

THE HOLY SPIRIT

November 20, 2022

Why Study the Holy Spirit?

- ⦿ The Holy Spirit is found throughout the Bible, so we should want to understand His presence and His mission. We want to speak correctly of Him.
- ⦿ The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood – who He is, what He does and how He does it.
 - There is therefore much controversy and varying doctrines that result, such as
 - Calvinism, Pentecostalism; charismatic movement; miraculous gifts, and emotionalism
 - Calvinism – irresistible grace
 - “This effectual call is of God’s free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.” (The Westminster Confession of Faith)
 - We ought to be able to refute error concern Him.
- ⦿ Just as we ought to know and believe in the God of the Bible and in the Jesus of the Bible, we ought to know and believe in the Holy Spirit of the Bible, and practice and teach that truth.

What approach shall we use to study the Holy Spirit?

- ◎ A. Z.T. Sweeney in his book, *The Spirit and the Word*, wrote:
 - “The subject may be made plain or simple according to the manner we may treat it. If we view it in the light of psychological manifestations in our own hearts, or in the lives of those around us, which are ascribed to the Spirit, we shall find ourselves wandering in a maze of mystery. If we follow the word of God, which is the only source of knowledge, we shall find ourselves walking in a light that shall grow brighter as we proceed. It is impossible in a book the size of this to treat all the many passages that refer to the Holy Spirit, but we shall give those that have important bearing upon the subject.”

What approach shall we use to study the Holy Spirit?

- ⦿ Deuteronomy 29:29
- ⦿ 1 Corinthians 2:1-13
- ⦿ Ephesians 3:1-5
- ⦿ The things revealed in the Bible were revealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - So the question is this: What has the Holy Spirit revealed about Himself in the Bible?
 - Those are the things we can know by faith and can walk by faith in.

The word “spirit” in the Bible does not always refer to the Holy Spirit.

- In the NT, the word most often translated “spirit” is the Greek word “pneuma” (Strong’s #4151)
 - “pneuma primarily denotes “the wind” (akin to pneo, “to breathe, blow”); also “breath”; then especially “the spirit,” which, like the wind, is invisible, immaterial, and powerful...” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, 1985, p. 593)

The word “spirit” may signify:

- ⦿ the cycle of respiration
 - Job 9:18
- ⦿ the invisible, immaterial, eternal spirit of man
 - Ecclesiastes 12:7
 - James 2:26
 - Romans 1:9
- ⦿ An angel, a demon, or the devil
 - Hebrews 1:7, 14
 - Matthew 12:43-46
 - Ephesians 2:2
- ⦿ The very essence of God (a definition of essence: the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, especially something abstract, that determines its character)
 - John 4:24

The word “spirit” may refer to:

⦿ an attitude

- Galatians 6:1
- 2 Corinthians 4:13
- 2 Timothy 1:7

⦿ The Holy Spirit

- Genesis 1:2
- Matthew 3:16-17
- John 14:16-17, 26
- Romans 8:11

- ⦿ A study of the Holy Spirit is important to the Christian because of the false doctrines that are taught about Him and are prevalent today. Those doctrines lead men away from conversion to Christ, away from true worship of God, and away from walking by faith.
- ⦿ We should go to the Scriptures for a knowledge and understanding of the Holy Spirit, for the Scriptures contain His own testimony concerning Himself.
- ⦿ Our study concerns the Holy Spirit, but because the word “spirit” in the Bible does not always refer to the Holy Spirit, we must be careful to not apply to the Holy Spirit the Scriptures which speak of another spirit, and we must be careful to apply to the Holy Spirit only those Scriptures that speak of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not

- ⦿ A mere influence or force
- ⦿ Some mystical ghost
- ⦿ The mind or the disposition of God
- ⦿ The Bible, the word of God, the New Testament
 - The Holy Spirit revealed the Bible
 - The Spirit is the Revelator and the Bible is the Revelation. The Bible is the product of the Spirit, but is not the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is divine. The Holy Spirit is:

- ⊙ God
 - Acts 5:3, 4
- ⊙ Eternal
 - Hebrews 9:14
- ⊙ Omnipresent
 - Psalm 139-7-10
- ⊙ Omniscient
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
 - John 16:13-14

The Holy Spirit is divine. The Holy Spirit:

- ⦿ Performs the works of divine power
 - In Creation
 - Genesis 1:1; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30
 - In Miracles
 - Matthew 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11
 - In Inspiration
 - 1 Peter 1:9-12; 2 Peter 1:19-21