

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

Scripture: *John 14:15-26*

John 14-16 contain what is called Christ's Upper Room Discourse. In these chapters Christ taught some very important things about the Holy Spirit. His teaching was very clear and very comforting. Sadly a lot of teaching about the Holy Spirit today leaves people confused and unsettled. I want to show you some of the things Christ taught us about the Holy Spirit.

1. The Promise of the Spirit

This is a promise that Christ made to believers. John 14:15 describes a true believer as one who loves Christ and obeys His commands (see verses 21, 23). The promise of the Spirit will be an answer to Christ's prayer and a gift from the Father.

2. The Personality of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a real person, not a thing, a force, or an influence.

- A. He is referred to as a person – “he, him” rather than “it” (vs. 16-17, 26) – The Greek word for spirit (*pneuma*) is neuter in gender, but the masculine pronoun “he, him” is used of the Holy Spirit.
- B. He has personal qualities – He can think, feel, and choose. These qualities describe a person and not a thing.
- C. He does personal actions – He searches, communicates, speaks, testifies, encourages, teaches, leads, convicts, intercedes, and gives life.
- D. He is affected as a person – He can be lied to, resisted, grieved, insulted, and blasphemed.

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, the third person of the Trinity.

3. The Deity of the Spirit

- A. He is another Comforter like Jesus – The word “another” (vs. 16) means “another of the same kind.” The Holy Spirit is divine, just like Christ.
- B. He has other divine names – He is the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18); the eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14); the Spirit of glory and of God (1 Pet. 4:14); the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2); the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4); the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:11); and the Spirit of Christ (1 Pet. 1:11). The Old Testament gives at least 18 names and titles of the Holy Spirit, and the New Testament contains 39 different names and titles, many of them revealing His deity.
- C. He is called God – *Acts 5:3-4 Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

- D. He has the attributes of God – He is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, holy, loving, good, gracious, glorious, and He is the Spirit of truth.
- E. He does divine works – He was involved in creation (Gen. 1:1-2). He inspired the Bible writers (2 Pet. 1:21). He was involved in the conception of Christ (Lk. 1:35) and the resurrection of Christ (Rom. 1:4). He convicts us of sin (John 16:8). He causes the new birth (John 3:5-6). He counsels (John 14:16-17). He teaches us (John 16:12-14). He lives in believers and gives assurance of salvation (Rom. 8:15). He aids in prayer by interceding for believers (Rom. 8:26). He calls to service (Acts 13:4). He determines spiritual gifts in the church (1 Cor. 12:7-11).
- F. He has divine equality with the Father and Son – This is expressed in many ways:

The Great Commission – *Matthew 28:19* *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*

The Trinitarian blessing – *2 Corinthians 13:14* *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.*

In Trinitarian salvation – *1 Peter 1:2* *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

In spiritual gifts – *1 Corinthians 12:4-6* *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

4. The Presence of the Spirit

- A. A permanent presence (vs. 16, *that he may abide with you forever*)
- B. A special presence (vs. 17) – The world cannot receive him...but you know him.
- C. An indwelling presence (vs. 17) – The heart of a believer is not a hotel, but a home.

5. The Identity of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit has many names and titles, but Christ identified the Spirit in two ways here:

- A. The Comforter (vs. 16, 26; 15:26; 16:7) – The Gk. word is “paracletos” (Paraclete) one who comes alongside to encourage or to help. It is translated as “advocate” (1 Jn. 2:1). God is called “the God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3).
- B. The Spirit of truth (vs. 17; 15:26; 16:13) – He is the source of all truth.

6. The Ministry of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit has a wide-ranging ministry. He has a ministry to the world at large and a special ministry to believers. We have time to look at one aspect of His ministry and that is the ministry of teaching believers what we need to know (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15).

- A. He teaches us all things (Jn. 14:26)
- B. He reminds us of what Christ taught (Jn. 14:26)
- C. He testifies about Christ (Jn. 15:26)
- D. He guides us into all truth (Jn. 16:13)
- E. He shows us things to come (Jn. 16:13)

As we see, the focus of the Spirit's teaching is Christ. All the truth we need to know about Him—who He is, what He taught, what He did, and what He will do.

I want to end this message with these words from a wonderful hymn by Eliza Hewitt called, "More About Jesus."

*More about Jesus would I know, more of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see, more of His love who died for me.*

*More about Jesus let me learn, more of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be, showing the things of Christ to me.*

*More about Jesus in His Word, holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in every line, making each faithful saying mine.*

*More about Jesus on His throne, riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom's sure increase; more of His coming, Prince of Peace.*

*More, more about Jesus; more, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see, More of His love who died for me.*