What We Believe

Lesson 4

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

*John 1:1-2, 14* | *Colossians 1:14-20*

Introduction: I think it should be clear by now that our beliefs are determined strictly by what the Bible says. This will be the same approach we take in determining the person and work of the Holy Spirit. He is powerful, and active in our lives, even this morning, but we must always look to what He has revealed in His word about His Holy Spirit so that we do not end up confused as so many groups are today.

**The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, indwelling and sealing believers until the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
2. We believe that He is the divine teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit, and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)
5. The Holy Spirit is a person who acts as a person does.
   1. He is not to be regarded as an invisible force, but is referred to in the Bible with personal pronouns. John 16:7-8

“*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when* ***he*** *is come,* ***he*** *will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

* 1. He has a will in determining what gifts to give believers. I Corinthians 12:11

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

* 1. He intercedes for us in prayer. 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 itself* ***maketh intercession*** *for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

* 1. When you think about Him and speak about Him remember that He is a person.

1. The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the world today.
   1. He was present in creation. Genesis 1:2

“*And the earth was without from, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*

* 1. In the Old Testament we see him indwelling individuals but it was always for a short time.
     1. Samson and other judges were empowered by the Spirit.
     2. The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul in 1 Samuel 16:14
  2. In the New Testament He is working on the world:

***“he*** *will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

* + 1. He convicts lost sinners that their sin is an offence against God.
    2. He convinces the world that God is a righteous God and personal righteousness will never be enough to pay the sin debt.
    3. He speaks of the eternal judgment that we will all face.
    4. We believe that He is doing this in the hearts of men all over the world. Whether they heed His work is up to them.
  1. The Holy Spirit regenerates believers.
     1. This does not mean that He heals your wounds, but that He is the source of eternal life. John 6:63 a

*“It is the spirit that quickeneth…”*

* 1. He indwells every believer. 1 Corinthians 6:19

*“Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you.”*

* 1. He fills the believer. Ephesians 5:18 commands us:

*“be filled with the spirit..”*

* + 1. Indwelling and filling are different.
       1. Indwelling is not conditional, He is always with us.
       2. Filling is something that we must seek while in His service.
  1. He empowers believers to live victoriously. Romans 8:1-2

*“There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

* + - 1. He is the reason that believers are not in bondage to sin.
      2. The Holy Spirit is the key to living victoriously.
  1. He is the guide that leads us to truth.
     1. He gives spiritual discernment. 1 Corinthians 2:14

*“But the natural man receiveth not the things* ***of the Spirit of God****: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are* ***spiritually******discerned****.”*

* + 1. He guides us into all truth. 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.”*

Transition: But what about tongues and miracles, and all the supernatural things I hear other Christian groups attribute to the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit did in fact empower the 1st century church in miraculous ways. We in no way question what is recorded in the Word of God. But we must be sure that we are looking clearly at what God’s Word says about the Holy Spirit.
   1. Speaking in tongues was a gift given to believers for the purpose of sharing the gospel in other known languages. In Acts 2 others understood their speech as a known language, not an unintelligible angelic language.
   2. God endowed supernatural gifts such as these as a divine stamp of approval on the ministries of the apostles during the transitional time of the book of Acts.
   3. Only apostles are recorded working miracles. Acts 5:12

*“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people…”*

* + 1. The apostles were men who physically saw Jesus.
  1. Signs were a temporary means through which God worked, but His completed Word is what should direct believers today.

*“**We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:* *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

* + 1. Just as the Holy Spirit was active in the supernatural gifts, He was involved in giving us His word to serve as our final authority for faith and practice.
  1. The role of the Holy Spirit as we looked at in John 16:13 does not call attention to Himself.
     1. He should not be the focus of our attention. But is the helper which helps us in worship, teaching, and honoring God.

Conclusion: Because of all the conclusion that is in the “Christian” world today about the Holy Spirit we can sometimes shy away from talking about Him. We must remember that God has made available such a wonderful friend in His Holy Spirit who is with us and can help us be what God had created us to be. But His role in our lives has been outlined in His Word, not in the emotion or experience of men.