

The Person and Character of the Blessed Holy Spirit

Introduction

- A. The Holy Spirit is the gift of our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. He is, as all spiritual benefits are, a gift based entirely on God's grace. See Acts 1:4,8; 2:33,38,39
- B. How are we to respond to this wonderful gift and Person? What are some of the essential truths that will teach us how to "be being filled" with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18

I. Essential Truth # 1 - The Holy Spirit is a Person.

- A. The use of personal pronouns designate Him as a Person.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. John 16:13

- B. The characteristics of personality are attributed to the Holy Spirit.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Eph 4:30

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Cor 12:11

Application: We must treat the Holy Spirit as a Person in worship, submission, and obedience.

II. Essential Truth # 2 - The Holy Spirit is God.

- A. The Holy Spirit is called God.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...You have not lied to men but to God." Acts 5:3,4

- B. The Holy Spirit does the work of God.

Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Rom 8:14-16

Application: Consider the seriousness of our (1) neglect of, and (2) disobedience to the Holy Spirit. All such activity grieves Him, pushes His ministry out of our life, and brings us into serious accountability for our actions.

III. Essential Truth # 3 - The Holy Spirit Has God-like Character.

A. He is Infinite (without limitation) and Spirit (fullness of all that is spiritual and valuable).

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? Ps 139:7

Application: His presence in our life opens the door to all the fullness of God's presence, promises, power, gifts, fruit, and His will for us. We rob ourselves of God's very best by our neglect of and disobedience to the Holy Spirit.

B. He is Holy.

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
Luke 11:13

Application: This promise, expressing God's loving provision, His desire, and the riches of His grace should both shame and encourage us. Among the many truths found in this verse is the reminder that the Spirit of God is holy. Many believers long to be filled with the Spirit, earnestly seek His gifts, and live without dominant manifestations of His fruit — because their attitudes, thought-life, priorities, relationships and actions are mixed with sinful choices. While we cannot earn God's gifts and blessing — we cannot receive while at the same time we resist, grieve, quench and live a careless life. He simply wants us to be honest.

C. He is Love.

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Rom 15:30

Application: This divine attribute, is clearly manifested in the work of the Holy Spirit within us and among us in the Church. How patient, long-suffering and kind He is with all of us. And, the first virtue in the listing of His fruit is that of love (Gal 5:22). For many of us our lack of love (self-centeredness) is a major reason why we are not filled with the Spirit, enjoy His fellowship, manifest His fruit, and empowered by His gifts. We are so often filled with ourselves that there is little room for His presence.

D. He is Truth.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. John 14:16,17

Application: The Holy Spirit has come to teach us the Truth and lead us ever deeper into fellowship with the Lord Jesus. He inspired the Bible and will make its content real in our life. The word "Counselor" can be translated "Helper." How encouraging. We grieve and hinder His work when we pretend and act hypocritically.

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