

GOD JUST TOUCHED ME - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

Chapter 5 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction to the Holy Spirit

If God is a mystery, then God the Holy Spirit is the most mysterious member of the trinity. He is referred to as God's Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, Breath of God, Wind, and is symbolized by fire, oil, and water. Although none of these symbols accurately define Him, they do speak to some of His characteristics. Our human experience makes us comfortable with Father and Son, but we have no physical experience to describe Spirit. There is a good reason for that, because the Spirit is not physical. If the Father is identified with the Will of God, and the Son is identified with the Word of God, then the Holy Spirit is identified with the Power of God.

The Holy Spirit Is God

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3&4). Although we can speak of the Father, Son, and Spirit as separate persons, there is only one divine being of a completely united will and purpose, and the Holy Spirit is God. When God testifies to who Jesus is, it is the Spirit that testifies (1 John 5:6&9). When mankind sprang to life, it was the Breath of God that brought forth life (Genesis 2:7). Whenever the Father wills creation, and the Son speaks creation, it is the power of the Spirit that makes it happen.

The Holy Spirit Is a Person

The Holy Spirit is a person (Isaiah 63:10). God the Holy Spirit has feelings and His work can be interfered with. In spite of the awesome power of our God, He will not violate our free will. The spirit strives to work with us (Ephesians 4:3&4), but we have the right to refuse (Ephesians 4:30). If you want to know what grieves the Spirit so you can avoid it, we are told, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:29, 31&32). It is possible to put out the fire of the Holy Spirit through our actions (1 Thessalonians 5:19). *See 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24 for additional instructions.* It is a fact that you cannot cause these types of effects in an impersonal force, but only in a person having feelings.

The Holy Spirit Is a Gift

The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father (Luke 11:13). As children of God we are equipped with everything we need to succeed during our life in this world. Human parents want their children to be knowledgeable and well equipped to survive in the world. How much more our heavenly Father wants us to be prepared and equipped for eternity. There is no greater gift that He could bestow on us.

The Holy Spirit Creates Life

The Holy Spirit creates life (Genesis 1:2). At the creation it was the Spirit that brooded over the water and brought forth life. It is the Spirit that continues to breath life into the flesh (John 6:63). When Christ was crucified it was the Spirit that brought resurrection life to Him (1 Peter 3:18). The Holy Spirit makes us physically alive and spiritually alive so we can perceive the things of God.

The Holy Spirit Lives Within Us

The Holy Spirit lives within us (1 Corinthians 3:16&17). Our God is the breath and life of our Christianity. Paul thought that message was so important that he repeated it (1 Corinthians 6:19&20). It should affect everything we do. It should be a sure comfort to know that God's love for us is so great that He chooses to be as close to us as is possible. The Spirit allows us to know God (John

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14:16,17&26). The indwelling Spirit testifies of Jesus (John 15:26). We know that Jesus also dwells with us by the Spirit (1 John 3:24).

The Holy Spirit Convicts

The Holy Spirit convicts and judges (John 16:7-11). The Holy Spirit isn't Santa Clause, but loving God working to bring us into a right relationship with Himself. The important work of the Spirit is to convict of sin, reveal God's standards for justice, and demonstrate Christ's judgment over Satan. He will do whatever is necessary to bring us to spiritual growth and maturity.

The Holy Spirit Teaches

The Holy Spirit teaches us (Nehemiah 9:20). Jesus told us that there was much more to be learned that we were not yet ready for, but the Spirit would lead us into all truth (John 16:12&13). It is the Breath of God that gives us understanding (Job 32:8), and removes the scales from our spiritual eyes. When we need to respond to someone it is the Holy Spirit that guides our speaking (Luke 12:12). It is the Holy Spirit that gives wisdom, understanding and knowledge. Not only does the Holy Spirit teach us, but He also recalls all things when needed (John 14:26). However, He can only recall what has been put there previously.

The Holy Spirit Enables

The Holy Spirit enables us (2 Corinthians 3:3&6). The power of God works through us to accomplish His will here on earth. It is the Holy Spirit that allows us to be what God intended (Ezekiel 11:19&20, Ezekiel 36:26&27). The Spirit enables our speech (Matthew 10:20) and gives power to cast out demons (Matthew 12:28).

The Holy Spirit Energizes

The Holy Spirit energizes us (Zechariah 4:6). Human strength and determination cannot stop an exploding volcano, nor mend a broken heart, nor forgive and remove guilt. Survival is not by human effort, but by God's Spirit. Anything of lasting value can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit. As we live for God we must determine to not trust in our own human strength and abilities, but depend on God to work through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised this power and told His disciples to wait for it (Luke 24:49). We are given power for specific tasks (Micah 3:8); we are given power for living (2 Timothy 1:7). It is through the Holy Spirit that we can overcome the wearying trials of the flesh and world (Galatians 5:5&16-18).

The Holy Spirit Guides

The Holy Spirit guides us (John 16:13&14). He speaks to us through scripture, brothers and sisters in Christ, and directly to our minds. He guides into truth about Christ and about our future and our mission given by God. It was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that the apostles were able to write the New Testament. It is through the leading of the Holy Spirit that we become children of the Father (Romans 8:14-17).

The Holy Spirit Makes Us Like Jesus

The Holy Spirit makes us like Jesus (Philippians 2:5). Jesus came as an example for us with the intent that we become like Him. He chose a servants attitude, and to be like Him so must we (Mark 10:45). We have the ability to choose our attitudes and expectations. If we allow it, the Holy

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Spirit transforms us to what God intended us to be (2 Corinthians 3:17&18). He does this by developing in us the very personality of Jesus, defined by the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26).

The Holy Spirit Is God's Seal

The Holy Spirit is God's seal upon us (Ephesians 1:13, 14, 17). A seal is a guarantee of authenticity. The Holy Spirit proves that we belong to the Father, and that He will do what He has promised. The Spirit's presence proves the genuineness of our faith and proves we are God's children. There are characteristics and similarities that are common to family members, including God's family. The Holy Spirit transforms us and gives us access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18-22).

The Holy Spirit is necessary to acknowledge Jesus (1 John 4:2&13). While we were living in worldly ways we were spiritually blind, in darkness and unable to see truth until the Holy Spirit illuminated it. How we react to Jesus is completely determined by the Spirit's presence (1 Corinthians 12:3). The most important test of a spirit is what it teaches us about Jesus. There are also evil spirits that work to keep us from Jesus. Not only does the Holy Spirit lead us to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, but, without the Holy Spirit we do not even belong to Jesus (Romans 8:9).

The Holy Spirit Is a Witness

The Holy Spirit is a witness to us (Hebrews 10:15). He is a witness of our kinship with Jesus and of who Jesus is. A witness is one who testifies to what he has personally seen (John 16:13). Even human courts do not allow hearsay. What has been heard, or read someplace, or concluded from other information does not carry the same weight as what has been personally seen or experienced. Since the Holy Spirit was present and active in all that has occurred He is well qualified to be a witness.

The Holy Spirit Gives Everlasting Life

The Holy Spirit gives everlasting life (Galatians 6:7&8). We were originally created to be eternal beings living in fellowship with our Creator, but we became spiritually dead because of sin. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3), and that comes only through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Lost

The Spirit can be lost (Genesis 6:3). We have a long-suffering God, but He has warned us that there is a limit to the time of decision. This was originally said when Noah was to build the ark. Jesus told us that the "Days of Noah" will return (Matthew 24:37). The Father can withdraw the gift of the Spirit from us (Psalm 51:11). Jesus told us that there is one unforgivable sin, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31). By imputing evil to the Holy Spirit we sever our power to come to Jesus and are left adrift alone. The sin is eternal (Mark 3:29).

The Holy Spirit Will Be Poured Out In the Last Days

The Holy Spirit will be poured out in the last days (Joel 2:28&29). The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost to usher in the church, and will be poured out again just before the rapture of the Church. The Church has been identified as the new Jerusalem and the promise is to us also (Galatians 4:26&28).

What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).