

## **THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Part 1-3**

John 6:63; 15:26; 16:8: “It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.... But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me.... And when he is come, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

### **1) INTRODUCTION**

**Quote from C.H. Spurgeon:** *“It is extraordinary grace, not talent that wins the day. It is extraordinary spiritual power, not extraordinary mental power that we need. Mental power may fill a building, but spiritual power fills the church; mental power may gather a congregation, spiritual power will save souls. We want spiritual power. O Spirit of the living God we want thee. Thou art the life, the soul, and the source of thy people’s success. Without Thee they can do nothing; with Thee they can do everything.”*

**Quote from B.B. Warfield:** *“Only a spiritually-minded church provides the soil in which literature about the Spirit can grow.”*

**Quote from Dr. P.F. Bresee:** *“Without the manifest presence of the Holy Ghost any church is a failure. It may be a great machine, wheels within wheels, but it is without life and power. Such an organization bears the same relationship to the church of Christ that a dead body bears to a man. A dead body is organized matter. It is in the form of a man, and has the appearance of a man, but for all purposes for which a man was created it is a useless thing. So it is with a church. It is organized humanity. In many respects it looks like the real thing, but for the purposes for which the church was called into being, it is utterly useless. It may amuse, entertain, and instruct men, but to lift men out of their sins and take sin out of them it is powerless to do so.*

*If Jesus Christ baptizes with the Holy Spirit, and we profess to be His followers, then we ought to have His baptism. If we bear His name, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the peculiar fact of this dispensation (i.e... The NT), then it is ours to have, and lead others to it. A so-called church which will not press this upon men is unworthy of the name. We are to seek life, abundant life, through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who purifies, who opens and makes vivid the Word of the Lord, and imparts power to proclaim and witness to the truth. And when He finds a dwelling place in human hearts, He will convince other souls of sin and righteousness and judgment, and the work of the Lord will go on. God has provided for conquest. He arranged that His church should march from victory unto victory.”*

Why it is vitally important to understand and apply the doctrine of the Holy Spirit:

1) *Because it is a neglected doctrine.*

- The doctrine of the Holy Spirit tends to be either *neglected or abused*. We tend to neglect what we don’t understand or experience. But how can we neglect such an important truth in the bible.

2) *Because it is an abused doctrine.*

We often abuse a teaching when our motives are selfish in applying it.

- There is no doctrine more abused than the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. This is demonstrated by the enormous amount of false experiences of the Spirit and contradictory teachings among the various churches.

3) *Because it is a misunderstood doctrine.*

- Is there not a truth so misunderstood as the ministry of the Holy Spirit? Through a lack of understanding the Holy Spirit's nature and work endless confusion reigns – confusion resulting in heartache and spiritual disaster.

4) *Because it is a doctrine that is often perverted.*

- Perverting a doctrine is related to misunderstanding doctrine but goes much further. In the Apostle Paul's concern that the converts in Corinth would be drawn away from "the simplicity that is in Christ," he identifies three characteristic marks of false teaching: (1) Another Jesus; (2) Another Spirit, (3) Another Gospel (2 Cor.11:4).

5) *Because it is a practical doctrine.*

- Christian conduct and behavior is regulated by the truth, the scriptures. The greatest experiences of the Holy Spirit that we profess must pass the scriptural test as coming genuinely from the Spirit (1 John 4:1; 1 Thess.5:21).
- Talk about the epitome of practical application! Only the Holy Spirit can enable believers to apply the truth and to live it out in our lives (2 Thess.2:13).

## **2) OLD TESTAMENT ACTIVITIES**

1. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of the world (Gen.1:2; Job 26:13; Psa.104:30; 147:14-18).
2. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of man (Gen.1:26; Gen.2:7; Job 33:4).
3. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of the animal world (Psa.104:24-30).
4. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of Beauty (Job 26:13; 1 Cor.15:41; Psalm 19:1-6).
5. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of Substance (Isa.32:13-16; Psa.104:27).
6. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of rest (Isa.63:14).
7. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of death (Isa.40:7; Acts 5:1-4).
8. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of Christ's human body (Matt.1:20; Lk.1:35).
9. The Holy Spirit is Co-Creator of the new nature (John 3:5,6; 1:13; 1 Pet.1:22,23).

This concise outline was prepared by Pastor Joe Jacowitz  
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