

With the amount of emphasis placed on the Holy Spirit and the multitude of passages of scripture this third member of the Godhead, it is amazing the religious world is overwhelmed with confusion on this subject.

Person of the Godhead

The Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit is not an "it" or just a divine influence but a "He." This is demonstrated in His personality. He has the characteristics of personhood: affection (Rom. 15:30); goodness (Neh. 9:20); knowledge (1 Cor. 2:9-11); mind (Rom. 8:27); and will (1 Cor. 12:11). The Holy Spirit engages in the activities of a person. He witnesses or testifies (Jn. 15:26). He makes intercession (Rom. 8:26). He searches (1 Cor. 2:10). He leads or forbids (Acts 16:6-7). He can teach (Jn. 14:26). He guides to all truth (Jn. 16:12-14). He invites (Rev. 22:17). He speaks (1 Tim. 4:1; Acts 8:28; 10:19).

The Holy Spirit is not just a person. He is deity or God. He has the characteristics of divine personality. He is: eternal (Rom. 16:26; Rev. 22:13; Heb. 9:14); holy (Rev. 4:8; 15:4; Ac. 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:20); omnipotent (Gen. 17:1; Rev. 1:8; Rom. 15:19; Jer. 32:17; Lk. 1:35); omnipresent (Jer. 23:24; Eph. 1:23; Ps. 139:7-10); and omniscient (Acts 15:18; Jn. 21:17; 1 Cor. 2:10,11; Job 26:13; 33:4). He is part of the Godhead or trinity (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 13:14). Godhead means "deity, the state of being God: Godhead" (Thayer). The Holy Spirit a person, a divine being, an intelligent personality just like God the Father and God the Son.

Revelation of God's Will

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Tim. 3:16). Inspiration means to "breathe in or to be influenced by another." Scriptures are God-breathed. Peter explains: *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:21). Divine Truth was sent to man from God (James 1:17; 1 Cor. 2:9-13); to Christ (Heb. 1:3); through Holy Spirit (John 14:26); to the Apostles (1 Cor. 2:9-11);

which resulted in the written words of the New Testament (Eph. 3:3-5; 1 John 1:3,4). The revelation of God's Will has been *"once for all delivered to the saints"* (Jude 3).

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Some hold the belief Holy Spirit Baptism is to be received by Christians today. John the Baptist promised Jesus Christ would administer this baptism (Matthew 3:11). There are only two examples of Holy Spirit Baptism in the New Testament: in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost when received by the Apostles and in Acts 10 when received by Cornelius and his household.

Jesus explained the reason for sending the Holy Spirit or Comforter to the Apostles (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). It was given only to them for the purpose of helping them bear witness for Christ, giving them power to declare the future, guiding them into all truth, revealing the Word of God, and the power to confirm their words with miracles and speaking in tongues. The time and place of this baptism was on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came with power (Luke 24:49; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:4; 2:1-4).

Holy Spirit Baptism was given to Cornelius and his household as a sign to Peter and the other Jewish brethren that God had accepted the Gentiles. Peter then commanded them to be baptized with water (Acts 10:48). Only water baptism can save (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16).

Holy Spirit Baptism was a promise to be received (John 16:13; Acts 1:8). It was administered only by Christ to the Apostles and Cornelius' household for the purpose which had been fulfilled at that time. In contrast water baptism is a command (Mark 16:16) to be obeyed (Ac. 10:48) and administered only by man for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). By 62 AD Paul wrote there is *"one baptism"* it is water baptism for salvation - not Holy Spirit Baptism.

Holy Spirit and Tongue Speaking

Tongue speaking is found in most world religion both ancient and modern. Contemporary

tongue speaking is an desperate longing to undergo the "miracle," done an very emotionally packed religious service, resulting in a frantic inarticulate speaking with babbling nonsense and not understandable language.

The gift of speaking in tongues was divinely regulated by commands from God. The individual who had the gift of tongues had complete control of himself and his gifts at all times (1 Cor. 14:26-32). Tongue speaking was never intended to be universal in the church (1 Cor. 12:30). Tongues were useless unless understandable (1 Cor. 14:7-11). Christians were not to use this gift unless someone could interpret (1 Cor. 14:18,19; 26:33).

The ability to speak in tongues according to the New Testament involved a human language understood by those who heard it in their own language. It was only temporary. The so-called tongue speaking of today is not understandable language by anyone and claims to be an on going gift.

Duration of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The purpose of Christ's miracles was to establish the truthfulness of His claim to be the Son of God and verify His Divine mission (John 20:30,31). These gifts were given to the first Christians to confirm the Word preached and to edify the congregation (1 Cor. 14:12; 22-25).

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were imparted to Christians by the laying on of the apostles' hands (Acts 8:18; 19:6; 2 Tim. 1:6). These gifts ceased with the death of the last Christian upon whom an Apostle imparted a spiritual gift by the laying on of hands.

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul contrasts the ceaseless nature of love with the temporal nature of these gifts (13:8-13). Love is intended to be permanent in the church. Gifts were designed to meet a temporary need (1 Cor. 13:8-13). Before the completion of the New Testament Christians could only know in part. After completion of the New Testament these gifts were done away. Paul compared gifts with childhood and the perfect or completed revelation with manhood

when childish things were put away. Also gifts were compared to looking into a dim and dark mirror, but with the written Word one can know the Truth just as if he was looking face to face. There is no need for gifts today, because we have the confirmed written Word of God.

Conviction and Conversion of the Sinner

In regard to the conviction and conversion of the sinner there are two views. First, the Holy Spirit by operating directly upon the heart of the sinner in some mysterious or miraculous way separate and apart from the written or spoken Word saves the sinner. Second, the Holy Spirit only saves indirectly through the revealing of the Word.

The Holy Spirit separate and apart from the Word, never fell upon anyone, at anytime or in any place to forgive the sinner of his sins. Philip performed miracles by Holy Spirit in Samaria. The Samaritans believed in the preaching of the confirmed Word of God (Acts 8:5-12). Although the Holy Spirit sent Philip to join himself to the Ethiopian's chariot, it was only when the eunuch heard and obeyed the Word preached that he was saved (Acts 8:35f). Although Cornelius and his household received Holy Spirit Baptism, he was told by an angel to send for Peter for *"words by which you and all your household will be saved"* (Acts 11:14). Peter commanded them to be baptized. The Word of God is the instrument of the Holy Spirit in conversion.

Work of The Holy Spirit, Today

When one is baptized for the remission of sins, they are promised to *"receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:38). This is not one of the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Greek word used for "gift" here is *dorea* not *charisma* which is used in reference to the "spiritual gifts." Neither is the "gift" the Gospel message. They just received the Gospel (2:36). This gift is the seal of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). This seal *"is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory"* (Eph. 1:14). The Holy Spirit

is the donor. He gives a guarantee. It is the earnest money or the first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge that makes a contract valid. The Holy Spirit is the Divine pledge that all of God's promises will be fulfilled in the life of a faithful Christian.

Not only does the Holy Spirit help us today by giving us this gift, He helps us in prayer (Rom. 8:26,27) and dwells in us just as God the Father and Jesus Christ dwell in us (Rom. 8:11). This is about relationship or fellowship with deity, not direct guidance (Rom. 8:11).

Summary

The Holy Spirit is a person in the Godhead possessing all the attributes of deity. His role in revealing God's Word and Holy Spirit baptism had been fulfilled. Miraculous gifts, such as, speaking in tongues ceased. The Spirit's role the conviction and conversion of the lost is only indirect through the Word. Today, saints have the seal of the Holy Spirit, assistance in prayer, and fellowship with the faithful.

Your are Invited to attend the

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which meets at

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Service Times

Sunday
 Bible Study.....9:30 am
 Worship Service.....10:30 am
 Worship Service.....5:00 pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study.....7:30 pm

The Holy Spirit



"And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him"

– Luke 3:22

by Daniel R. Vess