

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – May 31, 2020

We are taking a few weeks to talk about God, and specifically, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, what we call the Trinity. A most encouraging truth is that we can know God, but we can also know and love and have fellowship with each member of the Trinity. Last week we talked about God the Son, that is, the person of Jesus Christ, and today, we are going to talk about God the Holy Spirit.

First of all, who is the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit is God. And so, the Father is God, Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit is God.
2. The Holy Spirit is not just some power, and He is not just some force, and He is not impersonal. He is a personal being, One you can have a relationship with, One you can have fellowship with, One you can talk to and One who can talk to you. 2 Cor. 13:14
3. The Spirit has a mind, He thinks, for Romans 8:27 talks about the mind of the Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit has a will, for He makes decisions, for He is doing things all the time.
5. The Spirit has emotions. Eph. 4:30 says the Spirit grieves - He's saddened when you sin.

Since the Holy Spirit is God, then He has the attributes of God. Here are some:

1. He is omniscient - the Spirit knows all things. 1 Cor. 2:10 says the Spirit searches all things - even the depths of God. And the Spirit knows everything about you.
2. He is omnipotent - the Spirit has all power, spiritual power and physical power. The Spirit was involved in creating the world, and that took a lot of power. Micah 3:8
3. He is omnipresent - the Spirit is everywhere. You can't get away from God, and that's because you can't get away from the Holy Spirit. Psalm 139:7-8 says, *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?"*
4. He is loving. Galatians 5:22 tells us that one of the fruits of the Spirit is love. Romans 5:5 tells us that God's love is poured out in us through the Holy Spirit.
5. He is eternal. In Heb. 9:14, the Spirit is called the Eternal Spirit. Just as God the Father and Jesus Christ are eternal, so too is the Holy Spirit. He's from everlasting to everlasting.
6. The Holy Spirit is holy. You know that He is not called the loving Spirit, the powerful Spirit or the wise Spirit, but the Holy Spirit. And the fact that the Spirit is the Holy Spirit says a lot to us about the character of the Spirit, and also a lot about the purpose of the Spirit, that He is to make us holy.

John 3:5. This says that you were saved by the power of the Spirit working in you. John 16:8 says the Spirit convicts an unbeliever of sin. Titus 3:5 says the washing of regeneration and renewing is by the Spirit. It is the Spirit who applies Christ's death to your life, who spiritually washes away your sin, and makes you a new creature in Christ. 1 Cor. 12:13 says you are baptized by the Spirit, which happened when you were saved, at which time the Holy Spirit took up permanent and eternal residence in your life.

John 14:16-20. The night before Jesus died, He was teaching His disciples, and one of the main subjects was the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew that after He left and went to heaven, after He left the disciples on earth, that the Holy Spirit would be vital to their lives, to their success, to their being able to carry out His mission, His purpose on earth. - Of course, Jesus knew the Spirit, for they had been together since eternity past, and the Spirit was an essential part of Jesus's success during His ministry on earth. Matthew 4:1

John 14:16. Here we see the Trinity in action, for Jesus is going to ask the Father to give the Spirit to the disciples – and God the Father alone has the right to give the Spirit to people. Now what we see here is that the Spirit is a gift, and the fact that the Spirit is a gift means no one can obtain the Spirit by their own power or effort. And the Holy Spirit is the best gift you could ever receive, for He is the One who makes you spiritually alive, spiritually mature and spiritually successful.

Now the Holy Spirit is called the Helper. The Greek word for Helper is "*parakaleo*," which means "*called alongside*." This Greek word is also translated as Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, and Encourager. But I like that it's defined as helper because it's a general and broad definition, and God gave you the Holy Spirit to help you wherever you are at, in whatever situation you are in, and to do whatever God wants you to do.

Now the Holy Spirit knows everything, and therefore knows exactly what you are going through, what your problems are and what your needs are. Sometimes you need comfort; sometimes you need counsel, sometimes you need to be corrected, sometimes you need faith, sometimes you need encouragement, and the Holy Spirit is always there to minister to you, to help you right where you're at. The Holy Spirit is your friend, the best of friends.

Now it says the Holy Spirit is with you forever. The Spirit will never leave you or forsake you, whether you are on earth or in heaven, and so you never have to feel alone or feel afraid. If you have the Spirit; you are always secure; you always have help and strength and companionship. Psalm 139:7-12. 2 Corinthians 13:14 - "*fellowship of the Spirit*."

It says the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of truth. All that the Spirit does is based on truth, and what the Spirit says and teaches is truth. That means He speaks the truth to you, and He helps you understand the meaning of God's word. John 16:12-13

- John 17:17. Now one of the Holy Spirit's main purposes is to make you holy. And the way you are made holy is by the truth of God. And so the Spirit is continually trying to transform your life by the truth of God's Word, for then you will be holy, then you will be sanctified, and be able to do the work of God. Psalm 51:6, 2 Timothy 2:20-21

John 14:17. It says the world, that is, the unbelievers, cannot accept or receive the Spirit. They are not saved, and do not have the Spirit, and therefore do not have a relationship with the Spirit. And people in the world aren't interested in learning truth from the Spirit and, in fact, they have rejected the truth, and are led by error. They are interested in themselves, in money, pleasure and in fun things to do – they're not interested in God and the wonderful, satisfying and meaningful life that the Spirit can give them.

But the disciples, and all Christians, do receive the Spirit. And as Jesus says here, they know the Spirit. If you are a Christian, then you know the Spirit and have a relationship with the Spirit. And by the Spirit, and only by means of the Spirit, the disciples and all believers spiritually know Christ, and have this relationship with Him. Ephesians 3:14
- And it says the Holy Spirit abides or remains with the disciples, which means the Spirit never leaves us, the Spirit is always and forever with us.

Then Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will be in them, and it was on the Day of Pentecost that the Spirit first began to dwell, to reside in the lives of Christians, to live in and through them, to empower and encourage them like never before. Gal. 2:20
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. This too tells us that Holy Spirit actually dwells in the life of a Christian. This is one of the amazing and encouraging truths, that the Holy Spirit lives in us, actually and literally and spiritually lives in us. This isn't a physical thing – that the Spirit lives in us – it's a spiritual, supernatural, and life-changing experience.

John 15:18-19. This says that Jesus is with us through the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19-20 says Jesus is with us to the end of this age. Now at this time, Jesus is physically in heaven, but He is spiritually with us through the Holy Spirit.
- John 14:20, John 17:21, 23. It's through the Spirit that Christ lives in you. The truth is that you're a Christian and can live like Christ only because of the Spirit. John 14:19.
- I love this phrase, "*you will live.*" You can only really live for Christ and do the work of Christ by the Holy Spirit living in you. It's the life, the power, the spiritual energy of the Spirit who changes you, and enables you to live the Christian life. John 7:37-39

Romans 8:9-17. This tells us many things. First, it tells us that the Spirit of God dwells in you, and that the Spirit only dwells in believers, in Christians.
- Second, we see that the Spirit is the One who actually makes you righteous, makes you holy, and so God now sees you as holy and blameless in His sight.
- Third, the Spirit gives you life and this is spiritual life. Now what does this life look like? Galatians 5:22 – there's the fruit of the Spirit, that is, the work of the Spirit in your life resulting in you displaying and exhibiting all these Christlike character qualities. But it's also actions, conduct, a lifestyle that is influenced, shaped and powered by the Spirit.

Fourth, you are under obligation as a Christian to live according to the Spirit - this is what you are supposed to do. God is your Father, and Jesus is your Lord, and you are to now do what they want you do which means you are to live by the Spirit.

- Fifth, it is by the Spirit that you can put sin to death, that is, the put to death the deeds of the flesh. It is by the Spirit that you can say no to sin and yes to God and really live, that is, live a holy, godly, Christlike, fruitful, and successful Christian life.

- Sixth, the Holy Spirit wants to lead your life, direct your life, show you what you are to do in the Christian life. Psalm 143:8, 10

- Seventh, the Holy Spirit helps you have a close and intimate relationship with God. This word "*Abba*" is a personal word, like how a child would say "Daddy" or "Papa." And it's the Spirit who enables you to call God your Father, your Daddy, your Papa.

- Eighth, it's the Holy Spirit that testifies with your spirit, that you are a child of God, that gives you assurance of salvation, a confidence that you are a Christian.

Ephesians 5:18. This is one of the most important commands there is, that you be filled, that you be controlled, that you be empowered by the Holy Spirit. And if you are not controlled by the Spirit, then you are controlled by sin, by your flesh.

- And you need to ask God, to ask the Spirit to do this. And being filled with the Holy Spirit isn't a one-time thing, a once and for all thing, but a daily and regular thing.

- Galatians 5:16. You are to walk by the Spirit all day long, and you are to ask the Spirit to fill you up so you can have the help and strength and power you need. You know gas is needed to make a car go, and it's being filled with the Spirit that makes you go, that enables you to say no to sin, to have Christ-like character, and do the work of God.

1 Corinthians 12:4, 7. We see that the Holy Spirit gives Christians a spiritual gift. And the spiritual gift that the Holy Spirit gives you enables you to serve God and serve the church in a very specific way. The gift you have is a unique gift, and it is for the common good, for the benefit of other Christians.

- And some of the most effective work you will ever do for the church relates to you using the spiritual gift that the Holy Spirit has given you. And so use the gift that the Spirit has given you, for the good of the church and the glory of God. 1 Peter 4:10

Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:18, 2:32-33, 4:31, 6:5, 8:29, 10:19, 11:12, 11:15, 11:22-24, 13:2-4.

We see that the Holy Spirit was very active in the early church. We know that Jesus Christ builds the church, but He is directing the Holy Spirit to carry out the work of building the church. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the start of the church, and the growth and success of the church, success that we have seen throughout the centuries. And so we see and know that the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for our church. Acts 9:31