

Lesson 12 – The Holy Spirit

“and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. “And you are witnesses of these things.
“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”
Luke 24:47-49

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”¹
Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit is a Person – the Third Person of the Trinity.

1. The Essence of the Holy Spirit
 - a. A spirit is a person without a body
 - b. Words translated *Spirit* in the Bible
 - i. Old Testament – Hebrew: *ruach* - רוח
 - ii. New Testament – Greek: *pneuma* - πνεῦμα
 1. Breath, Wind
 - a. The idea is invisible power
 - c. Spirit - A spirit; a simple, incorporeal, immaterial being (thought of as possessing higher capacities than man does in his present state).²
 - i. The Old English word *gast*, which later became *gost*, was the word for *spirit*.
 - ii. The meaning of the word and its spelling gradually changed to its present meaning.
 - iii. The French word *esprit* began to be used for *spirit*.
 - iv. The first known use of *Holy Spirit* was in a poem from around 1300 AD.1300 in the poem *Cursor Mundi*: "*þe hali spirite* oute of him spac" ("The Holy Spirit out of him spake").
 - v. By 1611, when the King James Version of the Bible came out, both terms were commonly used. The King James Bible uses them interchangeably.
 - vi. When Joseph Smith wrote *The Book of Mormon* in 1820, he thought the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost were two different entities. (Hmmm... if it was really God Who gave him the Book of Mormon, as Mormons insist, it seems that God should have known better).
2. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not just a force
 - a. The testimony of the Greek text
 - i. Every Greek noun, pronoun and article is one of three genders: Masculine, Feminine or Neuter
 - ii. The word *spirit* is neuter in Greek

¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

² *Word Studies*, AMG International

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- iii. When the Greek text refers to the Holy Spirit, it uses the masculine pronoun, *HE*, instead of the neuter pronoun, *IT*.
- iv. If the Holy Spirit were just a force, the correct pronoun for the Bible to use would be *it*.
- v. The Biblical use of the pronoun *He* reveals the fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person, and not an “it.” – John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8, 13
- b. Traits of a person
 - i. Intellect – the ability to think and know
 - ii. Emotion – the ability to feel
 - iii. Will – the ability to make decisions
- c. The Personality of the Holy Spirit
 - i. Intellect – 1 Cor. 2:10-13
 - ii. Emotion – Rom. 5:5
 - iii. Will – Acts 15:28
- d. The Holy Spirit is presented as being equal with the Father and the Son – Matt. 28:19
 - i. Not only does that show that He is a Person as They are.
 - ii. It also reveals that He is on the same level as God the Father and Jesus – He is God.
- 3. The Deity of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Equal with the Father and the Son – Matt. 28:19
 - b. Called God in Scripture – Acts 5:3-5
 - c. Eternal – Heb. 9:14
 - d. He was involved in Creation – Gen. 1:2
 - e. Has the attributes of God
 - i. Omnipresent – Psalms 139:7
 - ii. Omniscient – 1 Cor. 2:10-11
- 4. The Work of the Holy Spirit
 - a. In the Old Testament
 - i. In Creation – Gen. 1:2
 - ii. Came upon men for special purposes
 - iii. Inspired the Prophets
 - b. In the World
 - i. Convicts people of sin – John 16:8-11
 - 1. Gr. Convict – *elegcho* - ἐλέγχω
 - a. To prove people wrong
 - b. To expose people’s sin to them in order to convince them that they need to get saved.
 - ii. Calls people to repentance – 2 Thess. 2:13-14
 - iii. Witnesses of the Lord – Acts 5:30-32
 - iv. Regenerates sinners – John 3:5; Titus 3:5
 - c. In Believers
 - i. Places people into the Body of Christ – 1 Cor. 12:13
 - ii. Gives believers assurance of salvation – Rom. 8:15-16
 - iii. Indwells all believers – Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19
 - iv. Seals until the Day of Redemption – Eph. 1:13

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1. The seal shows His ownership – like a seal with the impression of a king’s signet ring. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of the King of Kings!
 2. The seal cannot be broken... “until the Day of Redemption.”
 3. It guarantees the fact that our salvation is eternal.
 - a. No one else has the power of authority to break God’s seal
 - b. God promised He won’t break the seal
 - c. The seal cannot be broken!
 - v. Fills obedient believers – Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18
 - vi. Gives power for soul winning – Acts 1:8; 2:4
 - vii. Gives boldness for witnessing – Acts 4:31
 - viii. Produces fruit in the believer’s life – Gal. 5:22-23
 - ix. Empowers preaching
 1. For the preacher – 1 Cor. 2:4-5
 2. For the hearers – Acts 6:10
 - x. Guides – Acts 15:28
 - xi. Comforts – John 14:16
 - xii. Communes with believers – 2 Cor. 13:14
 - xiii. Prays for us – Rom. 8:26-27
 - xiv. Teaches believers – 1 John 2:20, 27
 - xv. Gives spiritual gifts – Rom. 12:3-7; 1 Cor. 12 (whole chapter)
5. The Holy Spirit and the Bible
- a. Inspired the writers – 2 Pet. 1:21
 - b. Enlightens believers as they read – 1 Cor. 2:13-14