

The Holy Spirit #1

INTRO: It's good to be back home, but will be nicer when our air conditioner gets fixed. Our time in Turkey was wonderful and we were busy ministering to the workers in a very productive time! Then we got to visit some historic sites where the Apostle Paul landed on his first missionary trip and saw Hadrian's Gate in Pergamum. It was truly amazing to see how God created the church and kept it safe from Roman and Ottoman persecution in the caves and cavern churches hewn out by hand into the volcanic cliffs.

Seems the Lord has led me to start a teaching on the Holy Spirit. So today we begin to look at this important topic and we will see how the Lord teaches us about this important member of the Trinity.

I) Acts 2:1-12 NKJV *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"*

- A) Our purpose is to answer the question asked at the end of verse 12..."Whatever could this mean?"
- B) What do we mean when we talk about the Holy Ghost, Pentecost, Charismatic, Glossalalia, etc.
- 1) We'll attempt to define some of these terms and explore what they mean
 - 2) Words can change meaning over time and in different contexts so it helps to clarify what they mean in Scripture
 - 3) Man has tried to merge the natural and the spiritual so he could understand, but sometimes in the process some of the meaning can be lost or obscured.
 - 4) It is important to define our words and terms
- C) What does "Holy" mean?
- 1) Refers to persons or things which are pure and devoted to ritual and God's sacred uses
 - (a) Removed from the realm of normal and common into the supernatural and sacred
 - (b) Times and places can also be holy when consecrated to God
 - 2) When the word applies to God it signifies His separation over all His creation and includes His transcendence over all things
 - (a) It connotes majesty, supremacy
 - (b) It depicts the eternal, ethical and spotless character of God
 - 3) In the OT the emphasis of the word Holy is on the difference between the sacred and secular. Holy things were never to be used in common or profane uses instead they belong to God alone and forever.
 - (a) Holiness can apply to ritual and religion.
 - (i) Adherence to standards and restriction of use
 - (ii) Hence things were called clean or unclean
 - (b) Morals are a part of a holy lifestyle
 - (c) Keeping oneself from sin maintained the sacred use
 - (d) Breaking God's commandments defiled a holy person or object
 - (e) Links directly to God and reflects upon Him directly

- (f) Brings honor or dishonor on God
- 4) In the NT there are three Greek words to mean holy
 - (a) Hieros is similar to the OT concept of holy and the ritual aspect
 - (b) Hagios expresses the nature of the relationship of man with God and His profound holiness. It speaks of the obligation of man to The Creator and the moral nature of that
 - (c) Hosios is used to express the piety and devoutness in respect to the Godhead
 - (d) In general in the NT, the emphasis is more on the practical and applied side of holiness vs. the OT sacred emphasis
- D) Lev 11:44 NKJV** *For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.*
- I Peter 1:15 NKJV** *"...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*
- 1) When we speak of holy in terms of instruments and articles it is not that the items themselves are holy—but that they are set aside for sacred service and dedicated only to that purpose.
- 2) We are dedicated and set aside to the Lord as well. We are not holy in ourselves, it is the dedication and specific purpose that is holy!
- 3) In OT Hebrew qadosh is the main word for holy and designates heavenly beings (angels or deity) saints are mortals of high spiritual worth
- 4) When we speak of Christ-likeness we are referring to holiness. To be holy is to be Christ like!
- E)** It is the work of the Holy Spirit to minister Christ to the Church (us)...Exercise of Love is means that God uses to develop Christlikeness in us.
 - 1) In the strictest sense of holiness—God is the only absolutely holy one
 - 2) The essential nature of the Godhead is holy
 - 3) The Holy Spirit is GOD...
 - 4) To use the term holy to refer to mortal man or things is not to refer to the qualities they have made, but reflects the qualities of God shown through them. God's holiness in man shows or reflects in them
 - 5) Our holiness then becomes a "sun and moon" relationship.
 - (a) Moon has no light of its own
 - (b) Sun's light is reflected or shown in the moon
 - (c) Our holiness is a reflection of God's holiness in us... we are a reflection of God's holiness
- F)** Why do we use the term Holy Spirit? Why not say Holy Father and Holy Son too?
 - 1) We are speaking of the Spirit of the Holy One—God
 - 2) He is a person of the Godhead and an integral part of our God despite the fact that He does not have a form that human eyes can see
 - 3) Hebrew word Ruah is translated spirit and is an invisible force, wind or breath, immaterial and powerful
 - 4) Greek word is Pneuma which has the same time meaning

Next week, we will continue to look to God's Word to discover the person of the Holy Spirit. The more we learn about Him the closer we can come to building true relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and will show us things we need in life. He has come to reveal to us the fullness of our God and the important work of Jesus in our lives. The more we can relate to the Holy Spirit, the stronger our walk with our Lord. He has been given to us as a gift and seal of the promise of eternal life.