

Lesson 9: Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

Grudem Ch 30 outline:

The Holy Spirit: 1. Empowers; 2. Purifies; 3. Reveals; 4. Unifies; 5. Gives Evidence of the Presence of God;

Grudem Ch 39 – Baptism and Filling with the Holy Spirit

Grudem Ch 52 & 53 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Is the church too Christocentric?

Matt. 28:19-20, 2 Cor. 13:14, John 16:14

Answer: The Holy Spirit is Christocentric!

Some facts about the Holy Spirit:

God is three persons – One God. The Holy Spirit is a person. He has the same attributes as God, yet is distinct in His personal mode of existence. The Holy Spirit is *not* a feeling or force; although the word translated Spirit is often *pneuma*.

Greek “*pneuma*” = wind, spirit

Unfortunately, churches often over emphasize or underemphasize the Holy Spirit. It should be our desire to praise and emphasize the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So we emphasize God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

I. What does the Holy Spirit do before conversion?

John 16:7-11; It is better that Jesus goes away so that the Spirit comes to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

What about the Holy Spirit’s role in the OT? (source Jack Cottrell, pg. 291 of *The Faith Once for All*)

1. The Spirit’s gifts were not given to all God’s people, even among the saved within Israel
2. The Spirit’s gifts were bestowed to equip for service, not to sanctify inwardly.
3. The Spirit’s gifts were not given to individuals for personal benefit but for the good of the whole body of Israel
4. Such gifts were temporary and lasted only as long as the need for the person’s services remained (1 Sam. 10:10, 16:14, 1 Sam. 16:13, Psalm 51:11)
5. Miraculous signs accompanied such gifts at least once for evidential purposes, but these signs were temporary (Num. 11:25).
6. One did not have to be a believer to receive this kind of empowering from the Spirit (e.g. Balaam Num 24:2, Saul 1 Sam. 19:20-24)
7. Sometimes the gifts were given through human agency such as anointing or laying on of hands (Deut. 34:9, [see Num. 27:18-20], 1 Sam. 16:13, 2 Kings 2:9-15), and sometimes they were given directly without human agents (Num. 11:25-26).

Why is Pentecost important?

1. Pentecost marks a fundamental turning point in redemptive history (Jn. 7:38-39)
2. Pentecost is the fulfillment of the new covenant promise concerning the Spirit (Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:27-32)
3. Pentecost is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Spirit
4. Pentecost is the inauguration of the new age and the beginning of the Church (Acts 2:38,41-49)

II. What does the Holy Spirit do at conversion? (when a person first receives Christ?)

1. "Regeneration" = new heart; (note: this Greek word is only used in Titus 3:5 and Matt 19:28). "New Heart" = the deepest values from which our acts and attitudes come.

Titus 3: 5; "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of **regeneration** and renewing by the Holy Spirit,"

3 figures of regeneration:

1. Rebirth; John 3:3 "born again"
2. Spiritual resurrection; Rom 6:13 "alive from the dead"
3. New creation; 2 Cor 5:17; "new creature"

Regeneration is not a feeling.

Regeneration gives us eternal security (John 10:28). [Note: the Arminian view does not agree with eternal security. That camp believes you can lose your salvation]

2. "Indwelling" = abide (=continue), Greek *meno*

Prophesized in Ezekiel 36:27 and Joel 2:28-29

John 14:17; "that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."

1 John 4:13; "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."

3. "Baptized" = *baptizo*

1 Cor 12:13; "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Who are baptized into the Holy Spirit? All believers.

With what? One Spirit.
What is the result? Into one body.
When? See below:

The timing of Baptism of the Holy Spirit is hotly debated. At conversion or later?

Are each of the following two statements true?

1. Believers have an initial experience of incorporation by the Spirit and indwelling of the Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:13)
2. We have an ongoing experience of empowering by the Spirit for growth and service which can be quite dramatic at times. (Acts 4:31-33)

BOTH are true. Non-Pentecostals call #1 “spirit baptism” and Pentecostals call #2 “spirit baptism”.

4. The Bible also talks about being “sealed” by the Holy Spirit:

“sealed” from the Greek *sphragizo*. Literally means sealed – no better word. The idea is virtually the same as indwelling.

2 Cor 1:22

Eph 1:13-14

Eph 4:30

III. What does the Holy Spirit do after conversion?

1. “Filling” of the Holy Spirit: a command; Eph 5:18

- “be filled” can be literally translated “keep on being filled”
- This should be the normal state of a New Testament Christian, not something unusual.
- “Not to be filled with the Spirit is to be in a state of partial disobedience.”(Chafer/Walvoord)

2. Conditions for the Filling of the Holy Spirit

a. “Do not quench the Holy Spirit” 1 Thes. 5:19

This is about yielding and surrendering to the Holy Spirit. The supreme example is Jesus in Phil 2:5-11. Also see Acts 16:6-7 and Rom 12:1-2.

b. “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit” Eph. 4:30

This statement assumes that sin has entered into the Christian’s life, and 1 John 1:9 must be obeyed. The way of restoration is open because of the death of Christ. (1 John 2:1-2).

Not confessing, and continuing to grieve the Holy Spirit may result in chastening and discipline (Heb 12:5-6), 1Cor. 11:31-32).

c. “Walk by the Spirit” Gal 5:16

This is a present tense command, and it is an act of faith.

The command to love as Christ loves and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit (John 13:34, 15:12, 2 Cor. 10:5).

Also it is impossible to bear fruit (Gal 5:22-23), rejoice, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything (1 Thess. 5:16-1) without the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians must battle influences of the world, Satan, and our old sin nature to walk by the Holy Spirit.

3. Results of the Filling of the Spirit

1. Empowerment for Service; (John 7:38)
2. Growing in Christ-likeness – progressive sanctification resulting in fruit (Gal5:22-23)
3. Experience God – prove what the will of God is (Rom 12:1-2)
4. Guidance (teach, direct, lead) – taught the truth by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:9-3:2)
5. Assurance of Salvation: The Holy Spirit testifies to our human spirit (Rom 8:16)
6. Effective prayer: (Rom 8:26)

5. Can we pray to the Holy Spirit?

Possible answers: Yes; No; Yes but with qualifications/limitations.

- a) The Holy Spirit is God, and we should pray to God
- b) There is no single example of prayer to the Holy Spirit in the Bible
- c) Most prayers in the Bible are directed toward the Father, and some to Jesus (Acts 7:59, 2Cor. 12:8)
- d) There is no warning or caution against prayer to the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is involved in prayers (Rom 8:26)

A good answer: It is OK to pray to the Holy Spirit, but “our typical prayer should be to the Father in the name of the Son in dependence on the Holy Spirit” (Cole)

IV What about “Gifts”

What is the difference between talents and gifts?

Talents are more “ordinary” and gifts are more “supernatural”, but this is not an important distinction.

What are the main Bible passages concerning gifts?

1 Cor. 12; Rom 12; Eph 4; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

Definition: “Any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and is used in any ministry of the church” (Grudem pg. 1016). The gifts are from the Spirit and of and for His grace.

Note: No Bible passage discusses *discovering* your spiritual gift. The emphasis of Rom 12 and 1 Cor. 12 is *how to use* your gifts.

1. All believers have at least one gift (1 Peter 4:10)
2. No believers has all of the gifts (Rom 12:6)
3. How many gifts? The biblical lists are examples – not exhaustive lists.
4. What is the purpose of gifts? Edification, service, and outreach
5. Have certain gifts ceased? Cessationism is the belief that some gifts (e.g. tongues, healing, prophetic revelation) pertained only to the apostolic era. This is not Solid Rock's view.
6. How should prophecy be tested?
 - a. Loyalty to Yahweh
 - b. Consistent with prior revelation
 - c. Character of the one delivering prophecy
7. Gift of tongues:
 - a. Human language unknown to the speaker (Acts 2), or
 - b. Something like an angelic language (1 Cor. 13:1)
 - c. 1 Cor. 14:2; People speaking in tongues speak only to God
 - d. 1 Cor. 14:20-23; This passage quotes Isa. 28:11-12. "Speaking in tongues had no effect on belief" (Gordon Fee)
 - e. You can be really immature and worldly and speak in tongues.
 - f. The point of the gifts is **fruit**, not the gifts.
 - g. The goal of the gifts is to **edify** (build up) the body (church)

CONCLUSION OF GIFTS: Whatever you are good at, use it for Jesus!

V. What about the sin of blasphemy the Holy Spirit in Matt 12:31-32?

Two camps: 1) can not be repeated today 2) can be repeated today.

Roy Zuck: "This specific sin cannot be reproduced today, for it required Jesus' presence on earth with His performing miracles through the Spirit's power." (pg. 47)

Warren Wiersbe: "It appears that this situation existed *only while Christ was ministering on earth*. Jesus did not appear to be different from any other Jewish man. To speak against Christ could be forgiven *while He was on earth*. But when the Spirit of God came at Pentecost as proof that Jesus was the Christ, and was alive, to reject the witness of the Spirit was final".

Carl Laney: "What the Pharisees had done was to attribute Christ's miracles to the work of Satan (Matt. 12:24). They were saying that Jesus was in league with the devil, doing Messiah's work by Satan's power. Many believers have wondered if they have committed the unpardonable sin. If someone is worried that they have committed this sin, their very spiritual concern would reflect the

fact that they have not. Further, the circumstances necessary to reproduce this sin are not possible today.”

Jon Courson: Seems to argue this blasphemy is possible today – “there comes a point in time when you have said “No” one too many times to the Holy Spirit.”

Gerry Breshears: “I think the unforgiveable sin is refusing the calling of the Spirit. Anyone who feels the pull of the Spirit and refuses it remains in unforgiveness. However, if they respond, then every sin, no matter how awful, is forgivable. That is Jesus main point – EVERY sin can be forgiven. But if you refuse the way of forgiveness, there is no possibility of being forgiven. People do refuse the Spirit today.”