

# THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

## A primer on the Holy Spirit

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Bethel Baptist Church

In the Book of Acts, there is an interesting exchange between the apostle Paul and some disciples of John the Baptist (Acts 19.1-7). Paul encountered some disciples of John the Baptist. Paul asked them what to him seemed a very serious question, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” Something must have taken place to make Paul question whether they had been filled with the Spirit of God. Notice what their answer was:

**ACTS 19.2b**, *“No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”*

Unfortunately this is where some Christians are today, they either have never been correctly taught about the Holy Spirit, they have a complete misunderstanding about the Holy Spirit, or they just don’t care. And maybe the reason they don’t care is because they have never been taught how important it is to understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

This primer has been developed through an in-depth six-session discipleship class on the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. This primer is simply a snapshot of the first five sessions. Session six is designed to simply provide feedback on the practical reality of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life based on the previous five sessions. Included at the end of this primer is a bibliography of the sources used in the development of this study. Hopefully this primer on the Holy Spirit will give you a better understanding of both the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and ignite your interest for further study on the Holy Spirit.

## **I. The PERSON of the Holy Spirit** (2 Pet. 1.3)

The Holy Spirit is a **PERSON**. He is the third person of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit is always referred to as, “He, Him, or His.”

Because He is a person, the Holy Spirit speaks.

The Holy Spirit has a **PERSONALITY**. He convicts, gives approval, forbids, leads, intercedes, testifies, etc. He can also be insulted, resisted, put to the test, received, rejected, and spoken against.

*(Scripture references: 2 Sam. 23.2-3; Eze. 11.5; Micah 2.7; Matt. 3.16; 10.20; 12.31-32; 20:28; Mk. 1.10; 13.11; Luke 3.22; John 1.32-33; 14.16-17; 15.26; 16.7-11, 13-14; 20.22; Acts 5.3, 9, 32; 7.51; 8.14, 29; 10.19; 11.12; 13.2, 4; 15.28; 16.6-7; 21.11; 28.25; Rom. 8.16, 27; 1 Cor. 2.10, 13; Eph. 4.30; Col. 1.16; 1 Thes. 5.19; 1 Tim. 4.1; Heb. 3.7; 10.15, 29; 2 Pet. 1.3; 1 John 5.6; Rev. 2.11, 17, 29; 3.6, 13, 22; 14.13; 22.17)*

## **II. The POWER of the Holy Spirit** (Eph. 1.18-19)

The Holy Spirit is not power for us to use, but rather, the power of God that is present within us for God to work through us.

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that causes change, radical change.

The power of the Holy Spirit **SANCTIFIES** us, makes us holy.

The power of the Holy Spirit **ENABLES** us to serve God.

The power of the Holy Spirit **PRODUCES** spiritual fruit and spiritual work.

*(Scripture references: Gen. 1.1; 1 Sam. 10.10; Ps. 51.11; Eze. 2.2; John 15.8; Acts 2.4; 4.33; Rom. 12.6-8; 1 Cor. 12.7-10, 28; Gal. 5.16-18, 22-23; Eph. 1.18-19; 4.11-12; 1 Pet. 2.9; Jude 14.6)*

## **III. The PATH of the Holy Spirit, pt. 1**

Sessions 3 & 4 were taken from Romans 8. Romans 8 has more references to the Holy Spirit than any other chapter of any other book in the Bible.

The path of the Holy Spirit is a **MINDFUL** path. If we want to please God in our lives we have to allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit.

The path of the Holy Spirit is a **MEASURABLE** path. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer that confirms their salvation.

The path of the Holy Spirit is a **MEANINGFUL** path. The moment God saves us, He adopts us into His family of faith, the church.

*(Scripture references: Rom. 8.1-17, 23, 26-27; 1 John 4.13)*

#### **IV. The PATH of the Holy Spirit, pt. 2**

The path of the Holy Spirit is a **HOPEFUL** path. The hope the Christian has, has nothing to do with this earth. This hope is about one day being in the presence of God in heaven.

The path of the Holy Spirit is a **HELPFUL** path. The Spirit of God helps in our weaknesses in prayer.

The path of the Holy Spirit is a **HALLELUJAH** path. The believer cannot be separated from the love of God because we have God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, within us at all times.

*(Scripture references: Ps. 44.22; 103.12; Zech. 3.1-2; Rom. 8 18-39)*

#### **V. The PRESENCE of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5.18)**

Paul's command to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a challenge to allow the Holy Spirit to empower you daily to face the challenges of the day with the wisdom and understanding the Holy Spirit provides.

The Holy Spirit is our **GUARANTEE** of eternal life.

The Holy Spirit is our **GUARD** against foolish living. Paul's admonition, "do not get drunk with wine" should be read as, "be filled with the Spirit of God, not alcoholic spirits."

The Holy Spirit is our **GUIDE** in daily living. This command is to yield to the illuminating, convicting, and empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

*(Scripture references: Ps. 32.8-9; 40.8; 143.10; Prov. 23.29-35; Rom. 6.4; 8.4, 9; 2 Cor. 5.7; Gal. 5.16, 25; Eph. 1.13-14; 2.10, 18; 3.16; 4.1, 3, 30; 5.2, 8, 15, 18; 1 John 3.24)*

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