

**FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH**  
**LESSON 7**  
**THE PERSON AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**Supplemental Class Notes**

**Lesson Objectives**

1. To explain that the Holy Spirit is a person.
2. To understand the deity of the Holy Spirit.
3. To explain the Trinity.
4. Give overview of the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON** (section I)

**a. The Holy Spirit is an independent person, separate from the Father and the Son.**

John 14:26 - *three separate persons* mentioned - the Holy Spirit, the Father, and Christ.

John 14:16 - note that the Holy Spirit is referred to as another helper, *separate from Christ and the Father*, also mentioned in the verse.

*What is the significance that the Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" or "Him" and not as "It"?*

**b. The Holy Spirit possesses attributes of a person.**

Holy Spirit possesses a *mind* with the ability to think, *emotion* and can be grieved, and a *will* demonstrated in His decision making.

**c. The Holy Spirit can be responded to.**

As a person the Holy Spirit can be:

- Obeyed- Acts 10:19-21
- Resisted- Acts 7:51
- Lied to-Acts 5:3
- Insulted-Hebrews 10:29
- Grieved- Ephesians 4:30
- Blasphemed- Mark 3:28-29

**d. The Holy Spirit demonstrates the actions of a person.**

- Speaks- Acts 8:2
- Teaches- John 14:26
- Distributes spiritual gifts- 1 Corinthians 12:11
- Convicts the world of sin- John 16:8
- Searches- 1 Corinthians 2:10
- Testifies- John 15:26
- Guides and directs- Acts 16:6-7

**3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD**

**a. Attributes of deity (section II, A)**

**b. Statements of deity (section II, B)**

**c. Divine titles (supplement to the lesson)**

It is also helpful to note that the Holy Spirit is referenced with titles reserved for God.

- Spirit of truth - 1 John 5:6

- Spirit of life - Romans 8:2

**Note:** Jesus is called the truth and the life (John 14:6).

- Living water - John 7:38-39

**Note:** Jesus is called the living bread (John 6:51); the Father is called the living Father (John 6:57).

- Spirit of glory - 1 Peter 4:14

**Note:** Jesus is called the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8); the Father is called the Father of glory (Ephesians 1:17).

- Holy Spirit - Matthew 1:18 (and hundreds of other times)

**Note:** Holiness is the most repeated attribute of God.

#### 4. THE TRINITY

Even though the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, pulling together what we have learned about God, the doctrine of the Trinity is clearly taught in the Bible: *There is one living and true God eternally existing in three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal, co-eternal, and consubstantial (of the same essence), and therefore, each deserves the same worship and obedience.*

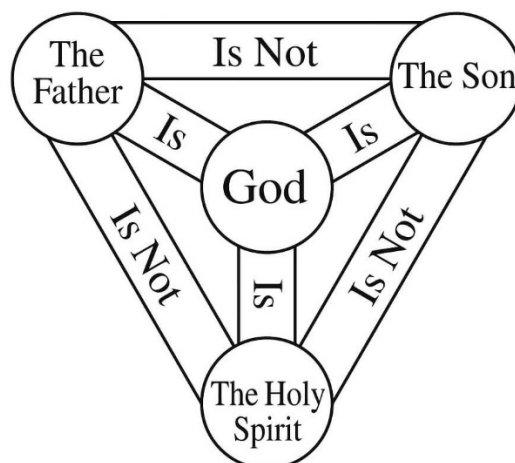
##### a. Review of key passages

- There is only one God - Isaiah 43:10; 45:22
- Yet God refers to Himself in the plural as *us* and *our* - Genesis 1:26a; 3:22
- The Father is God - John 6:27
- Christ is God - Titus 2:13; John 1:1, 14; 8:58
- The Holy Spirit is God - Acts 5:3-4
- The three are distinct from each other.
- At the baptism of Christ - Mark 1:10-11
- Trinitarian statements - 2 Corinthians 3:14; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Matthew 28:19

##### b. Different functions within the Trinity

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are equal in essence yet different in function:

God the Father	From whom all revelation proceeds; the one who foreknew our salvation and demonstrated His love for us by giving His only Son.
God the Son	The incarnated God who gave Himself as a sacrifice for sin and now intercedes and mediates between the Father and man.
God the Spirit	Indwells the believer and works to sanctify the believer through the illumination of the Word of God.



## 5. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (section III)

Holy Spirit's role in creation:

- The Spirit was active in creation - Psalm 104:29-30; Genesis 1:1-2
- The Spirit was active in the virgin birth - Luke 1:35

## 6. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SALVATION (section IV)

### a. The involvement of the Holy Spirit in salvation

- Conviction of sin - John 16:7-8 (section IV, A)
- Acknowledgment of Christ as Lord - 1 Corinthians 12:3
- Regeneration - Titus 3:5-6 (section IV, C, 1)
- Indwells the believer - Romans 8:9 (section V, A); also 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit - 1 Corinthians 12:13 (section IV, C, 2)
- Sealing of the Holy Spirit- Ephesians 1:13-14 (section IV, D); also 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
- Sanctification - 1 Peter 1:2

### b. The baptism of the Holy Spirit

There is much confusion over the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Many times the two are confused as being the same. They are not. Therefore, you need to distinguish between the two.

**Note:** The filling of the Holy Spirit is covered in the next section of this lesson.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- Happens once at the time of conversion - Ephesians 4:4-6
- Places the believer into the body of Christ - 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Involves the receiving of the Holy Spirit as a seal and a promise - Ephesians 1:13-14

To **baptize** literally means to "dip" or "to be immersed into."

In this case it means to be immersed into Jesus Christ, which literally means to be united with Jesus Christ. As a result, Christians fall under the leadership of Jesus Christ and are put into the place of privilege and blessing from God.

- There is never a command to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- There is never a command to be sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- There is never a command to be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism in the Spirit is something God does, not man! However, we are commanded by God to be filled with the Spirit - Ephesians 5:18. (This will be discussed in the next section.)

### **c. The sealing of the Holy Spirit**

The sealing of the Holy Spirit is the same as the giving of the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life is evidence that he belongs to God.

## **7. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE (section V)**

### **a. The Filling of the Spirit (sections V, D through V, F)**

We have already seen what the filling of the Spirit is not:

- It is not - being baptized by the Holy Spirit.
- It is not - being indwelt by or receiving the Holy Spirit.
- It is not - being sealed or secured by the Holy Spirit.

Being filled by the Holy Spirit is also not some emotional experience; rather, *it is a giving over to the Spirit's control.*

Ephesians 5:17-19 (section V, D) and note the following:

- We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit.
- The command is in the present tense-being kept filled; moment by moment.
- The dominant meaning of "*being filled*" is to "*be controlled by*" or to "*be carried along by*" the Spirit - like a stick is carried along by a stream of water.
- It is compared to being drunk - or under the influence of.

## **b. How is one filled with the Spirit?**

Being filled with the Spirit involves the confession of sin and the saturation of oneself with the Word of God. This is in harmony with the fact that walking in the Spirit and being in sin are in opposition to each other (Galatians 5:16-17) and with the fact that God has given us His revealed will in the Scriptures.

Compare Ephesians 5:18-22 and Colossians 3:16-18, noting that they are parallel passages.

The only difference is that Ephesians begins with the command, *“be filled with the Spirit,”* and Colossians begins with the command, *“let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you.”*

However, the results are the same. Therefore, being filled with the Word of God yields the same results as being filled with the Spirit.

*To be filled with the Spirit is to live in the consciousness of the personal presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, as if we were standing next to Him, and to let His mind dominate our life. It is to fill ourselves with God's Word, so that His thoughts will be our thoughts, His standards our standards, His work our work, and His will our will.*

*Christ consciousness leads to Christ likeness. - John MacArthur*