



God the Holy Spirit

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Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity.

Where do we first learn about the Holy Spirit in the Bible?

We find that the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the world at the very beginning...

Genesis 1:1-2 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Holy Spirit's role in the creation of the universe is addressed in many places...

Job 26:13 - By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; The Holy Spirit was specifically identified as the Creator of the animals...

Psalms 104:24-30 - O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions-- This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great... ...You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.

The Holy Spirit was also active in creating mankind...

Job 33:4 - The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Since the Holy Spirit was an active participant in the Trinity in our creation, what does this tell us about His power?

The Holy Spirit has the same nature or attributes as God the Father and God the Son. This means that the Holy Spirit is also omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. Indeed we can find verses which reinforce that the Holy Spirit has all the divine attributes...

What attribute of the Holy Spirit is represented by Micah 3:8?

Micah 3:8 - I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD Omnipotence... if we have the power of the Spirit, we have all the power we need.

What attribute of the Holy Spirit is represented by Psalms 139:7?

Psalms 139:7 - Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Omnipresence... Psalm 139:7 is obviously a rhetorical question, there is no where we can go where the Holy Spirit is not present.

What attribute of the Holy Spirit is represented by Psalms 139:1-3?

Psalms 139:1-3 - O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Omniscience... we know this is talking about the Holy Spirit from the context (look at verse 1). There is nothing that the Holy Spirit does not know about us.

Was there a difference in how the Holy Spirit ministered to God's people before Christ and after Christ?

Yes, the promise of the Holy Spirit indwelling believers was for the church...

John 14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

This is a wonderful promise, that once we are born again with a new human spirit, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and will be with us forever. This is new and different, never before had God made such a promise to mankind.

What does Numbers 11:17 have to say about how the Holy Spirit related to people during Old Testament times?

Numbers 11:17 - I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

The Holy Spirit came upon people in the Old Testament times. This concept is reinforced in multiple places in the Old Testament... another example is:

Judges 6:34 - But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

As the New Test reveals more to us about God the Son and God the Father, it also reveals more about God the Holy Spirit... What does 2 Peter 1:21 tell us about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

2 Peter 1:21 - for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit communicated the Word of God to men by inspiring them to prophecy and write Scripture.

What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tell us about why God inspired me to write Scripture?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God gave His children Scripture to teach us about Him, to shine the truth on error, to encourage us to get on the right path, to help us to see and do what is right, to help us mature spiritually and to equip us for the work He has called us to do.

What great event is Acts 1:4-5 referring to?

Acts 1:4-5 - And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Promise of the Father is the beginning of the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit – the baptism of the Holy Spirit that began at Pentecost.

Why was the beginning of the new ministry of the Holy Spirit called Pentecost?

The term Pentecost means 50. The Holy Spirit began His indwelling ministry 50 days after Jesus was resurrected.

There are three key differences in the ministry of the Holy Spirit after Pentecost, let's take a look at these...

What key difference in the ministry of the Holy Spirit is represented by 1 Peter 2:5?

1 Peter 2:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The temple where the Holy Spirit resides is made up of believers as living stones. This new holy temple is the church.

Ephesians 2:19-22 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having

been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit now resides in a new temple built on the foundation of truth about God revealed to the disciples with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone...

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

What key difference in the ministry of the Holy Spirit is represented by John 14:17?

John 14:17 - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Not only did the Holy Spirit come to indwell the church as a corporate body, but He also came to indwell individual believers. In this Church Age, all true believers have the presence of the Holy Spirit...

1 John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

The person who does not have the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life is not a believer, it is as simple as that.

Romans 8:9 - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

What does Matthew 11:11 have to say about the blessing of living during the Church Age?

Matthew 11:11 - Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The kingdom of heaven is a reference to the spiritual kingdom that Jesus initiated at His first coming – He is referring to the church. We have an advantage that the greatest pre-Pentecost prophet did not have with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What key difference in the ministry of the Holy Spirit is represented by John 14:16-17?

John 14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

As we already talked about, the Holy Spirit will indwell us forever. Once He has come into our lives to life, He will not

be taken away. This is a wonderful assurance of eternal security – once saved, always saved. The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit was not forever in the Old Testament, for example:

1 Samuel 16:14 - But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

It is interesting to not that evil spirits can indwell people but not if the Holy Spirit is resident. I believe that Saul was saved because there was a time that he did have the Holy Spirit in his life and the testimony of Samuel who was brought back from the dead surprising the medium at Endor:

1 Samuel 28:19 - Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

David must have known about Saul's experience with the Holy Spirit because he knew that the presence of Holy Spirit with believers during his age was not necessarily forever...

Psalms 51:11 - Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

The Bible talks about both a baptism of the Holy Spirit and a filling of the Holy Spirit during the Church Age, what is the difference between these two?

Some people confuse the concept of being "baptized in the Spirit" with being "filled with the Spirit". Believers are only baptized once by the Spirit when they are saved but they are filled with the Holy Spirit when they act according to God's will. There should be many fillings of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

What can we learn about the Holy Spirit from the following verses?

Exodus 35:31 - He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship

The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom, understanding and abilities to use in the service of God.

Judges 14:6 - And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

The Holy Spirit gives us uncommon strength when we need it.

Mark 13:11 - But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will give us the right words to say to testify about Jesus when we are facing persecution for His sake.

Luke 12:12 - For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

John 14:26 - 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 things that I said to you.

The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible and teaches us about God. He also helps us to remember the words of God.

John 16:13 - However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit will help us to understand the truth about God's Word including what is to come in the future.

Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power we need to be an effective witness of Jesus.

Acts 4:31 - And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

The Holy Spirit gives us boldness to speak about God.

Acts 13:2 - As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

The Holy Spirit speaks to us and calls us to salvation.

Acts 13:4 - So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

The Holy Spirit sends us out to do God's work.

Acts 15:28 - For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

The Holy Spirit gives us a burden to do what pleases the Lord.

Acts 16:6 - Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

The Holy Spirit forbids us from acting contrary to God's will.

Acts 20:28 - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

If we have authority in the church, it is because the Holy Spirit has given it to us.

Romans 8:16 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

The Holy Spirit gives us assurance about our salvation.

Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray as we should be praying.

1 Corinthians 12:3 - Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to testify about Jesus being our Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

The Holy Spirit gives us liberty... we have a choice to sin or not to sin and thus He enables us to have freedom from the consequences of sin if we make choices according to His prompting of us.

Galatians 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

The Holy Spirit gives us godly attributes that defy explanation in our circumstances...

Philippians 4:7 - the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2:4 - God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts to minister to the church.

Jude 1:19 - These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables us to be peacemakers.