Session 8

Who is the Holy Spirit

For a long time in the church the person and work of the Holy Spirit has been:

- Ignored
 - Sometimes a greater concentration on the Father and the Son, but the Holy Spirit is biblical and third person of the Trinity.
- Misunderstood
 - "Holy Ghost" sounds like an impersonal force. But the Holy Spirit is a person, not an "it."
- Resisted
 - Fear of what He does, but the Holy Spirit is gentle.

1. HE WAS INVOLVED IN CREATION

Bringing order out of chaos (Genesis 1:1–2)

• Bezalel—for artistic work (Exodus 31:1–5)

The Creator Spirit—giving life to mankind (Genesis 2:7)

2. HE CAME UPON PARTICULAR PEOPLE AT PARTICULAR TIMES FOR PARTICULAR TASKS

 Gideon—for leadership (Judges 6:14–15, 34) Samson—for strength and power (Judges 15:14) Isaiah—for prophecy (Isaiah 61:1–3)

3. HE WAS PROMISED BY THE FATHER

- The promise of a "new thing"
 - "I will put my Spirit in you." (Ezekiel 36:26–27)
 - "I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26–27)
 - "I will pour out my Spirit on all people." (Joel 2:28-29)

However, the prophecies remained unfulfilled for at least 300 years.

With the coming of Jesus there is a great activity of the Spirit—not just for particular people at particular times but for everyone.

- Everyone surrounding the birth of Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit:
 - Mary (Luke 1:35)
 - Elizabeth (Luke 1:41)
 - John the Baptist (Luke 3:16)

4. JOHN THE BAPTIST LINKS HIM WITH JESUS

"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'" (Luke 3:16)

- Jesus was filled with the Spirit
 - Jesus received power through the anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism. (Luke 3:22; Luke 4:1,14,18)

5. JESUS PREDICTS HIS PRESENCE (John 7:37–39)

However, He tells them to wait for the gift promised by the Father (Acts 1:4–5,8; Luke 24:49).

- At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit and received:
 - New languages (Acts 2:4-12)
 - New boldness (Acts 2:14)
 - New power (Acts 2:37-41)

We live in the age of the Spirit. God has promised to give His Spirit to every Christian (Acts 2:37–39).

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flowing from within."

(JOHN 7:37-38)

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RECOMMENDED READING

Raniero Cantalamessa	

Session 9

What does the Holy Spirit do

- New birth (John 3:3–8)
- Born into a family

1. SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD

- Adoption (Romans 8:14–17)
 - Highest privilege (v.14)
 - Closest intimacy (v.15)
 - Deepest experience (v.16)

2. DEVELOPING THE RELATIONSHIP

"For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit." (Ephesians 2:18)

- He helps us to pray. (Romans 8:26)
- He enables us to understand God's Word. (Ephesians 1:17–18)

3. THE FAMILY LIKENESS

- He makes us more like Jesus. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

4. UNITY IN THE FAMILY

• (Ephesians 4:3-6)

5. GIFTS FOR ALL THE CHILDREN

• The Holy Spirit gives everybody gifts for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4–11)

6. A GROWING FAMILY

- The Spirit of God gives us power.
 - To be witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8)
 - For service (Acts 1:8)

'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17)

RECOMMENDED READING

Lifechange

Ed. Mark Elsdon-Dew

The God Who Changes Lives 1, 2, 3 & 4

Ed. M. Elsdon-Dew

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