

The Spirit of God
Week 2
The Names and Titles of the Holy Spirit

LBC 17/9/03

Introduction:

Names are very important in the Bible; they are often used by the Lord to indicate the character of the person or place so named. **Think of some examples:**

- Jacob = deceiver
- Israel = Prince with God
- Eve = life giver
- Bethel = the house of God
- Bethlehem = the house of bread
- Babel = confusion
- Abraham = father of a multitude

In our first study on the person of the Holy Spirit, we shall look into His various names and titles, and so delve into His character.

**** There are at least 16 names or titles given to the Holy Spirit:**

1. The Holy Spirit.

Although this is a very common term used for the Spirit of God, it appears in Scripture only 7 times.

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

“Spirit” = *pneuma* = a current of air, breath or a breeze; a spirit; ghost; life, spirit or mind.

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit [*pneuma*]: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

What does it mean that God is a Spirit? God is without a body; that He is not material or composed of parts; that He is invisible. The term non-corporeal (without a body) is often used. Almost all nations have had some idea of God as being material, thus the use of idols of wood, stone and metal, but the Bible declares that He is a pure spirit. As he is such a spirit, he dwells not in temples made with hands (Acts 7:48), neither is worshipped with men’s hands as though he needed anything (Acts 17:25).

Not only is God a Spirit, but He is the HOLY Spirit – He is pure, faultless, and separate from sinners.

Application: God, as a Spirit, seeks a spiritual worship—the offering of the soul rather than the formal offering of the body, and the devotion of the heart rather than that of the lips.

2. The Holy Ghost

This is a very common name, found 90 times in the Bible – but only in the New Testament. The word “ghost” has been termed a mistranslation by some, but to do so displays an ignorance of 17th century English. The term “ghost” now is used to refer to the spirit of a dead person, but it used to apply to any spirit, and so was essentially synonymous with the term “spirit.”

“Ghost” = *pneuma* = spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Application: As for the term “Holy Spirit.”

3. The Spirit of God.

C.f. The Spirit of the Lord; the Spirit of the Lord God.

This title emphasises the fact that the Holy Spirit belongs to God the Father. He is the very Spirit of God, the life and breath of the Father. The Hebrew language indicates that “the Spirit of God” is equivalent to “God who is a spirit.” Using the principle of first mention, this is our first introduction to the Person of the Holy Spirit, as One belonging to, and One with, the Father.

Genesis 1:2 “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

Application: The Holy Spirit belongs to God and IS God.

4. The Spirit of Christ.

The Spirit of God is also called the Spirit of Christ. That is, the Holy Spirit is the presence of the indwelling Christ for every Christian.

Romans 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

The word “spirit” can also be translated “mind”, so it is interesting to note that we are told that we have the mind of Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Application: Christ may not be present here with us in the flesh, but His Spirit, the Person of the Holy Spirit, dwells in us and with us, so that we might boldly and confidently do the work of the Lord.

Matthew 28:19, 20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

5. The Eternal Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is called the eternal Spirit – and who else is eternal, but GOD?

Hebrews 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Application: The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but is indeed the eternal and personal God.

6. The Spirit of Truth.

Jesus said that, "...ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32) Thus it is fitting that the Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of truth.

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 show you things to come."

Application: How can we hope to know the truth? How can we hope to understand the Bible and discern the falsehood and error of this world? We have the Spirit of truth.

7. The Spirit of Grace.

Our God is a God of wonderful and matchless GRACE:

1 Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

It is then fitting that His Spirit be known as the Spirit of grace:

Hebrews 10:29 "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

Application: How do we receive grace and comfort in our trials? The Spirit of grace ministers to us.

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S MATERIAL

8. The Spirit of Glory.

In the Old Testament, the presence of God was depicted by the Shekinah glory, appearing as a cloud upon the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle or Temple, and even filling those buildings on occasion. Shekinah = residence; to dwell.

Exodus 40:34, 35 "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."

The presence of God today appears in the Temple of our bodies as the Spirit of Glory:

1 Peter 4:14 "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified."

Application: Are you filled with the Spirit of Glory, just as the Temple was filled with the Shekinah Glory?

9. The Spirit of Life.

The law brings condemnation and death, but Jesus brings life and peace. It is then no surprise that the Spirit of Christ is called the Spirit of LIFE.

Romans 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Christless religion brings **bondage** and **death** – the Spirit of God brings **freedom** and **life**.

Application: The Spirit of God is the agent of the new birth, giving us our new life in Christ, and enabling us to live after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

10. The Spirit of Wisdom.

How do we obtain wisdom? From God, and from the Word of God. Who is the Agent who opens our eyes and helps us to have a wise perception of life? The Spirit of Wisdom.

Ephesians 1:17 “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:”

Application: Would you grow in wisdom? Walk in the Spirit, and not in the flesh.

11. The Spirit of Revelation.

God is certainly in the business of revealing Himself to His creation. How does He do so? By His Spirit. How does God open our eyes and reveal the truth of His marvellous Word to us? By His Spirit. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Revelation.

Ephesians 1:17 “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:”

1 Corinthians 2:9, 10 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

Application:

“Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee;
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine.”

12. The Comforter.

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Comforter = *Paraclete* = One who pleads the cause of another; helper; advocate; helper; a counsel for defence; a person who runs to the side of one who has fallen, and helps them.

This word “paraclete” tells us so much about the nature of the Holy Spirit that we shall devote a complete study to the subject at a later date.

It is interesting that the word *paraclete* is also applied to Christ:

1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate [*paraclete*] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

Application: The Holy Spirit runs to our aid when we fall and helps us back up to our feet.

13. The Spirit of Promise.

Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

How is the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Promise? He was promised to the disciples (John 16:7-11; Acts 1:4, 5) and later came down upon them at Pentecost.

14. The Spirit of Adoption.

According to John 1:12, those who believe on Christ and receive Him as Saviour are made the Sons of God. We are now children of light, whereas we once were children of darkness. The Person Who made us the children of God and enables us to call God our heavenly “Daddy” is the Spirit of Adoption.

Romans 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

Application: What a thrill to call God our Father! There is so much that we can learn about our relationship with God by studying the relationship of a father and son:

- A father loves his son.
 - “ “ provides for his son.
 - “ “ disciplines his son.
 - “ “ teaches his son.
 - “ “ protects his son.
 - “ “ will not cast out his son.
 - “ “ is patient with his son.
 - “ “ forgives his son.
 - “ “ expects his son to obey and respect him.
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15. The Spirit of Holiness.

Romans 1:3, 4 “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

The Spirit of God is not only holy Himself, but His goal in the life of the Christian is to produce the fruit of holiness. True Christianity works from the inside out (Philippians 2:12); this is opposed to religion, which tries to work from the outside in.

Romans 6:22 “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

Application: May we not hinder the Holy Spirit in this work of producing holiness.

16. The Spirit of Faith.

2 Corinthians 4:13 “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;”

Remember that faith is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8, 9), and that faith is also a fruit of the Spirit. It is no surprise, then, that the Spirit of God is entitled the Spirit of Faith.

Application: Would you increase in faith? Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Review / Discussion: