

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Part 8

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 Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me ...And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

3) NEW TESTAMENT ACTIVITIES (cont.)

(D) The Symbols of the Holy Spirit (cont.)

- Types, parables, and emblems abound to illustrate the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We classify the emblems of the Holy Spirit under two headings (1) Symbols from natural life and (2) symbols from human life:
- ***Symbols drawn from human life:***

1. ***Dove*** (Lk.3:22; Gen.1:2). The most significant instance of a dove as a picture of the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ in the form of a dove at our Lord's baptism.

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

- The symbol of a dove speaks about the nature of the Holy Spirit's love, humility, and condescension.
- But the Dove also is a symbol of Jesus Christ in His peaceful mission, His sacrifice and His innocent and harmless character.
- There are five characteristics of a dove in the bible:
 1. It is swift in flight - "Wings like a dove" (Psa.55:6).
 2. It is beautiful in appearance - "Wings of a dove covered with silver" (Ps.68:13).
 3. It is constant in love - "The eyes of doves" (Song 5:12).
 4. It is mournful in tone - "And moan sadly like doves" (Isa.59:11).
 5. It is gentle in manner - "Harmless as doves" (Matt.10:16).-These five qualities are marks of the Holy Spirit. Would to God that all of us would strive to emulate these qualities.

2. ***Doorkeeper*** (John 10:3).

John 10:3: "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

- "Doorkeeper" has a double meaning: (1) One who waits at a door to receive a message, (2) A burden bearer, to carry - similar to a station porter who carries luggage.
- Christ is presented in the NT as the Great *Shepherd* and The Holy Spirit is the *Doorkeeper*.
- As the Doorkeeper it is the Holy Spirit's work to:
 - (1) To open doors for the Shepherd and to keep them open.

- (2) The Holy Spirit as the Doorkeeper is the Divine *forerunner* of Jesus - preparing the way of the Lord. It is He who opens the door of the heart, preparing the soul for the receiving of Christ (John 16:8-11; Acts 16:14).
- (3) The Holy Spirit opens the door for missions and the gospel (Acts 16:6-11). Any missionary progress is due to the Spirit's promptings as is indicated in the book of Acts where the Holy Spirit is found shutting the door to Asia, and opening another into Europe.
- (4) The Holy Spirit guards the open doors so that strangers and hirelings cannot pass through (John 10:8-14).
 - Pastors and church members have the special privilege of assisting the Holy Spirit in *guarding* the open doors.

3. **Paraclete** (John 14:16; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7).

The primary meaning is "Comforter." This seems to be our Lord's favorite name for the Holy Spirit, for at least four times He is spoken of as "The Comforter":

- (1) He is Christ-like and abiding (John 14:16).
- (2) He comes as the gift of The Father (John 14:26).
- (3) He is represented as the gift of The Son (John 15:26).
- (4) Christ's ascension is the basis of such a gift (John 16:7).

- There are three meanings of "Paraclete" and the primary one, as I said, is:

- (1) **Comforter** (Acts 9:31). One who comforts.
- (2) **Advocate** (Rom.8:26-27). One who intercedes.
- (3) **Helper**. One who helps (Rom.8:26).

4. **Witness** (Rom.8:16; 9:1).

- Paul refers to the work of the Holy Spirit in a profound way that identifies Him as a *Witness*:
 - (1) The witness of pardon (Rom.5:1; 8:1).
 - (2) The witness of adoption (Rom.8:14-17; Gal.4:6).
 - (3) The witness of sanctification (1 John 4:13).

5. **Finger** (Matt.12:28; Lk.11:20).

- References to the Spirit as the "Finger of God" describe Him as the indispensable Agent accomplishing the purpose of the divine will:
 - (1) The Law of God (Ex.31:18; Dt.9:10).
 - (2) The Judgment of God (Ex.8:19).
 - (3) The Power of God (Ps.8:3).

APPLICATION:

1. Do you now hunger more deeply to know the Holy Spirit as Dove, Doorkeeper, Comforter, Advocate, Helper, and Witness?