

A primer on the person and work of the

# HOLY SPIRIT



by **Winfield Bevins**

# Lesson 1

## Meet the Holy Spirit

*“A firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence towards us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”*

*-John Calvin*

**W**ho is the Holy Spirit? Christians have asked this question throughout the ages. There have been many different opinions as to the personal nature of the Holy Spirit. Some have wondered if the Spirit was a created being, while others believed that the Spirit was an energy force. We can learn a lot from the Bible’s descriptive title *the Holy Spirit*.

- **The**, is an article that stresses the particularity and uniqueness of the Spirit. There are many spirits but there is only one Holy Spirit.
- **Holy**, stresses the sacredness and purity of the Spirit. Holy also stresses the majesty and glory of God.

- **Spirit**, implies immateriality, no flesh, or material substance.

## **1. The Divine Nature of the Holy Spirit**

Most religions and cults deny the deity and existence of the Holy Spirit. Sadly, even many Christians believe that the Spirit is not fully divine. The writers of the Bible clearly emphasized the deity of the Holy Spirit. The Bible also shows that there is a unique relationship between the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. This interrelationship is often called the *Trinity*, which refers to three distinct divine Personalities, each wholly God, yet one essence.

The doctrine of the Trinity has been defended by the Christian church for nearly two thousand years. One of the earliest doctrinal statements of the Christian faith called the Nicene Creed (325) beautifully describes the divinity of the Holy Spirit, “I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.” It cannot be overestimated that the Holy Spirit is divine. There are several divine attributes ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

### **Divine Attributes Ascribed to the Spirit**

- a. Omnipresent- The Holy Spirit is everywhere at all times (Psalms 139:7-10).
- b. Omnipotent- The Holy Spirit is all-powerful (Luke 1:35).
- c. Omniscient- The Holy Spirit has all knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

- d. Eternal- The Holy Spirit has no beginning and no end (Hebrews 9:14).
- e. Holy- The Holy Spirit is wholly pure, perfect, and sacred.

## **2. The Personal Nature of the Holy Spirit**

Many Christians also find it hard to understand the personal aspect of the Holy Spirit. Too often we think of Him in a symbolic and impersonal manner. What we will find, however, is that the Holy Spirit is also a person. Jesus has many times referred to the personal nature of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “Paraclete,” which means one called alongside. It is one who is an advocate, comforter, or counselor. The word Paraclete implies a distinct personality. The Bible ascribes Him personal characteristics such as a will (Acts 13:1, 1 Cor 12:11), mind (1 Cor. 2:10-11, Romans 8:27), and emotions (Eph 4:30).

### **Personal Treatment of the Holy Spirit**

- a. The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
- b. The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Eph. 4:30).
- c. The Holy Spirit can be quenched (1 Thess. 5:19).
- d. The Holy Spirit can be resisted (Acts 7:51).
- e. The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed (Matt. 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10).

## **3. The Names and Titles of the Holy Spirit**

The Bible uses many different names, titles, and symbols to paint a portrait of the Holy Spirit, each representing what He does and who He is. For example, The Bible uses symbols such as Fire, Wind, Water, Wine, and a Dove. The Biblical

names and titles of the Holy Spirit can be divided into three categories: Who the Holy Spirit is, what the Holy Spirit is, what the Holy Spirit does.

### **1. Who The Holy Spirit Is**

- a. Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:11)
- b. Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4, Romans 8:11)
- c. Spirit of Glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- d. Spirit of the Lord (Isaiah 61:1)
- e. Spirit of the Father (Matthew 10:20)
- f. Spirit of the Son (Galatians 4:6)
- g. Power of the Highest (Luke 1:35)

### **2. What The Holy Spirit Is**

- a. Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4)
- b. Spirit of Knowledge (Isaiah 11:2)
- c. Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2, Revelation 11:11)
- d. Spirit of Might (Isaiah 11:2)
- e. Eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)
- f. Spirit of Truth (John 14:17; 15:26)

### **3. What the Holy Spirit Does**

- a. Spirit of Grace (Zechariah 12:10)
- b. Spirit of Judgment (Isaiah 4:4)
- c. Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15)
- d. Spirit of Prophecy (Romans 8:15)
- e. Spirit of Counsel (Isaiah 11:2, John 14:15-18)
- f. Spirit of Revelation (Ephesians 1:17)

## Questions for Reflection

1. Describe how the Holy Spirit is divine. How can we know that He is not just an energy source? Does the Bible give us clues?
2. List the divine attributes of the Holy Spirit. How do these confirm that He is God?
3. Why is what Jesus said about the Spirit (John 14:16, 26) so important for understanding the personal nature of the Holy Spirit?
4. What are some of the ways that the Bible gives personal treatment to the Holy Spirit?
5. Discuss some of the names and titles of the Spirit. What do they tell you about who the Holy Spirit is? In what ways do they give you insight into His nature?

## Concluding Prayer

*Come Holy Spirit! Come and reveal yourself today. I want to know you more than I have ever known you before. Change my life as I seek to learn more about you. Teach me more about you through this study. Reveal yourself to me through your names and titles. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit I pray. Amen.*