

## **Pneumatology – The Study of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-head and has a special ministry amongst God's people.

*Note:* The teaching on the Holy Spirit is a subject that is abused in Christendom today. There have been a number of extreme teachings that are flawed — especially in the so-called “Charismatic Movement” and Pentecostal denominations.

- The two major areas connected with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit that are misunderstood are:
  - ✓ The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - ✓ The Spiritual Gifts

*Note:* Each of these issues will be addressed during this series of lectures.

- There are six sessions, and the following lessons will be addressed:
  - A. THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - B. THE NAMES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - C. THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - D. THE DIVINE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - E. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE O/T
  - F. THE TYPES AND SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## A. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

**Note:** Cults, such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses, teach that “The Holy Spirit” is an “impersonal force” rather than the third Person of the God-head.

- As you read the Scriptures you may get the impression from the function and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit is a powerful force and not a person.
  - The Holy Spirit is distinct from the Father and the Son.
- Also, the Holy Spirit may seem impersonal because there are many symbolic terms given to the Holy Spirit such as: “water”, “oil” etc.
  - However, the Father and the Son are also given symbolic terms such as: “rock”, “fortress”, “tower”, “cornerstone” etc.

### a. The Holy Spirit is a Person

- 1) The Holy Spirit is not just a powerful force or a source of energy. The Holy Spirit is a Powerful Person within the God-Head.
  - The Holy Spirit is referred to as a person and not an “IT”.
  - The Holy Spirit is given Personal Pronouns.

***John 14:16** “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”*

***John 14:17** “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him: for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”*

***John 16:7-8** “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. (8) And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

- 2) There is an objection raised concerning Romans 8:16, 26, where the word “itself” is used referring to the “Holy Spirit”.

***Romans 8:16** “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”*

***Romans 8:26** “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

- The word for “Spirit” (pneuma) is a neuter pronoun. But in many cases in the New Testament the masculine pronouns are used to refer to the Holy Spirit.
- The use of the neuter pronoun “it” is grammatically correct when speaking in the third person. For example: A doctor speaking to parents might say, “The baby has a high fever, and the baby itself is not doing too well.”

- 3) There is a personal reference referring to the God-head.
- Remember, the God-head is made up of three distinct persons.

***Matthew 28:19** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the **name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**”*

**b. The Holy Spirit exhibits the marks of a Personality.**

- 1) The Holy Spirit has **KNOWLEDGE**

***1 Corinthians 2:11** “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”*

- ❖ No man other than yourself knows what you are thinking, and so it is with the things of God; and no man can know the mind of God or the things of God, except through the Spirit of God.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is full of Wisdom and divine intelligence.

- 2) The Holy Spirit has **A WILL**

***1 Corinthians 12:7, 11** “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal...**(11)** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

- ❖ It is emphasized that Spiritual gifts are not something to seek after, but rather to be received from the Spirit "**as He wills.**"
  - The Holy Spirit is the one who chooses by the Will of God to impart gifts to every man.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is sovereign.

- 3) The Holy Spirit has **A MIND**

***Romans 8:27** “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

- ❖ As the Father searches the hearts of men, the Father knows the desires of the Holy Spirit, which works in unity with the will of God.

- The Holy Spirit's desires are in full submission to the Father's Will.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who has desires.

4) The Holy Spirit has **CHARACTER**

*Galatians 5:22-23* "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

- ❖ The works of the flesh are characterized by the sinful nature and the works of the Holy Spirit are characterized by the Spirit's nature.
- There are nine character traits of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5. (These character traits will be defined in a practical way in later lessons.)

**Note:** The first characteristic of the Holy Spirit is "love" because all of the other character traits are really an outgrowth and outflow of love.

**Love** = Defined in 1 Corinthians 13, Demonstrated by Christ, and Described by the Father – God is Love. 1 John 4:8

**Joy** = A complete gladness. A satisfying of the soul, and a godly contentment. Joy is not based on circumstances, but it is given by the Spirit of God.

**Peace** = Perfect rest. A calm and quiet spirit that has no fears or doubts.

**Longsuffering** = To be patient; to endure hardship; to be merciful and forgiving.

**Gentleness** = Tender hearted, not rude and harsh.

**Goodness** = To be kind, to do good, and to be generous.

**Faith** = To be faithful and committed; trustworthy and truthful. To keep the faith.

**Meekness** = To have humility. To be in lowliness of mind.

**Temperance** = To have self-control. To have a ruled spirit.

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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who has a moral divine nature.

**c. The Holy Spirit demonstrates His Personality through His Works/Function.**

*Note:* The works of the Holy Spirit will be defined in another lesson in more detail.

1) The Holy Spirit **TEACHES** – Luke 12:12, John 14:26

*Luke 12:12* “For the Holy Ghost shall **TEACH** you in the same hour what ye ought to say.”

- ❖ The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit involves the following:
    - The Holy Spirit is able to help us understand the Scriptures.
    - The Holy Spirit is able to bring to memory the things we have been already taught from the Scriptures.
    - The Holy Spirit is able to instruct us when speaking to others about the Scriptures.
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*Note:* The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to instruct others.

2) The Holy Spirit **GUIDES** – John 16:13

*John 16:13* “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will **GUIDE** you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

- ❖ Being guided by the Holy Spirit is similar to being taught by the Holy Spirit.

3) The Holy Spirit **CONVICTS** – Luke 16:8

*John 16:8* “And when he is come, he will **REPROVE** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

- ❖ The Holy Spirit reveals the heart of man. He generates an inward awareness and the reality of the fallen nature by showing them their condition, their need, and their end.
    - The Holy Spirit convicts men that they are guilty before God.
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*Note:* The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to convince others.

4) The Holy Spirit **GIVES UTTERANCE** – Acts 2:4, Luke 12:12

*Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them UTTERANCE.”*

- ❖ The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak foreign languages. They were languages that were foreign to them, but known languages to others.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can enable others.

5) The Holy Spirit **COMMANDS** – Acts 8:29

*Acts 8:29 “Then the Spirit said unto Philip, GO NEAR, and join thyself to this chariot.”*

- ❖ **Question:** Did the Holy Spirit speak to Philip with an audible voice?
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to command others.

6) The Holy Spirit **FORBIDS** – Acts 16:6-7

*Acts 16:6-7 “Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were FORBIDDEN of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, (7) After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.”*

- ❖ **Question:** How did the Holy Spirit forbid them?
  - We are not told exactly how the Holy Spirit worked to hinder their journey.
  - The Holy Spirit can use circumstances to redirect our steps.
  - What we do know is that these Godly men were sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to redirect others.

7) The Holy Spirit **LEADS** – Romans 8:14

*Romans 8:14 “For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”*

- ❖ To be led means “to take with” or “to bring along”. The Holy Spirit leads Christians by His indwelling influence at the time of their conversion.
  - Without the leading of the Holy Spirit, Christians have no Spiritual direction.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to lead others.

8) The Holy Spirit **TESTIFIES**

***Romans 8:16** “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”*

- ❖ To bear witness means “to testify”. The Holy Spirit is able to give evidence to the professing believer that they are the children of God.
  - The Holy Spirit is the one that affirms the believer’s salvation by giving them assurance of their son-ship.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to give assurance to others.

9) The Holy Spirit **HELPS** – Romans 8:26

***Romans 8:26** “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

- ❖ To help means “to take hold of” and to assist”. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray at times of distress and hardships and at times of loss and hopelessness.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who is able to help others.

10) The Holy Spirit **MINISTERS** – Revelation 2:7

***Revelation 2:7** “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit **SAITH** unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”*

- **Note:** In the passages before us the Holy Spirit conveys a promise to all those that are overcomers in Christ.

- ❖ What the Holy Spirit says is a perfect source of divine inspiration, and He is appointed to minister truth to all the churches.
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Ephesus**, “Come back to your first love” (Revelation 2:1-7).
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Smyrna**, “Be Faithful to the end” (Revelation 2:8-11).
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Pergamos**, “Do not be a stumbling block to others” (Revelation 2:12-17).
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Thyatira**, “Get rid of Jezebel” (Revelation 2:18-29).
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Sardis**, “Wake up and be watchful” (Revelation 3:1-6).
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Philadelphia**, “Endure patiently” (Revelation 3:7-13).
  - The Spirit says to the Church at **Laodicea**, “Repent, and open the door for Christ to come in” (Revelation 3:14-22).
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who ministers to others.

#### 11) The Holy Spirit **CALLS** – Acts 13:2

*Acts 13:2 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have **CALLED** them.”*

- ❖ The Holy Spirit calls men to the “work”. In this case, Paul and Barnabas are called and set apart for the preaching of the gospel through prayer and fasting.

***Morgan states,** “I do not for a moment imagine that the assembly heard a voice. That is the mistake we too often make. We try to force ourselves into ecstasies in order to hear the voice, then we imagine we hear it!”*

- Paul’s calling was made known by Christ in Acts 9, and then confirmed by the Spirit, in Acts 13.
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**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who calls others.

12) The Holy Spirit **APPOINTS** – Acts 20:28

*Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath **MADE YOU** overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

- ❖ The church takes on the responsibility to appoint and ordain elders, however, it is here that we see that the Holy Spirit is the one who makes them overseers.
  - The Holy Spirit calls and qualifies elders/pastors for the work.
  - The preaching and pastoral ministry is not a job that a person applies for; it is a calling a person answers.
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*Note:* The Holy Spirit is a person who calls others.

**d. The Holy Spirit demonstrates His Personality through His Personal interaction with Man.**

*Note:* This section will be looked at in more detail in another lesson.

1) The Holy Spirit can be **BLASPHEMED** – Matthew 12:31-32.

*Matthew 12:31-32 “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him ...”*

- **Blasphemy** = to slander, or to speak evil against.

*Note:* The Holy Spirit is a person who can be slandered.

2) The Holy Spirit can be **LIED TO** – Acts 5:3

*Acts 5:3 “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”*

- **To Lie** = to break a promise

*Note:* The Holy Spirit is a person who can be lied to.

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3) The Holy Spirit can be **RESISTED** – Acts 7:51

*Acts 7:51* “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.”

- **To resist** = to oppose, to go against.

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can be resisted.

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4) The Holy Spirit can be **GRIEVED** – Ephesians 4:30

*Ephesians 4:30* “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

- **To grieve** = to sadden, to bring sorrow

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can be grieved.

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5) The Holy Spirit can be **QUENCHED** – 1 Thessalonians 5:19

*1 Thessalonians 5:19* “Quench not the Spirit.”

- **To quench** = to put out, or extinguish

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can be quenched.

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6) The Holy Spirit can be **VEXED** – Isaiah 63:10

*Isaiah 63:10* “But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.”

- **Vexed** = to deeply displease

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can be displeased.

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7) The Holy Spirit can be **TEMPTED**– Acts 5:9

*Acts 5:9 “Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?”*

- **Tempt** = to test, to try

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can be tested.

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8) The Holy Spirit can be **OBEYED** – Acts 10:19-21

*Acts 10:19-21 “While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. (20) Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. (21) Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?”*

- **Obeied** = to submit to.

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is a person who can be obeyed.

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- **Note:** Simon the Sorcerer looked upon the HOLY SPIRIT as a powerful force, and wanted to buy it.

*Acts 8:18-23 “And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (19) Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. (20) But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. (21) Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. (22) Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (23) For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.”*

- The Holy Spirit is not a force, but is a Person that cannot be bought!