

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 23: The Holy Spirit is Truth

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the third of ten lessons about the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that there is only one true God and He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons of the Trinity are equally divine, possess divine attributes, and accomplish divine works. In this lesson we will examine the biblical teaching that the Holy Spirit is the truth and teaches the truth to Christians.

MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

Truth is that which is consistent with the mind of God. Scripture calls the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of truth” (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 4:6). He reveals, teaches, reminds, and guards believers in truth. It is because of the Holy Spirit’s work that we have the Word of God to read, study, and live by. The Holy Spirit directed each of the biblical writers who recorded the truth of God in the Bible.

In the beginning, God spoke everything into existence. His Word created life and order, and everything was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). Then the crafty serpent, Satan, asked the Bible’s first question: “Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen. 3:1). Satan questioned God’s Word and character, and he has continued the attack ever since. Pilate questioned Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:37-38). The biblical answer to that question is that truth is God’s expression of Himself. Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Truth is reality. God is the author, source, determiner, standard, and final judge of all truth. God has given believers His Spirit to lead us in knowing and following all truth.

1. The Holy Spirit is the truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13, 15; 1 John 4:6; 5:6).

In contrast to man’s unreliable speculations or opinions, God is both absolutely true and truthful. God’s Holy Spirit is Himself both the source of truth and the communicator of that truth to His people.

- A. He reveals the truth – All Scripture is inspired (literally, “breathed out”) by God (2 Tim. 3:16). The Holy Spirit “carried men along” as they wrote down the words of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21).
- B. He guides into and preserves the truth – The whole Bible is the record of God’s truth. The Holy Spirit protected God’s written revelation from error, even down to the exact words that the human writers used, to provide us God’s true and trustworthy record.

2. The Holy Spirit ministers the truth (John 14:16-17, 26; 1 John 2:20, 27)

- A. He teaches and reminds believers of the truth
- B. He guards believers in the truth – The Spirit continues to teach believers what is true, which enables them to identify and avoid lies. All truth comes from God. Anything that claims to be truth but that denies God makes a false claim.

Truth is not subjective or determined by personal or public opinion. Truth is from God. When Christ asked the disciples about His identity, He taught them about the importance of truth. See Matthew 16:13-17.

MEMORY VERSES

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 show you things to come.*

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:*

John 14:17 *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.*