

Dynamic Christian Ministries

Bible Study: Holy Spirit

June 3, 2017

This Bible study is based on binitarianism. In this exercise, we won't debate unitarianism vs binitarianism vs trinitarianism. We have already discussed this controversy on previous "Start Our Sabbath" programs and can do so in future shows.

The main sources for this material are the Church of God Seventh Day (Denver Conference) and the Worldwide Church of God (pre-1988).

As we go thru this lesson, please feel free to stop us and disagree with or comment on anything on these pages.

Section 1: STP Doctrinal Statement

The Holy Spirit is the essence, power, mind, and spiritual extension of God. God begets Christians as His sons through this Spirit. The Holy Spirit strengthens a Christian spiritually, converts his mind, and serves as an earnest or guarantee of eternal life.

The Holy Spirit has several synonyms:

- the Spirit of God
- the Spirit of the Lord
- the Spirit of Jesus Christ
- the Spirit of truth
- comforter
- advocate
- (Any others?)

The Holy Spirit is the power of God, the mind of God, and the extended means by which God accomplishes His work throughout the universe. As such, the Holy Spirit is not a separate being, it has no independent existence as an individual entity or person within the godhead.

It was through His Spirit that God created the earth (Gen. 1:2). It was through this Spirit that David received his moral strength (Psa. 51:10-13), and by it Elijah and Elisha—men with normal physical proclivities and weaknesses—were made into powerful prophets of God (2 Kings 2:9, 15). Even though these men and others had access to God's Spirit, it's also clear that they were among the relative few who in the Old Testament era were blessed with the privilege of actually having the mind and power of God work with or dwell within them.

God uses His Spirit to accomplish all His work. Whether causing prophets to prophesy, kings to reign, craftsmen to create (Ex. 31:3), bodies to be moved (Ezek. 3:12, 14) or people to keep His laws (Ezek. 36:26-27), everything God does is through the power of His Spirit.

God is spirit (John. 4:24); both members of the godhead ("Elohim"), Father and Son, are literally *composed* of spirit; they are wholly made of spiritual essence, in the same fashion as we're made of physical particles. Yet God the Father and Jesus Christ are separate beings: each maintains His own distinct identity and independent existence; and each, therefore, utilizes His own "Spirit," though both the Father's Spirit and Christ's Spirit are an integral part of the common Holy Spirit. The being who later became Jesus Christ was the God who revealed Himself to the patriarchs and prophets and worked with them. When He utilized His mind, His nature and His power, He was doing so through *His* Holy Spirit which was the projection of His own unique, perfect spiritual power. God the Father was unknown in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ came to reveal Him in the New. God the Father was the one who begot Jesus Christ; He did so through *His* Spirit, which is the same Spirit He begets spiritual children through today. Indeed, God the Father has retained to Himself the unique capacity to beget new spiritual beings.

Under the New Covenant, the Spirit of the Father has been made available in a universal way, as was explained by Peter on the day of Pentecost when the Church began (Acts 2:17-18). Before His death, Christ promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit, which then worked *with* them should be given to them and should actually be *in* them (John. 14:17). This "Comforter" should teach the disciples all things and remind them of all that Christ had said to them (John. 14:26).

This same Spirit which was given to the disciples on the day of Pentecost is available to all whom God calls. Upon true repentance granted by God and upon true belief in Jesus Christ, one may be baptized and then receive God's Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands ceremony performed by God's ministers (Acts 2:38; 8:12-17). God further states that He gives His Holy Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32). God's Holy Spirit is efficacious—It creates deep changes within the individual, actually converting or changing the type of mind that the person possesses. The Holy Spirit generates within Christians its very fruit, which "is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5:22-23). It encourages us through trials and empowers us to do the Work of God.

Once a person receives the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, he must use it in order to grow in the knowledge and grace of God. God's Spirit gives Christians the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) to enable them to view life from a godly perspective instead of from a selfish one. It is this power that gives us the capacity to obey God. The deep mystery of the plan of God for mankind. cannot be completely and totally understood without the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:7-10).

Of even greater significance is the fact that through this Spirit we are actually "begotten" as sons of God and become members of the body of Christ—the Church (1 Cor. 12). The seed of this Holy Spirit, planted by God after baptism, grows and develops spiritually within us as we grow in obedience and submission to God's law. The Holy Spirit is dynamic: it flows from God to and through the Christian and is expressed in his attitudes and actions. The more we use God's Spirit the stronger our new spiritual life becomes. Finally, at the resurrection, this spiritual part of us becomes the totality of our composition and essence and overtakes the physical, so "that mortality [our physical essence] might be swallowed up of [spiritual] life" (2 Cor. 5:4).

God's Word reveals that the Holy Spirit is an "earnest"—a formal pledge or assurance—of eternal life which God has implanted within us making us sons. As long as this Spirit is living within us, we are actually sons of God and brothers of Christ. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9). "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). Indeed, the presence of the Holy Spirit is the best criterion to define the true Christian: it is his only real ratification, for one cannot be a true Christian without it. As long as we nurture the Holy Spirit, and continue to renew it daily within us (2 Cor. 4:16) through prayer and diligent study of God's Word, then this earnest of God's Spirit is the absolute guarantee that we will be resurrected to spiritual life at Christ's return (ef. Eph. 1: 14).

Section 2: General Questions

Read John 15:26 and then answer the following questions:

1. What name did Jesus give to the Holy Spirit in this verse?
2. Whom did Jesus say would send the Holy Spirit to us?
3. Where did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would come from?
4. What did Jesus say He was a Spirit of?
5. Whom did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would testify of?

Read John 16:7-10 and then answer the following questions:

6. What would not come if Jesus did not go away?

7. When Jesus departed whom would He send to us?
8. What three things would the Holy Spirit convict the world of?

Read John 16:13-15 and then answer the following questions:

9. What will the Spirit of Truth guide us into?
10. Will the Holy Spirit speak on Its own authority?
11. What will the Holy Spirit speak to us?
12. What will the Holy Spirit tell us?
13. Whom will the Holy Spirit glorify?
14. To whom does all the things of the Father belong to?
15. From whom does the Holy Spirit take from and declare to us?

Read John 14:16-17 and then answer the following questions:

16. How long will the Helper abide with us?
17. What dwells with us and will be in us?

Read John 14:26 and then answer the following questions:

18. Whom will the Father send in Jesus' Name?
19. What will the Holy Spirit teach us?
20. What will the Holy Spirit bring to our remembrance?

Read Romans 8:26 and then answer the following questions:

21. Who helps us in our weaknesses?
22. When we don't know what we should pray for, what intercedes for us?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-14 and then answer the following questions:

23. How does God reveal things to us?
24. Who searches the deep things of God?
25. Who is the only One who knows the things of God?
26. What Spirit have we received?
27. Why have we received the Spirit who is from God?
28. How does the Holy Spirit teach?
29. Who does not receive the things of the Spirit of God?
30. Why does the natural man not receive the things of the Spirit of God?
31. How are the things of the Spirit of God discerned?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3 and then answer the following questions:

32. Can one speaking by the Spirit of God call Jesus accursed?
33. No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by whom?

Read John 6:63 and then answer the following question:

34. Who gives life?

Read Galatians 4:6 and then answer the following question:

35. When we become sons (daughters) of God what does the Holy Spirit cry out in our hearts regarding God?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and then answer the following questions:

36. What is your body?

37. Where does the Spirit of God dwell?

38. What should we glorify in our body and in our spirit?

Read Romans 12:1 and then answer the following question:

39. What should we present to God as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Him?

Read Galatians 6:8 and then answer the following question:

40. If you sow to the Spirit what will you reap from the Spirit?

Read Ephesian 4:30 and then answer the following questions:

41. What should we not grieve?

42. What seals us for the day of redemption?

Read 1 John 5:6 and then answer the following question:

43. What is the Spirit of Truth that bears witness to Jesus Christ?

Section 3: General Information on the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-27. Luke 11:13.

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples about the Holy Ghost (Spirit)? John 14:26.

2. In addition to the spirit of the word, what other spiritual attributes did Jesus have? Isaiah 11:1-2.

3. What can the spirit of the Lord accomplish in us? Romans 8:11.

4. If we have this spirit, what can Proverbs teach us? Proverbs 1:14.

5. How is wisdom presented to the Bible student? Proverbs 3:15.

6. If we pay attention to Holy Spirit, what else can it accomplish? Proverbs 20:27; Jeremiah 17:10.

7. How does Paul encourage Timothy to use his gift? I Timothy 4:12-16.

8. Has God given us a spirit of fear? II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15.

9. What are we called out to do? I Peter 2:9.

10. What will the Spirit of truth do for us? John 16:12-15.

NOTE: Proper fear of the Lord will help us be humble and aid us in the search for truth and understanding. After we gain knowledge, we can counsel others with might (power).

Section 4: Spiritual Gifts List

Question: "Is there a biblical spiritual gifts list?"

Answer: There are actually three biblical lists of the “gifts of the Spirit,” also known as spiritual gifts. The three main passages describing the spiritual gifts are:

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

1 Corinthians 12:28

The spiritual gifts identified in Romans 12 are prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy.

The list in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 includes the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues.

The list in 1 Corinthians 12:28 includes healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

A brief description of each gift follows:

Prophecy – The Greek word translated “prophesying” or “prophecy” in both passages properly means to “speak forth” or declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people. The idea of telling the future was added sometime in the Middle Ages and is in direct contradiction to other scriptural passages that condemn such fortune-telling or predicting the future (Acts 16:16-18).

Serving – Also referred to as “ministering,” the Greek word *diakonian*, from which we get the English “deacon,” means service of any kind, the broad application of practical help to those in need.

Teaching – This gift involves the analysis and proclamation of the Word of God, explaining the meaning, context and application to the hearer’s life. The gifted teacher is one who has the unique ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the doctrines of the faith.

Encouraging – Also called “exhortation,” this gift is evident in those who consistently call upon others to heed and follow God’s truth, which may involve correction or building others up by strengthening weak faith or comforting in trials.

Giving – Gifted givers are those who joyfully share what they have with others, whether it is financial, material, or the giving of personal time and attention. The giver is concerned for the needs of others and seeks opportunities to share goods, money and time with them as needs arise.

Leadership – The gifted leader is one who rules, presides over or has the management of other people in the church. The word literally means “guide” and carries with it the idea of one who steers a ship. One with the gift of leadership rules with wisdom and grace and exhibits the fruit of the Spirit in his life as he leads by example.

Mercy – Closely linked with the gift of encouragement, the gift of mercy is obvious in those who are compassionate toward others who are in distress, showing sympathy and sensitivity coupled with a desire and the resources to lessen their suffering in a kind and cheerful manner.

Word of wisdom – The fact that this gift is described as the “word” of wisdom indicates that it is one of the speaking gifts. This gift describes someone who can understand and speak forth biblical truth in such a way as to skillfully apply it to life situations with all discernment.

Word of knowledge – This is another speaking gift that involves understanding truth with an insight that only comes by revelation from God. Those with the gift of knowledge understand the deep things of God and the mysteries of His Word.

Faith – All believers possess faith in some measure because it is one of the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on all who come to Christ in faith (Galatians 5:22-23). The spiritual gift of faith is exhibited by one with a strong and unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, His promises, and the power of prayer to effect miracles.

Healing – Although God does still heal today, the ability of men to produce miraculous healings belonged to the apostles of the first century church to affirm that their message was from God. Christians today do not have the power to heal the sick or resurrect the dead. If they did, the hospitals and morgues would be full of these “gifted” people emptying beds and coffins everywhere.

Miraculous powers – Also known as the working of miracles, this is another temporary sign gift which involved performing supernatural events that could only be attributed to the power of God (Acts 2:22). This gift was exhibited by Paul (Acts 19:11-12), Peter (Acts 3:6), Stephen (Acts 6:8), and Phillip (Acts 8:6-7), among others.

Distinguishing (discerning) of spirits – Certain individuals possess the unique ability to determine the true message of God from that of the deceiver, Satan, whose methods include purveying deceptive and erroneous doctrine. Jesus said many would come in His name and would deceive many (Matthew 24:4-5),

but the gift of discerning spirits is given to the Church to protect it from such as these.

Speaking in tongues – The gift of tongues is one of the temporary “sign gifts” given to the early Church to enable the gospel to be preached throughout the world to all nations and in all known languages. It involved the divine ability to speak in languages previously unknown to the speaker. This gift authenticated the message of the gospel and those who preached it as coming from God. The phrase “diversity of tongues” (KJV) or “different kinds of tongues” (NIV) effectively eliminates the idea of a “personal prayer language” as a spiritual gift.

Interpretation of tongues – A person with the gift of interpreting tongues could understand what a tongues-speaker was saying even though he did not know the language that was being spoken. The tongues interpreter would then communicate the message of the tongues speaker to everyone else, so all could understand.

Helps – Closely related to the gift of mercy is the gift of helps. Those with the gift of helps are those who can aid or render assistance to others in the church with compassion and grace. This has a broad range of possibilities for application. Most importantly, this is the unique ability to identify those who are struggling with doubt, fears, and other spiritual battles; to move toward those in spiritual need with a kind word, an understanding and compassionate demeanor; and to speak scriptural truth that is both convicting and loving.

Section 5: The Gift of the Holy Spirit (part 1)

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-27. Luke 11:13.

1. What experience is necessary before one can enter the kingdom of God? John 3:5.
2. Is it possible to be a child of God and not have the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:9.
3. How does one receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 8:14-17; 19:5-6.
4. After receiving the Holy Spirit, what do our bodies become? I Corinthians 3:16-17.
5. Through whom, and by what power, do all people have access unto the Father? Ephesians 2:18.
6. What attribute is necessary that we might receive the Holy Spirit? Galatians 3:13-14.
7. To avoid the lust of the flesh, how should we walk? Galatians 5:16,25.
8. What will quicken the mortal bodies of the saints? Romans 8:11.
9. Was the gift of the Holy Ghost for Israel only? Acts 2:38-39; 10:44-45.

10. In addition to helping the saints bare fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), why else is the Holy Spirit given? I Corinthians 12:7-11.

Section 6: The Gift of the Holy Spirit (part 2)

Scripture Reading: Acts 2. I Samuel 10:6.

1. How did the Lord help Moses to serve the people? Numbers 11:16-17.
2. When Moses was told he was going to go into the promised land, what event took place? Deuteronomy 34:9.
3. What happened to Saul after he sinned? I Samuel 16:14-16.
4. What had occurred just before the Spirit left Saul? I Samuel 16:11-13.
5. What miraculous event took place at Jesus' baptism? Luke 3:21-22.
6. How does Jesus talk of this anointing? Luke 4:16-19; Isaiah 61:1-2.
7. When Peter and John went to Samaria, what else did they do for the new disciples? Acts 8:14-17.
8. After Paul preached and baptized some new brethren at Ephesus, what did he do? Acts 19:1-7.
9. Why is the Holy Spirit important? Romans 8:1-5; John 16:7-13.
10. Why is the Holy Spirit necessary? Romans 8:6-11.

Section 7: The Poor in Spirit

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:30-46. Matthew 5:3. (NOTE: Being poor in spirit indicates humility.)

1. What kind of a person was Nimrod? Genesis 10:8-10. (NOTE: Nimrod's being mighty before the Lord indicates he was self-willed. Strong's suggests he was a tyrant.)
2. What qualities does God want? Psalm 51:16-17; Isaiah 57:15.
3. Before the sermon on the mount, what did Jesus do? Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 6:12-13.
4. Who heard this presentation? Matthew 4:25-5:1; Luke 6:17-20.
5. What belongs to the "poor in spirit"? Matthew 5:3; 4:17.
6. Where will this kingdom be? Matthew 6:9-10 (first part); Revelation 20:6; 5:9-10. (NOTE: The Kingdom of Heaven will come to the earth. (Revelation 11:15).)
7. Who else is waiting for the kingdom? Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40.
8. Jesus went to prepare a place for us. John 14:1-3
9. What did He preach? Luke 4:43.

Section 8: The Fruitage of the Spirit

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:16-26; 6:1-9. John 15:5.

1. What will be revealed to men who hold the truth in unrighteousness? Romans 1:18, 21-23.
2. What happens to those who do not bear fruit? John 15:2 (first part).
3. When people were acting ungodly what did God do? Genesis 6:5, 12-13; Genesis 13:13; 19:1,13; Romans 1:24-28.
4. How can we know when people are acting ungodly? Galatians 5:19-21.
5. Should we associate with the ungodly? I Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20.
6. What fruit is God looking for in us? Galatians 5:22-23.
7. What will happen to those who bear fruit? John 15:2 (last part).
8. How can we glorify the Father? John 15:8.
NOTE: Scofield tells us of three degrees of fruit bearing. Verse two talks of fruit, then more fruit, and verse eight talks of much fruit.
9. What will happen to the unbelievers? Revelation 21:8.
NOTE: Unbelievers by virtue of their actions will not bear fruit. Therefore, the lake of fire awaits.
10. If we overcome (bear fruit), what can we expect? Revelation 21:7.

Section 9: Being Transformed by His Spirit

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-28. Romans 8:8.

1. What is the problem of the carnal mind? Romans 8:7.
2. How did Paul describe this? Romans 7:14-20.
3. What did Jesus say about the flesh? Matthew 26:41.
NOTE: As mere mortals, we could never please God. He knows that we need help, and this help is His Power, the Holy Spirit.
4. How can we receive this Power? Acts 2:38-39.
5. What will this Power do? John 14:16-17.
6. How will the truth help us? a.) John 8:32; b.) John 4:23-24.
7. What else will the Spirit do? Galatians 5:22-25.
8. Why is it important to walk in the Spirit? Galatians 6:7-8.
9. How will this happen? Romans 8:11.
10. When will this change happen? I Corinthians 15:51-53.

Section 10: Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth

Scripture Reading: John 4:1-26. John 4:23-24.

1. What instruction did Joshua give Israel just before his death? Joshua 24:14-15.
2. What other Scripture of similar instruction was given? Deuteronomy 18:13; Genesis 17:1; Psalm 119:1; II Corinthians 1:12.
3. Did God ever require anything not in harmony with these Scriptures? Micah 6:8; Galatians 5:22-23; Deuteronomy 10:12-13. Why?
4. How did Jesus express it? John 4:23-24; Acts 17:28-29.
5. Lest we forget God, what has He given to cause us to remember? Exodus 20:8; I Corinthians 11:23-25.
6. How should we remember the Lord's Supper? Luke 22:19-20; II Peter 1:13,15; 3:1; John 13:34-35.
7. What did Jesus say of rest? Matthew 11:28-29.
8. What test does Paul give as to whether a person has entered into the proper rest? Hebrews 4:9-10.

NOTE: Have you remembered the two dates given to us to remember? The world has forgotten them. Satan has tried to obliterate them. Therefore, the true children of God must remember and keep holy these two appointments of God in order to "worship in spirit and in truth."

Section 11: The Mystery of the Birth of the Spirit

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-21. John 3:8.

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples about the mysteries? Matthew 13:10-11.
2. What else did He tell them? John 14:16-17, 25-26.
3. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:38-39.
4. When we get baptized, what do we do? Romans 6:1-6.
5. Once we receive the Spirit of God, what will it allow us to do? John 3:3.

NOTE: The Holy Spirit will allow us to see or envision the kingdom of God.

6. When we are "born of the water" can we still sin? Galatians 2:11,13,17; II Peter 3:17.
7. What will happen if we overcome in this life with the help of the Spirit? I Corinthians 15:51-54.
8. How did the Apostle Paul state this to the Thessalonians? I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

9. How was Christ resurrected? Romans 8:11.
10. When a child of God is born of the water and the spirit, what will they be allowed to do? John 3:5.

Section 12: Love

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 13. I John 4:8.

1. How did God show His love toward us? John 3:16-17.
2. Why is it important that we believe on His son, Jesus? John 3:18.
3. What does Jesus say about showing our love toward Him? John 14:15, 21-23.
(NOTE: It is important that this love be reciprocal. Jesus is the key.)
4. What commandment did Jesus give us? John 13:34; 15:12.
5. How else can we show love or concern for our fellowman? Philippians 2:3-4.
6. What demonstrates no greater love? John 15:13.
7. Why is this statement by Jesus so important? Matthew 10:39. (NOTE: Since our physical existence is only temporary, we must keep our minds on the spiritual.)
8. Did Moses display this kind of love? Exodus 32:30-33.
9. What are we cautioned not to love? I John 2:15-17.
10. What manner of love will be bestowed on us if we overcome? I John 3:1-3.

Section 13: Joy

Scripture Reading: Psalm 16. Golden Text: Ecclesiastes 2:26 (first part).

1. What do the counselors of peace receive? Proverbs 12:20; Matthew 5:9.
 2. When the wise men saw the star in the east, what did they do? Matthew 2:1,10.
 3. How did the people respond when they relaid the foundation for the temple? Ezra 3:10-13.
 4. What will follow when we strive to act properly? Proverbs 21:15,21.
 5. If a father has a wise child, what will he do and experience? Proverbs 23:24. A foolish child? Proverbs 17:21.
 6. What does the man do when he finds the "treasure hid in the field"? Matthew 13:44.
- NOTE: The joy of finding the truth will only be exceeded by the return of Jesus.
7. When the angel announced the birth of John (the Baptist), what did he say? Luke 1:13-14.

8. What are we to do when we fall into divers temptations? James 1:2 Why? Verse 3.
9. Why did John say he wrote his epistle? I John 1:1-4.
10. What words are we all waiting to hear? Matthew 25:19-21.