

## The Holy Spirit #8

**INTRO:** We're close to wrapping up our look at the Third Person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit. Some of you may not have been with us from the start and might have missed some of the points we have covered, so I thought I might quickly review a few of the things we have covered about this quiet person of the Trinity. In lesson 1, we set our foundational scripture Acts 2:1-12 which asks the question that we are using to guide our study, "What could this mean?" As we look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit, ask yourself that question and make it personal..."What does this mean for me?" We also began to define the terms Holy and Spirit in line with the Bible meaning so that we can have the sense of what the Bible is saying to us. In the second lesson, we expanded on those terms and how Scripture shows us how the Holy Spirit is Holy and imparts His holiness into our lives and ministry. Lesson 3 we looked at the terms Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost and began to discuss the personhood of the Holy Spirit and a bit of a look at the Present Day Ministry of the Holy Spirit and His role in the Trinity. We continued to explore the ministry of the Holy Spirit in lesson 4 and how to cooperate with this gift of God Himself residing within us, helping us with direction, in our times of weakness and with recognizing the truth. Lesson 5 expanded on those roles and ministry of the Holy Spirit to help, guide, and show us what the Father's will is in the situations of life that we face. Lesson 6 was about the purpose of this gift of God, so that we are prepared to do the ministry of evangelism and showing the truth of the Gospel to others. This is a primary role of the Holy Spirit and when we understand that it empowers us to yield to His leading. We began to look at the Holy Spirit's role of conviction of our personal and corporate sin. Lesson 7 took us further into the remaining parts of His ministry of conviction, to convict us of Righteousness and Judgment.

So what does this mean for us as we approach Christmas? All week, I've heard in my spirit to look at the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Jesus...What part does the Holy Spirit play in Christmas? After a bit of study, I am willing to say...

### I) We would not have Christmas without the ministry of the Holy Spirit!

- A) The Holy Spirit is the Executor of the Father's Will
  - 1) God desired to set His plan for the salvation of mankind in motion and the Holy Spirit went to work on the task.
  - 2) Just as He did for creation, the Holy Spirit was hovering over earth and waiting for the Father's orders!
- B) Luke 1 and 2 gives us the most detailed account of the birth of Jesus and we can certainly see the Holy Spirit at work

### II) J. Lee Grady of Charisma Magazine gives us a look at 5 persons that were touched and impacted by the Holy Spirit in the process of the incarnation, the process of God's Son, Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, becoming a human in order to bring salvation to mankind.<sup>1</sup>

- A) Zacharias, the priest and father of John the Baptist
  - 1) Visited by an angel while on duty in the Temple
  - 2) Told he and his wife would have a son and to name him John
  - 3) John would be filled with the Holy Spirit. **Luke 1.15-17 NKJV** *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*
    - (a) Filled with the Spirit
    - (b) Turn hearts to the Lord
    - (c) Conviction of sin, need of righteousness and judgment
  - 4) **Luke 1:67 NKJV** *Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying...*
    - (a) Following getting his voice back after writing and confirming John was the name of his new son
      - (i) He began to prophesy about John's ministry and the coming of the savior! This is a gift of the Spirit
  - 5) Grady says, "Zacharias reminds me that the Holy Spirit refines and corrects us, and ultimately uses us in spite of our failures and weaknesses. We must never grow weary of God's discipline—because in the end, we will emerge with a message from Him."

- B) Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist and cousin of Mary, Jesus' mother
- 1) We often overlook her when we talk about the Christmas story
  - 2) She was aware of the Holy Spirit's power and even prophesied and was filled with the Spirit.
  - 3) **Luke 1:41 NKJV** *And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*
  - 4) Grady says, "Elizabeth reminds me that the Spirit is an Encourager and a Comforter, and that I cannot make this spiritual journey without His help. I must also recognize that God sometimes brings people into my life to provide words to sustain me."
- C) The Baby John the Baptist
- 1) He was as the angel said in Luke 1:15, filled with the Spirit from conception...in his mother's womb.
  - 2) This was a miracle of the Holy Spirit and was a sign of what was to come. The Holy Spirit was preparing John for doing the ministry of sharing the need for salvation from sin and its penalty.
  - 3) Grady says, "John reminds me that if I am to attempt any task for God, I must do it in the power of the Spirit. I cannot just come up with a good idea and ask God to bless it. It must be God's idea, and it must be soaked in the Holy Spirit's anointing from the moment of conception!"
- D) Mary, Jesus' mother
- 1) Was told by the angel that she would conceive and give birth to a son although she was a virgin and when she asked how, the angel said, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*" **Luke 1:35**
  - 2) When baby John in Elizabeth's womb jumped at the entrance of Mary to her cousin's home. John was filled with the Holy Spirit and sensed the presence of his Lord, Jesus. Mary began to praise the Lord in response speaking of His mercy, power and faithfulness.
  - 3) Grady says, "Mary reminds me that one of the key manifestations of the Spirit in our lives is praise and worship. Being filled with the Spirit automatically unleashes uninhibited praise. If my praise is subdued, casual or restrained, then I need a fresh infilling."
- E) Simeon, His prayer to see the Savior before he died was answered
- 1) **Luke 2:25-32 NKJV** *And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."*
  - 2) The Holy Spirit was upon him and revealed his role in the story of Christ. He prophesied to all of us that the Savior had come and would be a light bringing revelation to the Gentiles!
  - 3) Grady says: Simeon reminds me that the Spirit will give me the power to hold onto God's promises, no matter how

**Closing:** Without the help and ministry of the Holy Spirit we would be blinded to the truth of the Gospel and unable to fulfill God's plan for man. The Holy Spirit was very active in the birth of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas. His role is the same today...revealing truth and God to mankind, helping us, empowering and anointing us for service to our Lord. As we celebrate Christmas let us not forget to thank God for this powerful and supernatural gift of the person of the Holy Spirit!

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<sup>1</sup> Grady, J. Lee. [Charismamag.com/blogs/fire-in-my-bones/12265-don't-leave-the-holy-spirit-out-of-christmas](http://Charismamag.com/blogs/fire-in-my-bones/12265-don't-leave-the-holy-spirit-out-of-christmas). 2010.