

THE HOLY SPIRIT
Text: 2 Peter 1:21

INTRO: In this lesson we will examine some passages that pertain to the Holy Spirit. There are many misconceptions and unwarranted assumptions regarding this subject. At the outset, let us note this important fact: we cannot know anything about God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit except what God has seen fit to reveal.

I. THE BIBLE DEFINITELY SPEAKS OF THE H.S. IN TERMS OF PERSONHOOD.

A. The Old Testament.

Isa 63:10, But they rebelled & grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy.

Neh 9:20, 30, You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, & did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, & gave them water for their thirst... Yet for many years You had patience with them, & testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

B. The New Testament.

READ JN 14:16-17, 26; 15:26;

NOTE: In Greek, the word spirit is neuter in gender, thus some translators describe the H.S. as an "it." But the word for Helper/Comforter is masculine. And a masculine pronoun is used for the H.S. in JN 15:26.

II. GOD (THE FATHER) IS SPIRIT, JOHN 4:24, BUT HE IS DISTINCT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. The Old Testament.

Isa 48:16, Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning: From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me.

B. The New Testament.

John 14:26, The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name...

III. THERE ARE NUMEROUS PASSAGES WHICH IMPLY THE EQUALITY OF FATHER, SON, & H.S.

A. In the Old Testament. The book of Isaiah contains no less than 4 passages that speak of God, Christ & the H.S

Isaiah 11:2; 42:1 (MT 12:18);
48:16; 61:1-2 (LK 11:18-19)

B. The New Testament.

Luke 3:22, And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him & a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased."

1 Cor 12:4-6, There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

2 Cor 13:14, The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, & the love of God, & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Matt. 28:18-20

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.

A. The Old Testament.

Gen. 1:1-2. NOTE: The Heb word for "hovering" is a word that is usually used in connection with a mother bird hovering over her flock.

Job 26:13, By His Spirit He adorned the heavens...

B. In the New Testament, He is involved in God's new creation, spiritual creation, John 3:5-6.

v. AS ALREADY NOTED IN OUR TEXT, PROPHETS IN O.T. TIMES & APOSTLES & PROPHETS IN N.T. TIMES WERE GUIDED BY THE H.S.

Zech 7:12, [Judah] made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law & the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit thru the former prophets...

Psa 51:11, Do not cast me away from Your presence, & do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. (Psa 51:11).

Eph 3:5, The mystery of Christ... in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.

VI. THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT
THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. We cannot know anything about God, Christ, or the H.S. that God has not seen fit to reveal.
- B. There are probably many things unrevealed simply because the finite mind cannot comprehend them nor human language describe them.
- C. It is commonly assumed that the H.S. is active in the realm of Divine providence. That assumption is logical, but in the absence of Divine revelation, we best not form any strong opinions.
- D. Unless we learn it from His revelation, we cannot know what role the H.S. plays today in governing the universe or what role He will play in eternity.
- E. We can know that He is eternal. Heb 9:14, How much more shall the blood of Christ, who thru the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- F. When we get to the last page of the last book of the N.T., we find one last plea for us to embrace the will of God & quench our spiritual thirst with the water of everlasting life. The H.S. invites us one & all. Those who are already in Christ's church, His bride, join in the invitation.

Rev 22:17, The Spirit & the bride
say, "Come!" And let him who hears
say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts
come. Whoever desires, let him take
the water of life freely.

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Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 24, 2004