

The Holy Spirit

By Doug Hamilton

The Holy Spirit is a Person

Why is it important to cover this in the beginning? We need to understand that the Holy Spirit is not some mystic, illusive, emotional, mysterious influence that randomly drifts around. He is a real personality like Jesus and the Father.

The Holy Spirit is a "HE".

- John 16:13-14 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose {it} to you. (NAS)
- It would be very wrong to consider the Holy Spirit as an "It". As real as the Father and Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the same. He is a "He".

The Holy Spirit has a mind.

- Romans 8:27, "...He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to {the will of} God."
- 1 Corinthians 2:11, "For who among men knows the {thoughts} of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the {thoughts} of God no one knows except the Spirit of God."

The Holy Spirit testified for the apostles.

- Acts 20:23, "...except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me."
- John 15:26, "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, {that is} the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me..."
- I John 5:7, "And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth."
- The Apostles were not alone in their efforts, for the Holy Spirit testified for them.

The Holy Spirit teaches and guides.

He taught and guided the Apostles.

- Matt 10:20 "For it is not you who speak, but {it is} the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."
- John 14:26, "But the Comforter, (even) the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you."
- John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."
- The Holy Spirit spoke to the writers of the New Testament and back up the words with miracles. *Hebrews 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.*

He teaches and guides us.

- Romans 8:4, "do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."
- Romans 8:14 "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

The Holy Spirit

By Doug Hamilton

- The result is the Word of God which we have today. This is how the Holy Spirit teaches us today, through the recollection and application of His Scriptures.

The Holy Spirit forbade.

- Acts 16:6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden of the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;
- Paul did not do whatever he wanted, but was actually forbidden by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit confirms.

He did it for the apostles.

- Luke 3:21-22 Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."
- How do we know that Jesus was confirmed by God? The Holy Spirit lighted upon Him at baptism, just as confirmed prophetically in the Book of Isaiah 11:1-2. The Holy Spirit confirms the entire existence of the Christian purpose in this life and the life to come.

He does it for us.

- Acts 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.
- This is one example of many concerning the confirming actions of the Christian. When we select our elders, it is not by our qualifications for which we choose them, but the confirmation of the Holy Spirit through verses in the Bible (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1). There are recognizable traits in the confirmed word from the Spirit for which we strive. *Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

The Holy Spirit is involved with the Born Again process.

- John 3:5-6, Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."
- Acts 2:38-39, And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."
- When we are baptized, it is not simply an act of immersion into water, but the consummation of faith with the Holy Spirit. There is something miraculous occurring under the water in the eyes of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit seals us.

- Ephesians 1:13, "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise..."

The Holy Spirit

By Doug Hamilton

- Ephesians 4:30, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,²² who also sealed us and gave {us} the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”
- We have a mark of ownership placed on us by God through the Holy Spirit. God knows who people are through a seal of protection. *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption* (Ephesians 4:30). To “quench the Spirit” through living contrary to God can actually place us in a position to break the seal which God has placed upon us (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

The Holy Spirit lives in the Christian.

- Romans 8:9-10, “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:19, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”
- James 4:4, “Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: ‘He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?’”
- There are those in the faith community who like to propose that the Holy Spirit resides only in the word of God. If however the word of God says the Holy Spirit resides in us, then it would have to be both.
- Special Note: This is where the Old English term “Holy Ghost” comes from, the “Holy Guest”. Christians have a holy guest whom resides in them called the Holy Spirit. In this way Jesus Christ is in us (2 Corinthians 13:5), for His Spirit resides in us!

The Holy Spirit intercedes in our prayers.

- Romans 8:26, “And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words...”
- Ephesians 6:18, “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit...”
- Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit...”
- There are many times that we do not have the words to express unto God what is going on in our heart. It is good to know that the Holy Spirit speaks fluent “us” and fluent “God”. Knowing the deep things of God, we can have confidence our prayers are well-articulated unto the Father.

The Holy Spirit resurrects bodies.

He resurrected Jesus from the dead.

- Galatians 1:1, “...God the Father, who raised Him (Jesus) from the dead...”
- Acts 2:32, “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.”
- Romans 1:4, “who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord...”
- God raised the dead body of Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit

By Doug Hamilton

He will raise us from the dead as well.

- Romans 8:11, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:14, “Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.”
- If we are in covenant with Jesus, then God will use the Holy Spirit to complete the resurrection for us. We can walk in the newness of life if we have the Spirit of life dwelling in us (Romans 8:2).

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit is not some mysterious force that sets off an array of emotions for individuals. He is not a feeling, but a fact! He is a person with in every way as God the Son and God the Father. He is a person who lives in hearts of Christians from the moment they are converted to the Day of Resurrection. He sealed us to God in our conversion, guides and teaches us in His word, intercedes in our prayers and nurtures us in hope. *Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Closing Story: Laboratory Experiment

A number of years ago researchers performed an experiment to see the effect hope has on those undergoing hardship. Two sets of laboratory rats were placed in separate tubs of water. The researchers left one set in the water and found that within an hour they had all drowned. The other rats were periodically lifted out of the water and then returned. When that happened, the second set of rats swam for over 24 hours. Why? Not because they were given a rest, but because they suddenly had hope!

Those animals somehow hoped that if they could stay afloat just a little longer, someone would reach down and rescue them. If hope holds such power for unthinking rodents, how much greater should its effect be on our lives, knowing that we have the Spirit of Hope residing in us?