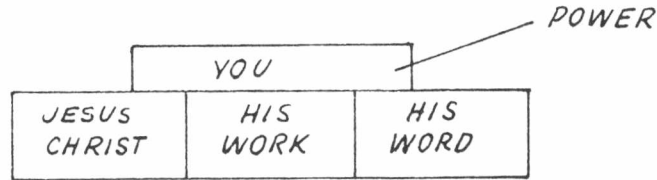


Lesson #1—The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

- A. One of the most unusual characteristics of Biblical Christianity is that it is always associated with power.



For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for **it is the power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

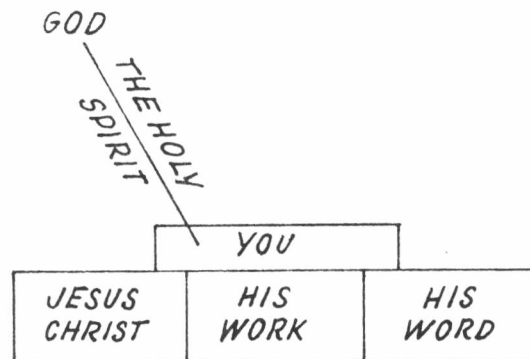
For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved **it is the power of God**. I Corinthians 1:18

For the kingdom of God is not in word, **but in power**. I Cor. 4:20

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses...By the Word of truth, **by the power of God**, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. II Cor. 6:4, 7

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, **but also in power**, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance, as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. I Thess. 1:5

- B. These references to the power of God not only indicate the sovereign execution of the divine plan, the all-pervasive conviction of sin, the transforming work of regeneration, the preservation of the church, but, in particular, they refer to that **divine enablement** given to every believer so that the Christian life may be lived successfully.
- C. It is vitally important to understand that this divine enablement is always associated with three great truths.



1. The person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(This is the **source** of the power—the person of Jesus Christ, our Representative, and His work for us in the Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost.)

2. The written Word of God.

(This is the **means** whereby we know of God's power and how to be a recipient of that power. The Bible is like a blue-print to pattern our daily life.)

3. The person and work of the Holy Spirit.

(This is the **Administrator** of that power. The Holy Spirit dwells within the believer to teach us truth and to lead us to respond to God by faith, love and hope so the power of God may be a part of our daily life. This is why He is called "the believer's Helper".)

I. The Personality of the Holy Spirit.

A. The Holy Spirit is a person as affirmed by His attributes of personality.

1. The attribute of intellect, Acts 16:7.

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia, but **the Spirit suffered them not.**

2. The attribute of emotion, Ephesians 4:30.

And **grieve not the Holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

3. The attribute of will, I Corinthians 12:11.

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally **as He will.**

The Holy Spirit

*A GREAT PERSON
A LOVING PERSON
A DIVINE PERSON* } *Our
Helper*

B. The Holy Spirit is a person as affirmed by His work.

1. He convicts of sin, John 16:8.

And when He is come, **He will reprove (convict) the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

2. He teaches the believer, John 15:26.

But when the Comforter is come, Whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **He shall testify of Me.**

3. He guides the believer, John 16:13.

Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, **He will guide you into all truth**, for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak, and He will shew you things to come.

4. He prays for the believer, Romans 8:26.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

5. He instructs the church, Acts 15:28.

For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit**, and to us, to lay upon you not greater burden than these necessary things.

Observation: All of these verses remind us that we cannot approach this great subject in any impersonal way. The Holy Spirit is a person—not an influence or a power. We must learn to respond to Him as a person and live day by day in His presence.

II. The Deity of the Holy Spirit.

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A. The Holy Spirit is called "God", Acts 5:3, 4.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was

it not in thine own power? Why has thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**

B. The Holy Spirit has the attributes of deity.

1. The attribute of truth, I John 5:6.

This is He that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ, not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because **the Spirit is truth.**

2. The attribute of love, Galatians 5:22.

But **the fruit of the Spirit is love....**

3. The attribute of holiness, Luke 11:13; Romans 1:4.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father, give **the Holy Spirit** to them that ask Him?

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to **the Spirit of Holiness**, by the Resurrection from the dead.

4. The attribute of eternity, Hebrews 9:14.

How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through **the Eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

5. The attribute of omniscience, I Cor. 2:10, 11.

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for **the Spirit searcheth all things**, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**

C. The Holy Spirit is given equal recognition as deity along with God the Father and God the Son.

Go ye therefore, and teach (disciple) all nations, **baptizing them in the name** (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and **the communion of the Holy Spirit** be with you all. Amen.

Observation: These verses bring before us a great truth—the Holy Spirit is God! He is worthy of all the worship, adoration, reverence, sacrifice, and service that could ever be given to Him. Think how great He is—the infinite and absolute God of moral perfection. When we unite this truth with the realization that He is our daily “Helper”—the impact takes our spiritual breath away!

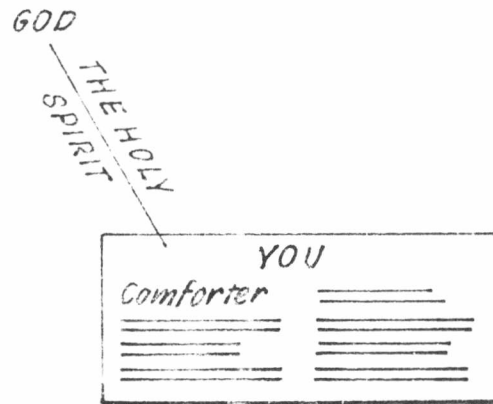
III. The Titles of the Holy Spirit.

A. The Holy Spirit is called the “Comforter”, John 14:16-18.

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you **another Comforter**, that He may abide with you for ever. Even the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him, but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless (orphans) I will come to you.

Observation: The promises and instruction in these verses is overwhelming! Just before His death the Lord Jesus made this provision for all believers of a “Comforter”. The term “another” means “one of the same kind”. The word “Comforter” means “one called alongside to help” and may be translated “Helper”. When the Lord Jesus made this provision for “another Comforter” for all believers He was referring to the same kind of ministry that He had had with the disciples. He also promised to come to us in the coming of the Holy Spirit.

These verses present the theme of these lessons. When we see the meaning of this Biblical teaching it causes us to be encouraged, but, also ashamed. We are encouraged because of the promises related to the ministry of the Holy Spirit our "Helper" and ashamed because of our low level of expectancy. We have not responded to Him in all of the ways that He is worthy of faith, love and hope. We must pray together that there will be a change in our attitude about this. Many of us are living a sub-normal Christian life. The reason may be due to a lack of instruction, or rebellion, or wrong priorities, or some emotional or spiritual wound, or simply self-centeredness. Whatever the reason for our failure may be--the provision of God is adequate--if applied! We have a "Helper"!



- B. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, of Counsel and Might, of Knowledge and the Fear of the Lord", Isaiah 11:2.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him (the Lord Jesus), the **Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding**, the **Spirit of Counsel and Might**, the **Spirit of Knowledge** and of the **Fear of the Lord**.

Observation: These titles all indicate what the Holy Spirit was going to be in the life of the Lord Jesus during His earthly ministry. We see the manifestation of all of this in the four Gospels. Now that the Holy Spirit has been given to all believers we realize that He dwells within us to enable us to have wisdom and understanding, to give us counsel and strength, to teach us to know the Lord and to be reverent before Him.

- C. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Grace and Supplication", Zech. 12:10.

And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem **the Spirit of Grace and Supplications**, and they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Observation: This verse indicates a ministry to the Jewish people that is yet future. The Holy Spirit will bring a deep conviction to them in regard to the Crucifixion and rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This will cause a turning of many to Christ (Romans 11:15-29; Revelation 7:4-9). This emphasizes the greatness of the Holy Spirit and the power of His ministry. This title also indicates how He desires to work in us as believers. Through His inner working we can know and live in the experience of the grace of God and be enabled to pray effectively.

- D. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of God", I Cor. 6:11. (II Cor. 3:3)

And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by **the Spirit of our God**.

Observation: This verse reminds us of the deity of the Holy Spirit. The emphasis here is on His powerful working in the life of the believer. In the plan of God it is the Holy Spirit Who applies the work of the Lord Jesus to the repentant believer. The evidence of this inner transformation is seen in the words, "washed", "sanctified", "justified". Who can measure the value of such blessing?

E. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Promise", Ephesians 1:13.

In Whom (the Lord Jesus) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that **Holy Spirit of Promise**.

Observation: Throughout the Old Testament it was prophesied that the day would come when the Holy Spirit would be given in a new way (Joel 2:28, 29). When the Lord Jesus gave His Farewell Discourse (John 14-16), He explained that the Holy Spirit would soon be given to the believers as the Old Testament promised. This theme in the Bible was made a part of the name of the Holy Spirit. This promise was fulfilled when He was given equally to all believers on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16-18, 33).

F. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Christ", Romans 8:9.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the **Spirit of Christ** dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of His.

Observation: Again we are reminded of the plan of God and the part that each member of the Trinity has chosen to play in its fulfillment. The Holy Spirit is not only given by the Father but also by the Son. His particular task is to apply the work of the Lord Jesus to all those who believe. Because of this He is called "the Spirit of Christ". His very presence in our lives indicates our relationship to the Lord Jesus. His indwelling and ministry to us is the evidence that we are the genuine article.

G. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Life", Romans 8:2.

For the law of the **Spirit of Life** in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Observation: This title of the Holy Spirit instructs us in one of the most important facets of His working. He brings eternal life to the believer through that great work called the "new birth" (John 3:3, 5). Through the Fall of Man and our own sinfulness we are "dead to God" (Eph. 2:1; Rom. 6:23). The Holy Spirit has made us "alive to God".

H. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Adoption", Romans 8:15.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the **Spirit of Adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Observation: The Christian is one who has been adopted by God. This is a direct reversal of our former state of alienation (Eph. 2:12). As an adopted child (John 1:12) the believer has many rights and privileges freely given to him. All of these are given to us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The emphasis in this verse is on the benefits of sonship. We must believe this great truth that we have been adopted with its comfort of acceptance, forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to pray whereby we call God our "Father".

I. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Grace", Hebrews 10:29.

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith He (the Lord Jesus) was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the **Spirit of Grace**?

Observation: This is a serious warning. One facet of the work of the Holy Spirit is that of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through the believer. When a person hears the gospel and rejects it he is insulting the Holy Spirit and treating His ministry with contempt. We must remember that we are not talking of an angel or a divine influence when we speak of the Holy Spirit but we are speaking of God! He is the "Spirit of Grace" in that He makes known the grace of God and brings its beneficial effects into the life of the repentant and believing sinner.

Conclusion: Not one of us understands how great and wonderful our "Helper" is! We must pray together about this and learn to correctly respond to Him.