

The Spirit of God

Week 1

Introduction

LBC 10/9/03

“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?”

1 Corinthians 6:19

Introduction:

This week we are starting a new series of lessons on the person of the Holy Spirit. Over the next few months we shall study topics such as:

- The names and titles of the Holy Spirit.
- The deity of the Holy Spirit.
- The ministries of the Holy Spirit.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The personality of the Holy Spirit.
- The emblems of the Holy Spirit.
- The fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- The fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- The anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- The power of the Holy Spirit.
- Sinning against the Holy Spirit.
- Regeneration and the Holy Spirit.
- The illumination of the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit of God and the spirit of man.

**** Why would we take so much time to examine the third person of the trinity?**

1. We must study the Holy Spirit because He has been so misunderstood.

We certainly live a day of **confusion** and **false doctrine**. One area of teaching that has been perverted is teaching on the Holy Spirit. As a result, the Holy Spirit has been much misunderstood.

Charles Fox Parham was a member of the **Holiness** movement, a group that taught the doctrine that sinless perfection in this life may be achieved through the experience of a “second blessing.” Parham ran a small Bible college in Topeka, Kansas. The school never studied books of the Bible as individual units, but used only the chain reference method, where the context was often completely ignored. He had started the **College of Bethel** in the year 1900, and what happened at Bethel on **January 1, 1901**, was to have a major impact on Christianity of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Parham was especially interested in the different opinions within his movement concerning the **baptism of the Holy Spirit**. Most Holiness people equated the baptism in the Holy Spirit with sinless perfection, but there had been disagreement on what the **evidence** was that a person had been baptised in the Holy Spirit and received the “second blessing.” Parham was especially interested in the idea that **speaking in tongues** might enable missionaries to serve on the foreign field without the need for language studies.

New Years Day, 1901, was chosen as the day that the entire student body would seek the **baptism of the Holy Spirit** and the accompanying evidence of **speaking in tongues**. They commenced their prayer meeting early in the morning, but nothing happened for several hours. Then Agnes Ozman came forward and requested the **laying on of hands** so that she might receive the Holy Spirit with the Apostolic sign of speaking in tongues. She testified that she had spoken in **several languages** that she

had not previously studied. After that, other students reported receiving the baptism, and most testified that they could not help speaking in tongues, which were believed to be recognizable human languages.

However, neither Parham, the other teachers, nor the students **examined** these **experiences** in the **total context of Scripture**. No one took the time to **study and exegete** the biblical passages about tongues to see if the experience of the students was **valid** and **Scriptural**. No one even considered that these experiences may have been **demonic** in nature. The verdict was as follows: “This **experience** confirmed Parham’s testimony and teaching that tongues were indeed the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.” And thus was **Pentecostalism** was born!

Sixty years later the **Charismatic** movement was launched with the **experiences** of David Bennett, rector at St. Marks’ Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, California. Both the **Pentecostal** and **Charismatic** movements are based on **experience, emotion, phenomena and feelings**. Frederick Dale Bruner wrote, “Pentecostalism wishes to be understood as **experiential** Christianity, with its experience culminating in the baptism in the Holy Spirit...It is important to notice that it is not the doctrine, it is the experience of the Holy Spirit which Pentecostals repeatedly assert that they wish to stress.”

The misunderstanding of the Holy Spirit that is so common today is largely a result of exchanging the **doctrines** of the Bible for the **experiences** and feelings of the flesh. No wonder that confusion abounds!

1 Corinthians 14:33 “For God is not the author of confusion...”

ILLUSTRATION: “How to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit” by Bill Subritzky. We must:

- Renounce ancestral involvement in witchcraft to open the door for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Be like a little child and speak out words which we make up.
- Let go of the control of our tongue and making baby-like sounds.
- Practise the gift each day until we become fluent with our new language.
- “When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues this is one way in which we can worship God the Father in spirit and truth.”

ILLUSTRATION – The Charismatics that Sam spoke to at Hyde Park.

It is our goal in this series to study the DOCTRINE of the Holy Spirit so that we might EXPERIENCE Him in His fullness and power as He works on us, with us and through us.

2. We must study the Holy Spirit because He has been so neglected.

In a knee-jerk **reaction** to the extremism and confusion of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, Bible-believing Christians and pastors have often shied away from teaching on the Holy Spirit. This has led to a sad **neglect** of the person of the Holy Spirit, and has resulted in much **ignorance** on this vital subject. Modern fundamental Christians have much in common with the disciples of John in Ephesus:

Acts 19:1, 2 “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.”

We must therefore take the time to Study the Spirit of God because he has been **sadly neglected**.

ILLUSTRATION – Imagine if a parent had three boys, but he only ever paid attention to two of them – would not the third boy feel left out and neglected?

3. We must study the Holy Spirit because He is so much a part of Scripture.

In the New Testament alone, the Holy Spirit is mentioned in approximately **260 passages**. He appears all the way from Genesis chapter one (1:2 – “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”) to Revelation chapter 22 (22:17 – “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.”). You cannot study the Bible

without spending much time studying the person of the Holy Spirit. In fact, He is the **Author** of the Scriptures, and He is the very Person who **opens our eyes** to the truths contained therein.

2 Peter 1:19-21 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

John 16:12-15 “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 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. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.”

4. We must study the Holy Spirit because His ministries are indispensable.

The more that I try to live for God, and the more that I try to serve God, the more I realise that I am absolutely helpless and powerless without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

We **desperately** need the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

“Holy Ghost, with light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn my darkness into day.”

John 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

Quicken = *zoopoiēo* = to vitalize; to make alive, give life, quicken; to raise the dead.

- You cannot **pray** without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot **study** the Bible without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot **witness** without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot **love** without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot **give** without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot **rear children** without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot be a **godly spouse** without the Holy Spirit.
- You cannot **teach** or **preach** without the Holy Spirit.
- **You cannot live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit!**

ILLUSTRATION – Who is responsible for the dramatic change in my life since 1985? The Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

I think you will agree with me that it is **vital** that we study and know the blessed Holy Spirit. I trust that you will **enjoy** these lessons, and that God will **bless** these studies so that we might know the Spirit of God in all of His might and power. **May we learn to be Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered Christians!**

Review / Discussion: