

Connexions Theological LEs

The Holy Spirit – Person of Holy Spirit

Context: Individual

Focus: Christ/Competencies

The Holy Spirit is God – one of the three eternal manifestations of the Godhead, distinct from yet one with the Father and the Son. The common expression for this is “third person of the Trinity” (Godhead). He is also known in Scripture as Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:29), Spirit of Truth (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13), Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge (Isa. 11:2), Spirit of Glory (1 Pet. 4:14), Counselor (Jn. 14:16; 16:7), etc.

Truth No. 1 – The Holy Spirit is God.

- Direct statements in scripture declare the deity of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Num. 24:2-4, 12-13)
- The Holy Spirit possesses divine attributes (Heb. 9:14; Ps. 139:7-8; 1 John 5:6)
- The Holy Spirit performs divine acts (John 6:63 w/ vv. 32-40 & 56-58; John 16:7-11 w/ 15:22-24)

Truth No. 2 – The Holy Spirit has a distinct personality and is not an impersonal force.

Exercises:

Day 1 – Read the following scriptures which speak of the Holy Spirit.

- Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Num. 24:2-4, 12-13; 1 Cor. 3:16; Heb. 9:14, Neh. 9:3-7, 20; Ps. 143:10; Ps. 51:11, Rom. 15:13, 16, 19, 30; Ps. 139:7-8, Jn. 14:26; Gen. 1:2; Eph. 3:16-19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2. Eph. 4:4-6; Acts 10:38; Jn. 16:7-11; Jn. 6:63; Rom. 8:26-27; 2 Pet. 1:20-21.
 - Who is the Holy Spirit? How do you know this?
 - The Holy Spirit is actively at work. What are some of the things He has done and is doing? What is He doing in your life?
- Spend a few minutes before God the Father thanking Him for sending His Holy Spirit to you. Specifically and by name thank the Holy Spirit for His revelation of the Son to you and for the work that He is actively doing in your life. Ask God to help you cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit so that you will realize greater fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Day 2 – Today fast one meal and spend the time as follows:

- Pray that...
 - God would give you a better understanding and appreciation of the Holy Spirit as God
 - Your eyes would be opened to see the Holy Spirit at work in your life and the lives of those around you
 - You would begin to walk in a deeper relationship and fellowship with God because of the Holy Spirit living within you

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- Read and meditate upon John 14:15-27. As you do...
 - Make at least 5 observations about this passage.
 - Using sound interpretation, what is one powerful application that you can make in your walk with Christ from this passage?

Day 3 – Because the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force He exhibits characteristics of personality and personhood.

- Find 5 examples in the OT and 5 in the NT where the Holy Spirit demonstrates characteristics of personality.
- These may be instances where He is affected much like a person (e.g. grieved, resisted, blasphemed, etc.), where He demonstrates moral capacities (e.g. guides, intercedes, glorifies, etc.) or when He functions in a way characteristic of a person (e.g. commissions, encourages, gives gifts, etc.)

Day 4 – At the dinner table tonight, initiate a discussion about the Holy Spirit. Talk about who He is and what He is doing in each other's lives. Share what you have been learning about Him this week.

Day 5 – The Holy Spirit as 3rd Person of the Trinity is known by several distinct names in the Bible.

- From the following list, fill-in the blanks found in the verses below. (You may find it helpful to look each name up in a concordance.)

Spirit of Grace, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, Counselor, Spirit of Glory, Helper, Spirit of Sonship, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of Adoption

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the _____?

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the _____ and of God rests on you.

"When the _____ comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the _____ who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

*The _____ will rest on him—
the _____,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD*

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the _____. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

- Memorize John 16:7-15

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Day 6 – Herbert W. Armstrong was a popular heretic of the 20th century. One of the serious errors promoted by him and by his church, the Worldwide Church of God, has to do with the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.

- Spend 15-20 minutes on-line researching this man's heretical teaching regarding the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.
- Write a 1 page response refuting this error with scriptures that you have been reading and studying.
- Turn your response in next week.

Day 7 – Spend an hour reading in the book of Acts today. As you do...

- Note the many references to the Holy Spirit.
- What was the early church's relationship with the Holy Spirit? Who did they understand Him to be? How did this understanding affect their relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit was actively at work in Acts. What are some of things He was doing in and through the church? What did these acts produce? Who ultimately was glorified through them?
- Do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your church today? Do you want to see your church experience an increased participation in the life of the Spirit and His work in these times? Are you willing to fast and pray until God answers your prayers for your brothers and sisters in Christ? Then get to it!

...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

*Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. – **James 5:16b-18***

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. – **1 John 5:14-15***