



“I baptize you with [εἰς]¹ water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with [εἰς] the Holy Spirit and fire.” -Matthew 3:11

WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NATURE OF HOLY SPIRIT

1. When we myopically focus upon one of the Lord God’s attributes more than another, we create a false theology.
 - ✓ For example, when Jehovah’s sovereignty is the exclusive focus, a faulty view of Deity emerges—a capricious god whose commands are only correct because Deity says so. That is, Deity is sovereign; therefore, His commands are righteous.
 - ✓ Another example—when the Lord God’s sense of justice is the exclusive focus of our theology, we create a theology of retribution, revenge, and punishment.
2. Similarly, when we myopically focus upon one of the Persons in Trinity, we create a misleading theology.
 - ✓ Consider Who is emphasized in Roman Catholic doctrine and orthopraxy?
 - ✓ Consider Who is emphasized in Church of Christ doctrine and orthopraxy?
 - ✓ Consider Who is emphasized in Evangelical doctrine and orthopraxy?
 - ✓ Consider Who is emphasized in Southern Baptist doctrine and orthopraxy?
 - ✓ Consider Who is emphasized in Charismatic doctrine and orthopraxy?
3. Some Vital Questions Regarding Holy Spirit...
 - ✓ What is His role in glorifying Himself, Father God and the Christ?
 - ✓ What situations call for Holy Spirit to manifest Himself?
 - ✓ What can we learn about Him from His gifts to His followers?
 - ✓ What can we learn about Him from His relationship to Father God? The Christ?
 - ✓ Have overt manifestations of Holy Spirit (e.g., healing) ceased? If so, why? If not, why not?

¹The Greek here is neither equivalent to the “in” or “with” in English. The use of “εἰς” signifies a complete immersion into the object in question. So when Paul says, those who are “εἰς” Christ, he is talking about the totality of involvement, not “in” or “with” but “overwhelmingly enveloped” by Christ. Hence, Paul could say assuredly in Galatians 3:28-29:

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one εἰς Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

This is the gospel in a nutshell—when we are εἰς Christ, we are heirs to the promise of Abraham!



TONIGHT'S QUESTION — WHAT SITUATIONS CALL FOR HOLY SPIRIT TO MANIFEST HIMSELF?

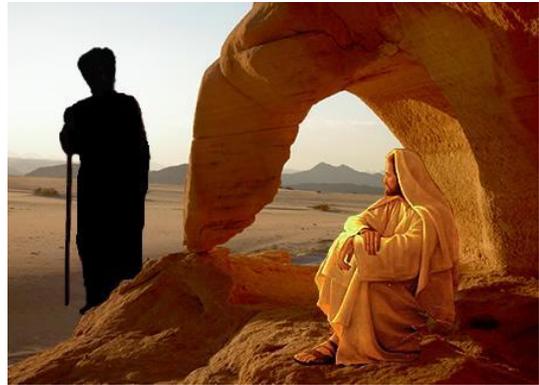
SOME ESSENTIALS TO LEARN AND CONSIDER ABOUT HOLY SPIRIT

1. Holy Spirit LEADS.

*Then Jesus was **led by the Spirit** into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him... —Matthew 4:1-3a*

What can we learn from this...

- ✓ Holy Spirit led God Himself² to be tested and tempted by Satan. Why should we expect Him to lead us only into comfortable places of spiritual and physical security?
- ✓ Identifying *why* Holy Spirit would do this is a key to understanding His mission among us, as the body of Christ and as individuals within that body.



2. Holy Spirit is the MEANS.

And this was his message: “After me [John the Baptizer] will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you $\epsilon\nu$ ³ water, but He will baptize you with Holy Spirit.” —Matthew 3:11-12

- ✓ He is the way by which we are immersed $\epsilon\nu$ Christ.
- ✓ When we recognize His role in our sanctification, our setting aside for Yahweh's glory, we can more easily put our emphasis where it should be. It is indeed not about us.

²Luke reports (4:1ff) that not only was Christ led into the desert by Holy Spirit, He was filled with Him—“Jesus, *full of the Holy Spirit*, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.”

³The Greek here is neither equivalent to the “in” or “with” in English. The use of “ $\epsilon\nu$ ” (“*ehn*”) signifies a complete immersion into the object in question. So when Paul says, those who are “ $\epsilon\nu$ ” Christ, he is talking about the totality of involvement, not “in” or “with” but “overwhelmingly enveloped” by Christ. Hence, Paul could say assuredly in Galatians 3:28-29:

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3. Holy Spirit is the GUARANTOR.

And you also were included in [εἰς] Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in [εἰς] Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are [Father] God's possession—to the praise of His glory. –Ephesians 1:13-14



- ✓ When Christ was counseling the twelve about His parting this earth, He told them another would come in His place. It would be He who would guide them in all truth. God's presence among us was Jesus the Christ; Holy Spirit is God's presence within us.
- ✓ Paul here (see also 2 Corinthians 5:5) uses ἀρραβὼν (ar-ra-bone)⁴ to communicate the presence of Holy Spirit *within* us as evidence of Yahweh's guaranteed inheritance as adopted children of the Lord God Jehovah.

4. Holy Spirit GRIEVES.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as [εἰς] Christ God forgave you. –Ephesians 4:29-32

- ✓ As a person, Holy Spirit—like Father God and the Christ—He is pleased by what is “set aside” for Yahweh, the Lord God (i.e., what is holy). And, like the Father and the Son, He grieves when we are bitter, full of rage, anger, slander, malice.
- ✓ Many things grieved the Son. Chief among them was disrespect for Holy Spirit. Consider this declaration by Him when Holy Spirit was not given credit for a wonderfully holy act of benevolence and divine power (casting out a demon from a blind and mute man)—

He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. –Matthew 12:30-32

⁴Properly, an installment; a *deposit* (“down-payment”) which *guarantees* the balance (the *full* purchase-price). See <http://biblehub.com/greek/728.htm>



SOME KEY QUESTIONS REGARDING HOLY SPIRIT

Given Holy Spirit leads, is the means to Deity, substantiates our salvation, and can be grieved by our acts and thoughts, HOW can we:



1. Facilitate His lead in our lives?
 - Q Why should He lead?
 - Q What's in it for Him?
 - Q How do we know He's leading?
2. Humble ourselves by allowing, recognizing, praising Him as the means to Deity?
 - Q How would fasting work? For what would you fast?
 - Q How would prayer work? For what and how would you pray?
 - Q How would you approach obedience to His commands?
3. Enjoy His guaranteeing our salvation?
 - Q How can we share our joy? Check out Philemon 6.⁵
 - Q What power does His guarantor role provide us in our day to day living? In the valleys? On the mountain tops?
4. Avoid grieving Him as He works within and among us?
 - Q What is the believer's reason for avoiding unwholesome talk? Bitterness? Rage & anger? Slander? Any form of malice?
 - Q What is the believer's reason for building others up? Forgiving others? Being kind and compassionate?
 - Q What is the penalty for grieving Holy Spirit?

⁵“As you share the faith you have in common with others, I pray that you may come to have a complete knowledge of every blessing we have in Christ.”