


**"A BIBLICAL LOOK AT THE HOLY SPIRIT:
THE PERSON, MINISTRY, FRUITS AND GIFTS"**

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HOLY SPIRIT - THE PERSON & MINISTRIES

The Person of the Holy Spirit

There is one God, externally existent in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit (Mt 3:16-17, 12:18,28; Lk 1:35, 3:21-22; Jn 1:33-34, 3:34-35; II Cor 13:14). The Holy Spirit is God (Mt 28:19; Acts 5:3-4, 20:28, Jn 17:1; II Cor 3:17, 13:14), and has the characteristics of a person such as intelligence, emotion and a will (Jn 14:26; Is 11:2; Rom 15:30; I Cor 2:11; Eph 4:30).

Ministries of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, the "other helper", has many ministries and functions. Following is a list of some of His ministries:

- 1) Baptizes believers into the body of Christ (I Cor 12:13)
- 2) Regenerates us (spiritually born again) (John 3: 3-8; Jn 1:12-13; I Pet 1:3,23; I Jn 5:1; Titus 3:5)
- 3) Seals believers for the day of redemption (Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; II Cor 1:21-22); sanctifies (II Thes 2:13; Rm 15:16; I Cor 6:11; I Pet 1:2)
- 4) Is a helper/comforter (Jn 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7-15)
- 5) Guides us to truth; teaches us (Jn 16:13-15, 14:26; I Cor 2:10-13)
- 6) Gives us power (Acts 1:8; Eph 3:14-21; Rm 15:19; I Cor 2:4)
- 7) Gives us boldness (Acts 4:31)
- 8) Has given us the Word of God (II Pet 1:21)
- 9) Gives us wisdom (I Cor 12:8)
- 10) Intercedes for us (Rm 8:22-23, 26-27)
- 11) Brings conviction (Jn 16:8)
- 12) Gives faith (I Cor 12:9)
- 13) Bears witness of Jesus (Jn 15:26; I Jn 5:5-9)
- 14) Glorifies Jesus (Jn 16:14)
- 15) Gives believers spiritual gifts (I Cor 12:4-11)
- 16) Bears Fruit in believers (Gal 5:16-23)
- 17) Indwells us (Rm 8:9-11; Jn 14:16-29; I Cor 3:16, 6:19)

- 18) Can fill/control us (Eph 5:18; Acys 4:31, 9:17, 13:19, 13:52)
 - 19) Leads us (Rm 8:14; Gal 5:18; Acts 8:29)
 - 20) "Testifies" (Acts 20:22-23; Jn 15:26; I Jn 5:6-8)
 - 21) Searches all things (I Cor 2:9-13)
 - 22) Gives us power over sin/flesh (Rm 8; Gal 5:16-17)
 - 23) Grants us "things" of the Spirit (Rm 8:5) such as:
 - Life and peace (Rm 8:6)
 - Absence of fear and closeness to God (Rm 8:15)
 - Inner assurance of our standing with God (Rm 8:16-17)
 - Awareness that all things are working together for good (Rm 8:28)
 - 24) Encourages us (Acts 9:31)
 - 25) Strenthens us (Acts 9:31; Rm 8:26; Eph 3:16)
 - 26) Gives life (Ps 104:30; Is 44:3-4; Jn 6:53; I Pet 3:18)
- (Note: Numbers 1,2,3,11,15,17 occur at point of salvation; #11 occurs prior to salvation as well as after salvation; #s 4,5,6,7,9,10,12,13,14,16– 26 occur in the present)

Filling of the Holy Spirit

We are encouraged to be "filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). The Holy Spirit indwells us the moment we receive Jesus as Savior (ie. the moment we are sprirtually born again) (Rm 8:9, 14; I Cor 12:13). However, we can be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but not filled with the Holy Spirit ("resident", but not "President").

Being filled with the Holy Spirit involves renouncing the works of the flesh (old nature) and trusting God to produce the fruit of the Spirit in us (Gal 5:16-23). Specific steps include:

- 1) Ask God to fill us and then yield to the Spirit (I Jn 5:14-15; Lk 11:13).
- 2) Confess your sins and renounce the works of the flesh (I Jn 1:9; Gal 5:16-23).
- 3) Be in God's Word regularly (Jn 14:21; Eph 5:18 - 6:20; Col 3:16).
- 4) Consistent daily walk (prayer, praise, Bible study, good works).

We are told to quench not the Spirit, nor to grieve the Spirit (I Thes 5:19; Eph 4:30), but to walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16).

Filling of the Holy Spirit (cont.)

Following is some teaching on being filled by the Holy Spirit from Bill Bright (Campus Crusade):

- A. The average Christian continues to live in defeat and is not filled with the Spirit because of lack of knowledge.
 - 1. If he knew how much God loved him and the power that was available to him to experience an abundant life, the carnal Christian would no more want to remain carnal than the non-Christian would want to remain a non-Christian.
 - 2. He does not understand that from the moment of spiritual birth God has made His power available to enable the Christian to go on growing toward maturity in Christ.
 - 3. The average Christian, not understanding how to be filled with the Spirit by faith, lives a miserable, defeated, roller coaster kind of life (Romans 7:15,25).
 - 4. The average Christian is not aware of his spiritual heritage.
- B. The average Christian is not filled with the Spirit because of unbelief.
 - 1. Many people are afraid of God; they do not trust Him (Hebrews 3:19, I John 4:18).
 - 2. Many feel that God will require the impossible of them; they doubt the extent of God's love (Matthew 7:11).
 - 3. Many feel that God will take away their pleasures; they do not realize how great is His plan for us (Matthew 6:33).
- V. How can you be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - A. You are filled with the Spirit by faith.
 - 1. You become a Christian by faith (Ephesians 2:8,9).
 - 2. You also walk in the Spirit by faith (Colossians 2:6).
 - B. You do not have to beg God for what is already yours (Romans 1:17).
 - C. Several factors contribute to heart preparation for being filled by faith.
 - 1. You must desire to live a life that will please the Lord (Matthew 5:6).
 - 2. You must be willing to surrender the control of your life to Christ according to the command of God (Romans 12:1,2).
 - 3. You must confess any sin which the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and claim His forgiveness (I John 1:9).
 - D. There are two words to remember in claiming His filling by faith.
 - 1. His *command* is that we be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
 - 2. His *promise* is that He always answers when we pray according to His will (I John 5:14,15).
 - E. It is important to remember:
 - 1. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit already indwells you.
 - 2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a once-and-for-all experience; we are to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit as a way of life.
 - 3. It is not simply by prayer that we are filled. It is by faith.
 - F. We can never make ourselves good enough to please God; we must live by faith (Romans 8:7; Jeremiah 17:9; Galatians 2:20).
 - G. The result of being filled and of walking in the Spirit is that we become dead to self and alive to God (Matthew 6:24; John 12:24).
 - H. We live by faith. Feelings are valid as a by-product of faith and obedience, but at no time should we depend upon feelings alone.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit will result in:

- 1) Bearing spiritual fruit -- being spiritually productive and exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit (Jn 15:16; Gal 5:22-23).
- 2) Word of God becoming more meaningful and stimulating our spiritual growth (Col 3:16).

Relationship Between the Spirit and the Word

There is a strong relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. We are told to be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18) AND to let the Word of God dwell richly within us (Col 3:16). Refer to Exhibit A for a listing of their common ministries.

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law".

By consistently exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit, we will attract unbelievers and believers to God. And harmony and unity should reign in the body of Christ.

One commentator suggests that the primary fruit (singular) of the Spirit is LOVE, and includes love in action:

- Joy - love rejoicing
- Peace - love resting
- Patience - love's patience
- Kindness - love's touch
- Goodness - love's character
- Faith - love's trust
- Gentleness - love's humility
- Self-Control - love's strength

LOVE

Definitions

Offner: "Love in the New Testament can refer to sensual, brotherly or divine love, depending on the word used. Divine love includes the reaching out to others in sacrificial service".

Webster: "unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another".

Case Study

Luke 10:30-37 (Good Samaritan)

Biblical Principles

WHAT

"An emotion, sentiment or feeling of pleasurable attraction toward, or delight in, something, as a principle, a person, or a thing, which induces a desire for the presence, possession, well being or promotion of the object" (NASB Master Study Bible).

* We know love by Jesus laying down His life for us (Jn 3:16; I Jn 4:10)

* Love is the highest virtue (I Cor 13:1-3, 13)

* Love is the supreme command of God (Mt 22:37-40) and summarizes the entire law of God (Rm 13:8-10; James 2:8)

Love (cont.)

- * Christian love is characterized by the giving of oneself to God and others even to the point of death, following the example of Jesus (I Jn 3:16)
- * Love is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- * Love is an outworking of faith (Gal 5:6), and faith is sustained by prayer (Lk 22:32)
- * Love is rooted in hope (Col 1:4-5), and hope is preserved by prayer (Eph 1:18)
- * Love is guided and inspired by knowledge of the Word (Phil 1:9; Jn 17:17), and prayer opens the eyes of the heart to the wonders of the Word (Ps 119:18)
- * Love is patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant (I Cor 13:4), not act indecently, not selfish, slow to anger, does not seek malice or revenge (I Cor 13:5), does not rejoice in unrighteousness, rejoices in truth (I Cor 13:6), bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (I Cor 13:7), never fails (I Cor 13:8)
- * Love can not be easily quenched (Song of Solomon 8:7)
- * God is love (I Jn 4:16)
- * No fear in love; perfect love casts out fear (I Jn 4:18)
- * Nothing can separate us from God's love (Rm 8:39)
- * Love is pouring out ourselves for the sake of others, even when they don't deserve it (Phil 2:5 - 11)

WHY

- * We love because God first loves us (I Jn 4:19)
- * If we abide in love, we abide in God and God abides in us (I Jn 4:16)
- * If we love Christ, we earn the crown of life (Ja 1:12) and are heirs of His kingdom (Ja 2:5)
- * If believers love each other, outsiders will know we are disciples of Christ (Jn 13:35)
- * Love covers all transgressions (Pv 10:12) and a multitude of sins (I Pet 4:8)
- * Love edifies (I Cor 8:1)

Love (cont.)

WHO We are to love God, and our neighbors as ourselves (Mt 22:37-40; Duet 6:5; Lev 19:18)

- * We are to love one another (I Jn 4:7; Jn 13:34, 15:12)
- * Do good to all men (Gal 6:10)
- * Do good deeds to meet pressing needs (Titus 3:14)
- * Are to love other believers (Heb 13:1; I Pet 2:17)
- * Should love our enemies (Lk 6:27)
- * If we love God, we **MUST** also love our brother (I Jn 4:20-21)
- * Through love, we should serve each other (Gal 5:13)
- * Husbands are to love their wives (Eph 5:25, 28, 33; Col 3:19)
- * Wives should love their husbands and their children (Titus 2:4)

**WHERE/
WHEN** * Love is from God (I Jn 4:7); love found in Jesus
(I Tim 1:14; II Tim 1:13); love found in Holy Spirit (Gal 5)

* A friend loves at all times (Pv 17:17)

HOW * We show our love for God by keeping His commandments (I Jn 5:3; Jn 14:15; Jn 14:21)

- * We should love with works, not just words (I Jn 3:18)
- * Should keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21)
- * Should not love the world or things that are in the world (I Jn 2:15)
- * Should be rooted and grounded in love (Eph 3:17); and walk in love (Eph 5:2)
- * Should love in the Spirit (Col 1:18)
- * Should stimulate each other to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)
- * We should pursue love (I Tim 6:11)
- * No greater love that laying down our life for a friend (Jn 15:13)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

JOY

Definitions

Offner: "Joy in the New Testament has its source in Jesus Christ, rather than in mere physical comfort and well-being. Joy is also based on the hope of Christ's return and our eternal home in heaven".

Webster: "to experience great pleasure or delight; rejoice".

Case Study

Luke 24:33-53 (Jesus resurrection)

Biblical Principles

- We should be joyful when we are hated, ostracized insulted and spurned for the sake of Jesus (Lk 6:22-23); Persecution for Christ's sake enhances joy (Mt 5:11-12; Acts 5:41)
- Angels experience joy over every sinners that repents (Lk 15:10)
- Jesus wants to give us His joy and have our joy full (Jn 15:11, 17:13)
- Jesus said to ask in His name, then we will receive and have our joy made full (Jn 16:24)
- The disciples were continually filled with joy and the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52)
- We should consider it joy even when we encounter various trials (Jm 1:2)
- There is great joy in having our children walking in the truth (III Jn 1:4)
- The hope of God should fill us with joy (Rm 15:13)
- Experiences of sorrow enlarge our capacity for joy (Jn 16:20; Rm 5:3-5; II Cor 1:3-4, 8:2; Heb 10:34; Jm 1:2)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

PEACE

Definitions

Offner: "Peace in the New Testament is related to the Old Testament concept of shalom. It denotes wholeness, well-being and harmony with God and people".

Webster: "freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relationships".

Case Study

Acts 7 (stoning of Stephen)

Biblical Principles

- We should seek and pursue peace (Ps 34:14)
- The wisdom from above is peaceable (Jm 3:17)
- Trusting in God leads to peace (Is 26:3-4)
- Jesus gives us peace. His peace is different from the worlds' (Jn 14:27)
- We have peace in Jesus. We have tribulation in the world, but we can take courage because Jesus has overcome the world (Jn 16:33). Jesus is our peace (Eph 2:14).
- We have peace with God through Jesus Christ (Rm 5:1; Col 1:20)
- We should try to be at peace with all men (Heb 12:14; Rm 12:18)
- We should pursue the things which make for peace (Rm 14:19)
- God is called the "God of Peace" (Rm 15:33, 16:20; II Cor 13:11)
- God is a God of peace, not confusion (I Cor 14:33)
- The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, can guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:7)
- We should let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (Col 3:15)
- We should be anxious for nothing, but pray, then we can experience the peace of God (Phil 4:6-7)

Peace (cont.)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

PATIENCE

Definitions

Offner: "Patience refers to the prolonged restraint of anger".
Conveys idea of being "long tempered" versus "short tempered".

Webster: "bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint; not hasty; steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity; able or willing to bear".

Case Study

Matthew 18:21-35 (unmerciful servant)

Biblical Principles

- God has patience (Rm 2:4, 3:20); God is slow to anger (Num 14:18; Ex 34:6; Ps 86:15); Jesus has perfect patience (I Tim 1:16)
- We should be patient with all men (I Thes 5:14)
- We will obtain God's promises if we have faith and are patient (Heb 6:12-15)
- We find favor with God when we patiently endure suffering for doing what is right (I Pet 2:20)
- Lord is patient about His return because He does not wish any to perish but all to come to repentance (II Pet 3:9)
- Patience grows in trials and perfects Christian character (Jm 1:3-4)
- God gives us patience (perseverance) (Rm 15:5)

Patience (cont.)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

KINDNESS

Definitions

Offner: "Kindness means treating others as God has treated us -- with compassion and generosity".

Webster: "affectionate, loving; of a sympathetic nature, disposed to be helpful; of a forbearing nature, gentle".

Case Study

2 Samuel 9 (David and Jonathan)

Biblical Principles

- God is kind; kindness of God leads to repentance (Rm 2:4; Tit 3:4)
- God exhibited kindness to us through Jesus Christ (Eph 2:7)
- God's kindness is everlasting (Ps 107:1)
- We should be kind (Eph 4:32; I Thes 5:15; Col 3:12-17)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

GOODNESS

Definitions

Offner: "Goodness is primarily a moral quality which has as its standard the moral perfection of God".

Webster: "kind, benevolent; virtuous, just, benevolent".

Case Study

Psalm 107 (God's goodness)

Biblical Principles

- Our goodness should be of our own free will, not by compulsion (Phm 1:14)
- God is good (Ps 107:1)
- We should be ready to do whatever is good (Titus 3:1-2)
- We should seek and love good, not evil (Amos 5:14-15)
- A good man shall obtain favor from the Lord (Pv 12:2)
- A good man will have satisfaction (Pv 14:14)
- If we sow goodness, we will eventually reap a harvest (Gal 6:7-10)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

FAITHFULNESS

Definitions

Offner: "Faithfulness means to be trustworthy or reliable".

Webster: "loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute; firm adherence to what one holds allegiance".

Faithfulness (cont.)

Case Study

Genesis 6-9 (Noah)

Biblical Principles

- When we are faithful with the resources God loans us, we will be richly rewarded; if we are faithful in little things, God will grant us greater responsibilities (Mt 25; Lk 19:17)
- God is faithful (I Cor 1:9; Ps 89:1-10, 40:10; Lam 3:23)
- If we are not faithful in the use of unrighteous money, then true riches may not be entrusted to us (Lk 16:11)
- God is faithful to strengthen us and protect us from the evil one (II Thes 3:3)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

GENTLENESS

Definitions

Offner: "Gentleness can mean being gentle, humble or considerate".

Webster: "kind, amiable; free from harshness, sternness, or violence".

Case Study

I Thes 2:1-12 (Paul and Thessalonians)

Gentleness (cont.)

Biblical Principles

- Jesus says "blessed are the gentle" (Mt 5:5)
- Jesus is gentle (Mt 11:28-30, 21:5; II Cor 10:1)
- We should pursue gentleness (I Tim 6:11)
- We should be gentle in correcting those who are in opposition (II Tim 2:25; Pv 15:11)
- Wisdom from above is gentle (Jm 3:17)
- We should always be ready to defend our faith, but with gentleness (I Pet 3:15)
- We should be gentle and show consideration for all people (Titus 3:2)

Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.