

What the Bible Says About The Holy Spirit.

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God, the Holy Spirit has always existed. At the time of creation God said, “Let us make man in our image” (Gen 1:26). The emphasis on “Us” includes God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. There is a misnomer, believed by some that there is nothing mentioned in the Old Testament about the Holy Spirit. However, the term, “The Holy Spirit of God” is used repeatedly in the O. T. and it literally refers to the third person of the Godhead. The truth of the matter is clear, the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit “pervades” the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

The person and ministry of the Holy Spirit is actually to be the “distinguishing mark” of Christianity and is the key factor in bringing ones personal encounter and experience with the Father and the Son into a meaningful relationship that is filled with his life, fruit and power. The Holy Spirit sets Christianity apart from all other religions, bringing a believer into a real personal relationship with his creator and savior. The Holy Spirit of God makes God a “practical reality” in ones heart and life. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead and is therefore not an “it” but a living person of the Godhead.

In terms of relationship the Holy Spirit brings about dynamic action of the reality of God the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ into the believer’s heart and soul. This is what is so drastically different about the dead “liturgical religion” approach to God and the life-giving “evangelical / charismatic approach”. Sadly to say there are people all around the world in non-evangelical “liturgical” churches that do many good and devout things for God but have never encountered the true life of Jesus Christ. The life of Jesus Christ is only brought about by the person and power of the Holy Spirit thru his regenerating power. This is what Jesus Christ himself called being born-again, (John 3:3-7).

Encountering the God of the Bible is not some dead “liturgical” exercise! God is all about life and it is His Holy Spirit that brings the breath of God and the life of His son Jesus Christ to a “practical reality” to the human heart. It is only then that the believer experiences the assurance of salvation along with the “illuminating”, “testifying”, “comforting”, “convicting”, and “empowering” ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is true then that the person of the Holy Spirit ushers in the powerful presence of almighty God to ones heart.

So why is it important to study about the Holy Spirit? L Thomas Holdcraft states that “the Christian who studies about the Holy Spirit is not merely concerning himself about abstract theology, but with the supreme reality of a Supreme Being.

The Holy Spirit is that person of the Holy Trinity whose office is to touch upon the believer and apart from the Third Person of the Godhead, no one can truly know God.” He goes on to state that the current Church age is often referred to and called “the age of the Spirit.”

D. L. Moody – “The Holy Spirit is God at Work.”

“PNUEMA” is the Greek term for Spirit, (breath, wind & spirit) of God.

P = “Pervades” Again the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit “pervades” the entire scriptures from Genesis to Revelations. There are 88 direct references to the Holy Spirit in the O. T. and 261 references in the New Testament. There is reference to the Holy Spirit in the Bibles beginning (Gen. 1:2) and its ending, (Rev. 22:17). The Holy Spirit is also mentioned or alluded to in 22 of the 39 O. T. books and all but three of the N. T. books (Philemon, 2 & 3rd John). However, every N. T writer does mention the Holy Spirit of God.

N = “Necessary” The Holy Spirit is the “necessary agent of the Godhead that brings us to the personal ‘knowledge’ of God.” Without Him no one can come to truly Jesus Christ, God’s son in a personal manner. He is also the author of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21), he illumines the scriptures by His anointing so that they can be understood and applied to ones life (1 Cor. 2:9-16, 1 John 2:20-27), he also leads and guides believers into God’s truth, (John 16:12-15).

E = “Essential” The Holy Spirit is “essential” in birthing the “new life” in a sinners heart, (Ezek. 36:26-27; John 3:3-7), in helping one worship in truth (John 4:27) and in aiding one to walk in the light of God’s truth, (Rom. 8:9-17). He also prays thru us when we do not know how to pray, (Rom. 8:26) and he empowers us to witness and carrying on the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, (Luke 11: 9-13; 24:45-49; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4; 10:44-46; 19:1-7).

U = “Undeniable” The Holy Spirit is also the “undeniable” member of the Godhead, completing the Trinity, (1Cor. 13:14).

M = “Makes” The Holy Spirit makes ministry alive and life-changing by gifting believers in such a way that “edifies”, “encourages”, and “equips” them for the good and maturity of the Church body, (Eph. 4:11-13; Rom. 12:5-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-11).

A = “Again” The current Church age is known as the “age of the Spirit of God”

**"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people...I will pour out my Spirit in those days"
(Joel 2:28-29);**

"So I say to you ask and it shall be given...how much more will I give the Holy Spirit to them that ask" (Luke 11:9-13);

"But you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witnesses..."

(Acts 1:8);

Jesus words to the 7 Church's in Asia, " He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches" (Rev. 2-3.)

PNUEMA = the Greek term meaning "Spirit" (breath, wind, spirit).

In Acts 15:28 we read of this statement, "It seemed good the Holy Spirit and to us."

The scene was the Jerusalem Council where there was a great debate and discussion taking place in regards to the question if the Jewish believers could maintain fellowship with the Gentile converts who were not circumcised, which ate non-kosher food and came out of the highly immoral Greek culture of their day.

There was advice and council given from several different sources, the Apostles, elders, and converted Pharisees. Peter had some wisdom as did Paul and Barnabas, I final word was given by James, the brother of Jesus that pleased the whole church. Then they wrote a letter about the council and their final decision that was made.

In their letter, they did not write that any of the human persons who spoke and gave advice had the answers. What stands out in their letter is the fact that a divine living presence had been among them guiding them thru the process and leading them a healthy conclusion. That divine presence was the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore we are privileged to read the words, "it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us."

There are several important elements that helped them resolve the dispute and conflict among them.

They are these: 1 – there was full and open discussion, 2 – there was open testimony of what God was doing, 3 – there was the Spirit of Scripture that was foundational and authoritative, 4 – there was only compromise when possible, 5 –there was clear communication of the decision(s) that were made, 6 – there was an acknowledgement and a conscience of the Divine presence of the Holy Spirit among them, leading and guiding them.

In Conclusion: The Holy Spirit of God is the Third Person of the Godhead and He pervades the entire Word of God from Genesis to Revelations.

He also pervades the hearts and lives of every true believer and is the active agent that is involved within the body of believers testifying to them of Jesus Christ, leading them into the truth of Scripture and bringing the reality of God's Divine presence home to the human heart. The Holy Spirit also empowers the believer to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ.

I therefore thank you Father God for the person and power of your Holy Spirit and acknowledge my great need of Him in my heart and life as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ.

What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about this teaching?

In Christ's love

Donn Jibben