

An Introduction to the Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. He is equal in power and glory to the Father and Son and is to be worshipped along with them. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a gift and he functions to lead, teach, and empower them for living and for ministry.

Old Testament

- In the OT, the Spirit of YHWH is God's power in action. God is present and at work through his Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit shapes creation, animates living organisms, controls nature, and directs the course of history.
- The Holy Spirit reveals God messages to prophets (spokespersons).
- The Holy Spirit elicits faith, praise, prayer, and other godly characteristics, and activities.
- The Holy Spirit equips God's leaders for service.

New Testament

- The Holy Spirit is personal rather than impersonal. He is the second Comforter (John 14).
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. He speaks in the name of the Father and Son, and brings glory and honor to them (e.g., see John 16:13-15).
- The Holy Spirit brings the new birth and everlasting life into manifestation (John 3:5-6; John 6:63).
- The Holy Spirit applies to the life of the believer all the benefits of what Jesus Christ accomplished at Calvary. The Spirit realizes and makes effective Christ's redeeming work within our lives (Ephesians 1:3-14; Galatians 3:13-14).
- The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11). He indwells, seals, brings life to, and intercedes for believers (Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:11; Romans 8:26-27).
- The Holy Spirit is the agent that God uses to sanctify (i.e., make holy) believers (Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Corinthians 6:11).
- The Holy Spirit enables Jesus Christ to announce the arrival of the kingdom and to minister in power while on earth (Matthew 12:22-30; Luke 4:18-19).
- The "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" enables the followers of Jesus Christ to continue his ministry as attested to in the book of Acts (Acts 1:8; Acts 2).
- The Holy Spirit distributes gifts (1 Corinthians 12) and produces fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). He makes Christians more like Christ. We must learn to cooperate with him.

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Spirit Baptism

1. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

See Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; and Acts 2:4.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an empowerment for ministry (Acts 1:8). Another way of saying this is: *the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a reception of power for God's service.*

2. What are some results of Spirit Baptism?

Basic Answer: more power to do the things of God.

Other Answers: Acts 2:1-13; Acts 4:23-31; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

3. How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit?

- The person must seek the giver of the gift of the Holy Spirit; that is, Jesus Christ.
- The person must ask for the gift in faith (Luke 11:13; Galatians 3:2).
- The person must embrace a life of praise and worship (Ephesians 5:18-21).
- A person must yield to the Holy Spirit's desire to fill him/her.

4. How can we increase the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power in our lives?

- Prayer
- Fasting
- Avoidance of Sin
- Participation in Spiritual Disciplines
- Etc.

Emblems of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is sometimes represented by wind, fire, a dove, dew, rivers, or oil. All these images give us valuable insights into the ministry of the third Person of the Trinity.

Concluding Points

- The Holy Spirit is here right now to help us.
- He is here to bring God's blessings into our lives.
- He wants to empower us.
- We need to cooperate with him.