

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 9

The Holy Spirit

POINT OF CONTACT: When Jesus went away, He said that He would send us another comforter, even the Spirit of truth. The word “comforter” in the Greek is the word “paraclete.” Literally this means “the one called beside,” or “the one called to help.” Actually, what it means is that Jesus was going back to the Father, and He was promising His disciples that He would not leave them without Someone to stay beside them. In a sense, this was like a baby-sitter. These were His children; He was going away, but He was going to leave Someone to tend to them and to watch over them. Because of this, as a point of contact, why not discuss a baby-sitter with the pupils: the purpose of a baby-sitter, what a baby-sitter does, etc. Ask them if they have ever been baby-sitters or have ever had baby-sitters care for them. Then explain that the Holy Spirit is much like this to us.

I. **THE TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** He is called many things in the Bible. He is called the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Holiness, the Comforter, the Spirit of Grace, the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of Truth, and other titles.

II. **THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

1. **He is a Person.** He is not an idea, an influence, or a figment of the imagination. He is a Person. John 15:26 says, “...he shall testify of me.” He is not an “it” but a real person just like you and I are real persons. Although He is invisible, He has characteristics, personality, intellect, feeling and will. He is not an impersonal force. I Corinthians 2:11 says that He “knoweth.” Romans 15:30 tells us that He feels and that He loves. I Corinthians 12:11 speaks of His will. Hence, we must recognize Him as a Person Who is with us as Christians all the time.
2. **He testifies of Jesus Christ.** (John 15:26) It is the job of the Holy Spirit to exalt Jesus. He does not speak of Himself. He does not magnify Himself. He magnifies Christ. This is brought out also in John 16:13, 14, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come...He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”
3. **The Holy Spirit dwells within the people of God.** I Corinthians 3:16 says, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” These words were addressed to the Corinthian church. These people were accused by Paul of carnality. (Note I Corinthians 3:1-3.) They were certainly not good Christians, and yet, were called the dwelling place of the Spirit. The bodies of individual Christians are the temples of the Holy Spirit. This is taught in I Corinthians 6:19 and Romans 8:9. This indwelling took place at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Though the Spirit of God worked in the Old Testament, He did not indwell believers in the Old Testament. For example, Genesis 1:2c says, “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Throughout the Old Testament days His influence is frequently noted. The Spirit of God came upon certain judges. Notice Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29. He came upon King Saul. (I Samuel 10:10) He came upon David. (I Samuel 16:13) He came upon Azariah. (II Chronicles 15:1) He came upon Zechariah. (II Chronicles 24:20) He was also present in power in the days of Christ’s ministry. He was there when our Lord was baptized. (Matthew 3:16) He led Him into the wilderness to be tempted. (Luke 4:1) Our Lord’s ministry was done in the power of the Spirit. (Luke 4:14, 18) In spite of this, however, the Christians were not indwelt with the Holy Spirit until the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These passages teach this: John 7:37-39; John 14:16. Let us teach our pupils that because of this, we should be careful what comes into our bodies, what comes out of our bodies, how we handle our bodies, how we dress our bodies, how we cleanse our bodies, etc., for our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit!
4. **The Holy Spirit convicts men.** John 16:8 says, “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” From the context of this, it is clear that the greatest of all sins is unbelief, and it can be removed only by the Holy Spirit’s convicting power. That desire we had to become a Christian was of Him. He it was who convicted us and brought us to Jesus. Not only that, but He regenerated us. In John 3:5, we read, “...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” After He exalts Christ and convicts the sinner, the Spirit persuades and enables a person to accept the Saviour and plants within Him a new nature.
5. **The Spirit of God seals believers.** He sets His divine seal of ownership, authority and security upon those who put their trust in Christ. (Ephesians 4:30) When we are saved, He owns us. So He puts the seal of ownership on us. When we are saved, He secures us. Hence, we have the seal of security. This is done at salvation.
6. **The Holy Spirit empowers us in soul winning.** Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” About the same thing is said in I Corinthians 2:4, 5 and I Thessalonians 1:5. We must have His power to be soul winners and witnesses for Jesus Christ.
7. **The Holy Spirit guides God’s people.** Acts 8:29, “Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.” The Spirit of God leads us. He will tell us where to go and when to go. We should be very sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

8. The Holy Spirit leads men to understand the Bible. I Corinthians 2:12, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” The Holy Spirit is our real Bible teacher. Any Christian may learn the Bible under this teacher, the Holy Spirit. With all the other teachers, no Christian can learn the Bible without the Holy Spirit. Of course, we need help to understand the Bible—but we need it from Spirit-led people.
9. The Holy Spirit will resurrect us. Romans 8:11, “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Some day the bodies of all believers will be raised from the dead, incorruptible, glorified, and like the body of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will be the one to execute the Father’s decree, and under His control, the redemption of our body will be completed.
10. The Holy Spirit gives us the assurance that we are saved. Romans 8:16, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” The words, “with our spirit,” mean “alongside our spirit.” It took two witnesses in a Jewish court for something to hold up as true. The same thing is true at salvation. Our spirit says we are saved. There must be the second witness. This witness is the Holy Spirit. This does not mean the Holy Spirit bears witness to us that we’re saved, but along with us. Both of the spirits say that we are saved. We know we are; God knows we are. This is acceptable in the courts of Heaven.

FILL IN THE BLANKS: (You might find it effective to read these sentences with the blanks before the class starts and see how many correct answers they can give. Then at the end of the class, read them again and see how much they have learned. This will be encouraging to the teacher.)

The Holy Spirit is a _____. He testifies of _____. He exalts _____. He convicts _____. He _____ within the people of God. He seals _____. When the people of God need to know where to go, they may look to the Holy Spirit, for one of His duties is to _____ the people of God. When we want to see people saved, we must have the Holy Spirit, for He it is Who empowers us for _____. He alone can help men to understand completely the teachings of the _____, and He it is Who will _____ us from the dead when Jesus comes again. He also assures us that we are _____.

TRUE OR FALSE:

- T F 1. The Holy Spirit indwelt Elijah.
- T F 2. The Holy Spirit empowered Elijah.
- T F 3. The Holy Spirit indwells Christians today.
- T F 4. This indwelling took place upon the coming of Jesus into the world.
- T F 5. We cannot know that we are saved.
- T F 6. The preacher convicts men of their need for salvation.
- T F 7. We know if a person is filled with the Holy Spirit because he exalts the Holy Spirit so much.
- T F 8. The Christian must look to his own intuition and conscience as to where he should go and what he should do.
- T F 9. One must go to college and seminary to understand the Bible.
- T F 10. The Holy Spirit can teach us the Word of God.
- T F 11. The Holy Spirit will raise us from the dead, but Jesus raised Himself from the dead.