

GOD JUST TOUCHED ME - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

LESSON 5 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. 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.

B. 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. Are we aware that the fullness of God desires to be united with us? Are we ever tempted to view the Holy Spirit as an impersonal power or force?

C. 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 your 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. How do you feel when you try to do something good for another and your efforts are rejected? Are we ever aware that the Holy Spirit is a person and has feelings, has desires, offers love?

D. 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. Do we see the Holy Spirit as an emergency line to heaven or as God Almighty dwelling within us to enable us? Are we aware that the new creature we are is a Holy Spirit filled Holy Spirit powered human being?

E. 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. Are we truly aware that life comes only from life, and

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originated in God? Do we feel any sense of obligation, or even just gratitude, to the God that breathed life into us?

F. 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 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). Are we aware that wherever we go and whatever we do, we are taking God with us? If we were always aware that God is always with us, and that He is always aware of our intentions and actions, would we act any differently? What kind of dwelling place are you providing for the Holy Spirit?

G. 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. Does our focus on God's love blind us to His Justice? Do we seek or resist the Holy Spirit searching our innermost being and exposing it to us?

H. 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 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. Is it any wonder that we have so much trouble trying to figure everything out with our own understanding? Do we always seek the Spirit's guidance when studying the Bible? Have we ever embarrassed ourselves by depending only on our own understanding and observations?

I. 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). Do you ever feel that God is asking you to do something you are not capable of doing? Are you ever surprised by what you have actually been able to accomplish for the Lord?

J. 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

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the wearying trials of the flesh and world (Galatians 5:5&16-18). Is our tendency to depend on self or seek God's power and wisdom? Do we fail because we were afraid to try for fear of failure? Isn't that a really silly reason to fail?

K. 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). Is our life directed by the world's wisdom or God's wisdom? Do we have the courage to follow wherever the Spirit leads?

L. 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. The Holy 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). How did the world welcome Jesus? Are we willing to be like Jesus in today's world?

M. 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). What distinguishes a Christian from a non-Christian? What is God's pledge to us?

The Holy Spirit is necessary to acknowledge Jesus (1 John 4:2&13). While we were living in worldly ways we were spiritually blind, living 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). Who do non-Christians think Jesus is? How can some "religious people" deny Jesus is God?

N. 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. Do we testify to what we have seen, or to hearsay? Are we willing to accept what the Spirit reveals? Do we understand that "witness" is something we are, not something we do? (What a witness does is give testimony!)

O. 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 became spiritually dead because of sin. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ

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(John 17:3), and that comes only through the Holy Spirit. Is your definition of "real life" what's going on now, or is it eternity with the Lord? How can we be seated in heavenly places with Jesus (Ephesians 2:6) when we are obviously here on earth?

P. 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). Is our attitude towards God serious or casual? Do we really understand the limitations of not having Holy Spirit power?

Q. 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 church is raptured. The Church has been identified as the new Jerusalem and the promise is to us also (Galatians 4:26&28). Are we willing to let the Spirit lead and control? Would we rather be spectators or participants during the outpouring?

To recap, the Holy Spirit:

- Is God
- Is a person
- Is a gift from the Father
- Gives Life
- Lives within us
- Convicts and judges
- Teaches
- Enables
- Energizes
- Guides
- Makes us like Jesus
- Is God's seal upon us
- Is the path to Jesus
- Is a witness to us
- Gives eternal life
- Can be lost
- Will be poured out in the last days.

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

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SCRIPTURE	MAIN POINT	CONSIDERATIONS/QUESTIONS
B. Acts 5:3&4 1 John 5:6&9 Genesis 2:7	The Holy Spirit is God	1) 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. 2) Are we aware that the fullness of God desires to be united with us? 3) Are we ever tempted to view the Holy Spirit as an impersonal power or force?
C. Isaiah 63:10 Ephesians 4:3&4 Ephesians 4:30 Ephesians 4:29, 31&32 1 Thessalonians 5:19 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24	The Holy Spirit is a person	1) God the Holy Spirit has feelings and His work can be interfered with. 2) How do you feel when you try to do something good for another and your efforts are rejected? 3) Are we ever aware that the Holy Spirit is a person and has feelings, desires, love?
D. Luke 11:13	The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father	1) As children of God we are equipped with everything we need to succeed during our life in this world. 2) Do we see the Holy Spirit as an emergency line to heaven or as God Almighty dwelling within us to enable us? 3) Are we aware that the new creature we are is a Spirit filled Spirit powered human being?
E. Genesis 1:2 John 6:63 1 Peter 3:18	The Holy Spirit gives life	1) At the creation it was the Spirit that brooded over the water and brought forth life. 2) Are we really aware that life comes only from life, and originated in God? 3) Do we feel any sense of obligation, or even just gratitude, to the God that breathed life into us?
F. 1 Corinthians 3:16 1 Corinthians 6:19&20 John 14:16,17&26 John 15:26 1 John 3:24	The Holy Spirit lives within us	1) Our God is the breath and life of our Christianity. 2) Are we aware that wherever we go and whatever we do, we are taking God with us? 3) If we were always aware that God is always with us, always aware of our intentions and actions, would we act any differently? 4) What kind of dwelling place are you providing for the Holy Spirit?

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G. John 16:7-11	The Holy Spirit convicts and judges	1) The Holy Spirit isn't Santa Clause, but loving God working to bring us into a right relationship with Himself. 2) Does our focus on God's love blind us to His Justice? 3) Do we seek or resist the Holy Spirit searching our innermost being and exposing it to us?
H. Nehemiah 9:20 John 16:12&13 Job 32:8 Luke 12:12 John 14:26	The Holy Spirit teaches us	1) Jesus told us that there was much more to be learned that we were not ready for, but the Spirit would lead us into all truth. 2) Do we always seek the Spirit's guidance when studying the Bible? 3) Have we ever embarrassed ourselves by depending on our own understanding and observations?
I. 2 Corinthians 3:3&6 Ezekiel 11:19&20 Ezekiel 36:26&27 Matthew 10:20 Matthew 12:28	The Holy Spirit enables us.	1) The power of God works through us to accomplish His will here. 2) Do you ever feel that God is asking you to do something you are not capable of doing? 3) Are you ever surprised by what you have actually been able to accomplish for the Lord?
J. Zechariah 4:6 Luke 24:49 Micah 3:8 2 Timothy 1:7 Galatians 5:5&16-18	The Holy Spirit energizes us	1) Human strength and determination cannot stop an exploding volcano, nor mend a broken heart, nor forgive and remove guilt. 2) Is our tendency to depend on self or seek God's power and wisdom? 3) Do we fail because we were afraid to try for fear of failure? 4) Isn't that a really silly reason to fail?
K. John 16:13&14 Romans 8:14-17	The Holy Spirit is guides us	1) He speaks to us through scripture, brothers and sisters in Christ, and directly to our minds. 2) Is our life directed by the world's wisdom or God's wisdom? 3) Do we have the courage to follow wherever the Spirit leads?
L. Philippians 2:5 Mark 10:45 2 Corinthians 3:17&18 Galatians 5:22-26	The Holy Spirit makes us like Jesus	1) Jesus came as an example for us with the intent that we become like Him. 2) How did the world welcome Jesus? 3) Are we willing to be like Jesus in today's world?

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M. Ephesians 1:13, 14, 17 Ephesians 2:18-22 1 John 4:2&13 1 Corinthians 12:3 Romans 8:9	The Holy Spirit is God's seal upon us The Holy Spirit is necessary to acknowledge Jesus.	1) There are characteristics and similarities that are common to family members, including God's family. 2) What distinguishes a Christian from a non-Christian? 3). What is God's pledge to us? 1) While we were living in worldly ways we were spiritually blind, living in darkness, and unable to see truth until the Holy Spirit illuminated it. 2) Who do non-Christians think Jesus is? 3) How can some "religious people" deny Jesus is God?
M.		
N. Hebrews 10:15 John 16:13	The Holy Spirit is a witness to us	1) A witness is one who testifies to what he has personally seen. 2) Do we testify to what we have seen, or to hearsay? 3) Are we willing to accept what the Spirit reveals?
O. Galatians 6:7&8 John 17:3 Ephesians 2:6	The Holy spirit gives everlasting life	1) We were originally created to be eternal beings living in fellowship with our Creator, but became spiritually dead because of sin. 2) Is you definition of real life what's going on now, or is it eternity with the Lord? 3) How can we be seated in heavenly places with Jesus when we are obviously here on earth?
P. Genesis 6:3 Matthew 24:37 Psalm 51:11 Matthew 12:31 Mark 3:29	The Spirit can be lost	1) We have a long- suffering God, but He has warned us that there is a limit to the time of decision. 2) Is our attitude towards God serious or casual? 3) Do we really understand the limitations of not having Holy Spirit power?
Q. Joel 2:28&29 Galatians 4:26&28	The Holy Spirit will be poured out in the last days	1) The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost to usher in the church, and will be poured out again just before the church is raptured. 2) Are we willing to let the Spirit lead and control? 3) Would we rather be spectators or participants during the outpouring?

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SCRIPTURE	WORDS	MEANING OF ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
C. Isaiah 63:10	VEXED	1) Hebrew <i>atsab</i> , <i>aw-tsab'</i> , displease, grieve, hurt, vex
E. Genesis 1:2	MOVED	1) Hebrew <i>rachaph</i> , <i>raw-khaf'</i> , brood, flutter, move
F. 1 Corinthians 3:16	TEMPLE	1) Greek <i>naos</i> , <i>nah-os'</i> , shrine, temple
G. John 16:7-11	COMFORTER ROPROVE	1) Greek <i>parakletus</i> , <i>par-ak'-lay-tos</i> , intercessor, consoler, advocate, comforter 2) Greek <i>elegcho</i> , <i>al-ang'-kho</i> , convict, convince, rebuke, reprove
I. 2 Corinthians 3:6	MINISTERS	1) Greek <i>diakonos</i> , <i>dee-ak'-on-os</i> , teacher, pastor, deacon, minister, servant
N. Hebrews 10:15	WITNESS	1) Greek <i>martureo</i> , <i>mar-too-reh'-o</i> , be a witness, testify, give evidence
O. Galatians 6:8	EVERLASTING	1) Greek <i>aionios</i> , <i>ahee-o'-nee-os</i> , eternal, forever, everlasting
P. Genesis 6:3	STRIVE	1) Hebrew <i>duwn</i> , <i>doon</i> , strive, contend, minister judgment
Q. Joel 2:28	DREAM PROPHECY VISIONS	1) Hebrew <i>chalam</i> , <i>khaw-lam'</i> , cause to dream 2) Hebrew <i>naba</i> , <i>naw-baw'</i> , speak by inspiration, prophesy 3) Hebrew <i>chizzayown</i> , <i>chiz-zaw-yone'</i> , a revelation, vision