

Pneumatology

The Study of the Holy Spirit

Intro: For the last two weeks, we have discussed the person and work of Jesus Christ, as we have studied Christology. This week, we are going to look at the Holy Spirit. Now, if we are being honest, the Scripture does not give us as much information about Him as it does God the Father and Jesus. Nevertheless, we are going to search and discuss what the Scriptures *do* give us.

Many people will fall into one of two camps: many will diminish the importance of the Holy Spirit or they will overemphasize Him to where He essentially becomes an idol. We want to remain balanced in what the Bible tells us about Him.

Ἅγιος: Holy

Πνεῦμα: Spirit / Wind

Who the Holy Spirit is:

- He is a person, not a force.
 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).
- The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Trinity (Matt 28:19).
- He is a gift (Jn 14:26).
- He is our Helper.
- He is our Teacher.
- He is the means by which we connect with the Father.
- He has a mind and a will (Jn 15:26).
- He is Truly God (Matt 28:19).
- He has all the attributes of God, just as Jesus does.
 - Eternal
 - “For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the *eternal Spirit* offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:13-14).
- Omniscient.
- Omnipresent.
 - “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- Omnipotent (Psalm 139:7-8).
- Truth.
 - “... the Spirit is the truth” (1 Jn 5:6).

What the Holy Spirit does:

The Holy Spirit does the work of God (primarily in sanctification).

“The Spirit carries out the Divine will in the world and brings it to completion, with special reference to speaking, applying salvation, sanctification, and glorifying and indwelling His people” (Greg Allison).

- He reveals God.
 - “I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit’ (Jn 1:33).
- He Illuminates and Guides us (Eph 1:17-19).
- Regeneration (Jn 3; READ Titus 3:5-7).
- Convicts us of sin.
- He Seals us.
 - “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory” (Eph 1:13-14).
- He assures us.
 - “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom 8:16).
- He makes us Holy (Sanctification). (See 1 Pet 1:1-2).
- He equips and empowers us for ministry (1 Cor 12).

What we are not to do:

1. We are not to grieve the Spirit.
 1. “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Eph 4:30).
2. We are not to quench the Spirit (Heb 4:7).
3. We are not to blaspheme the Spirit (Matt 12 - Ultimate and willful rejection of Jesus and denial of His work).

What we are to do:

1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 1. “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18).
2. Walk in step with the Spirit (Gal 5).
3. Sing in the Spirit (Eph 5:18-21).

Reflection / Discussion Questions:

How often (and in what ways) do we ignore or downplay the Holy Spirit?

In what ways has the church abused the name of the Holy Spirit?

What steps can you take to walk in step with the Holy Spirit?