



Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 2 – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

LESSON 60 – THE TRINITY: THE HOLY SPIRIT – DEITY AND TRI-UNITY
BIBLICAL DOCTRINE (JOHN MACARTHUR), PGS. 333-396

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Old Testament Survey

- ▶ The Hebrew word *ruwach* appears 378 times in the Old Testament and it primarily means “spirit, wind, or breath.” Context helps determine the usage and meaning.
- ▶ It refers to the Holy Spirit 79 times it is used, in 29 of the 39 Old Testament books.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is mentioned from the time of creation (Gen. 1:2) all the way to the end of the Old Testament prophecies in Malachi (Mal. 2:15), and appears the most in the Book of Isaiah and Ezekiel (15 times each).

New Testament Survey

- ▶ The Greek word *pneuma* occurs 379 times in the New Testament and refers to the Holy Spirit 245 times in 23 books.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit appears throughout the New Testament beginning in Matthew 1:18 to Revelation 21:10.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is mentioned most frequently in Acts (56 times), Romans (28 times), and 1 Corinthians (22 times).
- ▶ A dominant theme regarding the Spirit is that He is a gift from God to every believer (Rom. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:22; Gal. 3:5; Eph. 1:13-14).

Is the Holy Spirit a Person?

- ▶ Mentioned 320 times in Scripture there can be no doubt about the existence of the Holy Spirit, but is the Holy Spirit a Person, like God the Father and Jesus the Son?
- ▶ Personhood is not measured by physical elements such as body parts, flesh, etc. Rather it is determined by the possession of three characteristics:
- ▶ 1) Cognition/Intelligence
- ▶ 2) Volition/will
- ▶ 3) Emotion/affection
- ▶ The Bible presents ample evidence that the Holy Spirit possesses all three essentials of Personhood, thus He is classified as the Third Person of the Trinity.

Cognition/Intellect

- ▶ He counsels – Isa. 11:2
- ▶ He imparts wisdom – Isa. 11:2
- ▶ He inspired Scripture – Acts 1:16; Heb. 3:7; 10:15; 1 Pet. 1:11; 2 Pet. 1:21]
- ▶ He intercedes – Rom. 8:26
- ▶ He knows – Isa. 11:2
- ▶ He possesses a mind – Rom. 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:10-13
- ▶ He reminds – John 14:26
- ▶ He provides truth – John 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 4:6
- ▶ He speaks – Acts 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 28:25; Rev. 2:7-3:22
- ▶ He teaches – Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:13; Heb. 9:8
- ▶ He testifies – John 15:26; 1 John 5:7-8

Volition/Will

- ▶ He contends with sinners – Gen. 6:3; Acts 7:51
- ▶ He directs – Acts 16:6-7
- ▶ He distributes spiritual gifts – 1 Cor. 12:11; Heb. 2:4
- ▶ He regenerates – John 3:7-8; Titus 3:5

Affection/Emotion

- ▶ He experiences joy – 1 Thess. 1:6
- ▶ He can be insulted – Heb. 10:29
- ▶ He grieves over sin – Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30
- ▶ He loves – Rom. 5:5; 15:30; Gal. 5:22

Names and Titles

- ▶ The Holy Spirit and the Father – His Spirit (Num. 11:29; Rom. 8:11), My Spirit (Gen. 6:3), Your Spirit (Psa. 139:7), Your Holy Spirit (Psa. 51:11), the Promise of the Father (Acts 1:4); the Spirit of God (Gen. 1:2; Matt. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:11), the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11), the Spirit of the Living God (2 Cor. 3:3), the Spirit of Him (Rom. 8:11), the Spirit of Your Father (Matt. 10:20), the Spirit of YHWH (Judges 3:10), the Spirit of the Lord (Luke 4:18), the Spirit of the Lord God (Isa. 61:1), and the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18).
- ▶ The Holy Spirit and the Son – the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7), the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9; 1 Pet. 1:11), the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19), the Spirit of the Lord (Acts 5:9; 8:39), the Spirit of the Son (Gal. 4:6).

Names and Titles

- ▶ Unique to the Spirit – the Spirit (Num. 11:17; Matt. 4:1), the eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14), Your good Spirit (Psa. 143:10), the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18), one Spirit (Eph. 4:4-6), the seven Spirits (Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).
- ▶ Attributes of the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of counsel and might (Isa. 11:2), the Spirit of faith (2 Cor. 4:13), the Spirit of glory (1 Pet. 4:14), the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29; Zech. 12:10), the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4), the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:2), the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2), the promised Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13), the Spirit of truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 4:6; 5:6), the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph. 1:17), the Spirit of wisdom and understanding (Isa. 11:2), and the Helper (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7).

Deity and Tri-Unity

- ▶ The Bible calls the Spirit God. Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”
- ▶ The words of Yahweh in the OT are at times attributed to the Holy Spirit in the NT. See Psalm 95:8-11 and Hebrews 3:7-11; Isaiah 6:8-10 and Acts 28:25-27; and Jeremiah 31:33-34 and Hebrews 10:15-17.
- ▶ Christians are said to serve as the Temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19) because the Holy Spirit is God and dwells in us (Rom. 8:9, 11; 2 Tim. 1:14).
- ▶ God’s work in forming the church, the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:18, 24, 28) is also attributed to the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:11). This is God’s work.

Deity and Tri-Unity

- ▶ Attributes the God possess are also possessed by the Holy Spirit:
- ▶ Eternality (Heb. 9:14)
- ▶ Glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- ▶ Holiness (Psa. 51:11; Isa. 63:10-11; Matt. 1:18; Rom. 1:4)
- ▶ Omnipotence (Gen. 1:1-2; Luke 1:35; Rom. 1:4)
- ▶ Omnipresence (Psa. 139:7-10)
- ▶ Omniscience (Isa. 40:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-11)
- ▶ Truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13)

Deity and Tri-Unity

- ▶ Actions – only God can be engaged in the following divine activities, therefore, the Holy Spirit is God and works in perfect harmony and unity with God the Father and God the Son:
- ▶ Creation (Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; 33:4)
- ▶ Help/Comfort (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
- ▶ Inspiration (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- ▶ Intercession (Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20)
- ▶ Miracles (Matt. 12:28; 1 Cor. 12:9, 11)
- ▶ Regeneration (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5)
- ▶ Resurrection (Rom. 8:11)
- ▶ Sanctification (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2)

Heresies concerning the Holy Spirit

- ▶ The heresies regarding the Spirit typically involve denying His deity or His Personhood:
- ▶ Sabellianism – there is one God in three manifestations or modes. It denies the Personhood of Christ and of the Spirit. Also known as Modalism. This heresy continues in the Oneness Pentecostal and the Unitarian churches.
- ▶ Arianism – taught that one God created Christ in eternity past, who then in turn created the Holy Spirit. Affirming the Personhood of both Christ and the Spirit, this heresy denied their deity. Denied at the Council of Nicea (AD 325) and the Council of Constantinople (AD 381).
- ▶ Socinianism – affirmed the Personhood of Christ but denied His deity and denied the Personhood and deity of the Spirit.

Tri-Unity – Second LBCF, chapter 2

- ▶ In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. All are one in substance, power, and eternity; each having the whole divine essence, yet this essence being undivided. The Father was not derived from any other being; He was neither brought into being by, nor did He issue from any other being.
 - The Son is eternally begotten of the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 - All three are infinite, without beginning, and are therefore only one God, Who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties, and also their personal relations.
 - This doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and our comfortable dependence on Him.

Tri-Unity – Master’s Seminary statement

- ▶ “We teach that there is but one living and true God (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:5-7; 1 Cor. 8:4), an infinite, all-knowing Spirit (John 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in Three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14) – each equally deserving worship and obedience.”
- ▶ One God in Three Persons, distinct from One another yet inseparably One in essence and who are co-existent, co-eternal, and co-equal.

The Trinity and Salvation

- ▶ **The Father** – Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.
- ▶ **The Son** – Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.
- ▶ **The Spirit** – Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.