

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

## Lesson 24: The Holy Spirit is Powerful

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the fourth 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 omnipotent (all-powerful).

### MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

The Holy Spirit, who is the third person of the Trinity, is all-powerful. He has the same omnipotence that the Father and Son possess. Scripture reveals His power through His work of creation, the incarnation of Christ, and in empowering the life of the believer. He made all things and gives purpose to all things. The Holy Spirit prepared a body for the divine Son through a miraculous conception and raised Him from the dead. The same Holy Spirit will also raise Christ's people from the dead. The Holy Spirit also empowers believers to proclaim the gospel to the world and to enable them to serve Him.

#### 1. The Spirit's mighty power in the past (Gen. 1:1-2; Luke 1:35)

##### A. In creation

The Holy Spirit created all things out of nothing (*ex nihilo*) by His power (Gen. 1:1-2). The Spirit is the "breath" or "wind" of God which formed the heavens and the earth (Ps. 33:6). As we behold creation around us and consider how we are fearfully and wonderfully made, we can see God's creative hand (Ps. 139:14). God reveals His existence and power through the world He has created (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-20).

##### B. In the incarnation of Christ

God's eternal plan was to send the Holy Spirit to Mary, a virgin, to conceive Christ miraculously (Lk. 1:35). By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ was born. The power of the Holy Spirit also rested upon Jesus throughout His earthly life and ministry (Mt. 3:13-17; Jn. 1:32-34; Lk. 3:21-22). At His baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, representing Christ's innocence and purity (Mt. 3:16). The Father spoke from heaven to authenticate Christ as His sinless Son would have a Spirit-empowered ministry of fulfilling all righteousness for His people (Mt. 3:15-16). Christ relied on the Spirit's power in His ministry (Lk. 4:14 and in preaching the gospel (Lk. 4:17-22). By the Spirit's power, Christ gave commandments to His apostles (Acts 1:2), cast out demons (Mt. 12:28), and healed the sick (Acts 10:38). The Spirit also demonstrated His power by raising Jesus from the dead (Rom. 8:11). By raising Christ from the dead, the Spirit proved that He is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

## 2. The Spirit's continuing work in believers (Lk. 24:49)

### A. In spiritual warfare

The Holy Spirit equips Christians for battle by clothing them with the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20). He provides them with the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. He equips them with the proper footwear to proclaim the gospel of reconciliation. God's Spirit gives them the shield of faith to block the flaming arrows of doubt and unbelief, and He provides the helmet of salvation to protect their minds and provide them with assurance and discernment. The Holy Spirit also gives His Word as a sword for defense and attack. The Holy Spirit continues to equip God's soldiers to fight for truth and His glory.

### B. In gospel proclamation and service to others

The gospel advances due to the Spirit's power. The gospel does not advance by human power, creativity, or religious zeal. Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem before they began their ministry (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit empowers believers for effective witnessing and the ministry of the church.

## MEMORY VERSES

**Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: <sup>5</sup> That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

**Luke 1:35** *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*