripture to the Holy Spirit is

- a) The Spirit of Grace (Hebrew 10:29)
- b) The Spirit of Glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- c) The Spirit of Truth (John 14:16, 17)
- d) The Spirit of self-discipline

In Acts 13:2 the Holy Spirit is plainly presented as being Himself God

Speaking to the leaders of the church in Antioch, "the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'"

Clearly the Holy Spirit is speaking here in the first person of God.

In every stage of redemption each Person of the Godhead played a unique and distinctive part as indicated below:

- 1) The conception of Jesus  
God the Father caused Jesus to be conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)
- 2) The beginning of the ministry of Jesus  
When Jesus submitted Himself to the baptism of John, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove and the Father acknowledged Him as His Son. (Luke 3:21,22)
- 3) The ongoing ministry of Jesus  
Peter sums this up in Acts 10:38 – "God [the Father] anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who are under the power of the devil, because God was with him".
- 4) The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross  
"Christ ... through the eternal Spirit [that is the Holy Spirit] offered himself unblemished to God [the Father] (Hebrew 9:14)
- 5) The resurrection of Jesus  
God the Father resurrected Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 1:4; 8:11)
- 6) The Pentecost  
Exalted to the right hand of God the Father, Jesus received from Him the gift of the Holy Spirit and poured it out on the waiting disciples. (Acts 2:33)

God the Holy Spirit has the same characteristic as God the Father and Son:

- Eternal
- Omnipotent (all powerful)
- Omniscient (all knowing – knows ALL things) and
- Omnipresent (all presence – present everywhere at the same time)

What the scriptures reveal to us about the Holy Spirit?

A) He is Holy

The primary revelation of the Holy Spirit is contained in His title: He is Holy.

This is the standard that we judge every message, every manifestation, and every movement that claims to be of the Holy Spirit: Is it compatible with His holiness.

B) A Humble, Self-effacing Servant.

Self-effacement means the act of making oneself or one's action seem less important than they are because of modesty or timidity.

Servant hood is part of the divine nature. (Jesus taught to be great is to be a servant; Paul taught to be a leader, one must be a servant)

Servant hood did not originate in time but in eternity; not on earth but in heaven.

Eternally, Jesus the Son is the joyful, willing, obedient servant of God the Father.

The Holy Spirit, in turn, is the obedient, self-effacing servant of the Father and Son. He never draws attention to Himself but always to God the Father and to God the Son, Jesus.

He does not complain of "victimization" or demand His "rights". He perfectly fulfills His appointed role as the servant of God.

This is beautifully illustrated in Genesis 24 which describes how Abraham went about obtaining a bride for his son, Isaac. There are four (4) "types" in this account.

Abraham is a type of God the Father; Isaac is a type of God's Son, Jesus; Rebecca is a type of the bride of Christ, the Church. Abraham's servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. Although never given a name, he is the main character of this story.

As a servant, he had one supreme objective – to find the young woman who was to be the bride; to equip and adorn her; and to escort her safely to the bridegroom.

It is for the similar purpose that the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost. He is here with one supreme objective – to find, equip and adorn the bride for Christ – the Church (you and I) – and to escort her safely through this world and present Jesus – a pure and spotless bride.

One of the main characteristics of the Holy Spirit is that He never attracts attention to Himself. Here are some of the things that Jesus told us about the Holy Spirit:

- a) He will testify of me
- b) He will not speak from himself but whatever He hears He will speak
- c) He will take of mine and declare it to you.

We need to keep two (2) basic principles in mind.

- 1 – The Holy Spirit never caters to human ego
- 2 – The Holy Spirit never attracts attention to himself. He always directs our focus to Jesus.

### C) A Consuming Fire

One way in which the Holy Spirit manifests Himself at times is fire.

Rev 4:5 (NKJV) – “seven lamps of fire...burning before the throne...of God”

Heb 12:29 – “Our God is a consuming fire”

The author of Hebrews did not say that God is like a fire but that God is a fire. For this reason, “let us worship God acceptably with reverence and awe” (Hebrew 12:28). Not slavish fear but “the fear of the Lord which is pure (clean) and enduring forever.

There are two opposite sides to fire. Fire can be beneficial but also dangerous.

Fire can purify but also destroy.

So it is with the fire of the Holy Spirit. He can minister God’s blessing and favor on those who are obedient. But He can also minister God’s wrath and judgment on those who are presumptuous (take things for granted) and self-willed.

In Leviticus 9:23, 24 – we have an account of the fire that fell on Aaron’s sacrifice in the tabernacle, the record continues:

Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.” (Leviticus 10:1-2)

What a solemn lesson. The same fire that brought God’s blessing on Aaron’s sacrifice offered in obedience brought instant death to his two sons when they went into God’s presence with “profane (unholy) fire”

God has already defined the way in which we are to approach Him: “with reverence and godly fear”

To offer “profane fire” is to approach God with presumption and self-willed in any spirit that is not the Holy Spirit.

It is therefore a matter of vital importance - in fact, of life and death – to recognize the Holy Spirit in whatever way He manifests Himself and to distinguish Him from any other counterfeit spirit.

Of all the Israelites, Nadab and Abihu, Aaron’s sons, might have felt that they have special privilege to enter God’s presence by a way of their own choosing.

By right of birth, Nadab should have succeeded Aaron as High Priest. But there is no substitute for obeying God’s word – neither denominational status (we are from the Pentecostal denomination) nor dramatic miracles nor crowd appeal.

God does not have a special privilege “elite” who can ignore His requirements without suffering the consequences.

God’s judgement on the self-exaltation of Nadab and Abihu shows us that the Holy Spirit only imparts His blessing to those who meet His requirements.

Today, His first requirement is to focus on exalting and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, to carefully follow the directions which the Spirit Himself has transmitted/showed/revealed to us in the scriptures.

Next sharing will cover what the scripture says about the Holy Spirit on the following:

The Spirit of Truth

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion/Challenged

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i) Abraham is a type of God the Father;

ii) Isaac is a type of God's Son, Jesus;

iii) Rebecca is a type of the bride of Christ, the Church.

iv) Abraham's servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. Although never given a name, he is the main character of this story.

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2 – The Holy Spirit never ..... He always .....

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