

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son and is of the same essence. Yet He is also distinct from them.

Scripture describes the Holy Spirit in personal terms, not as an impersonal force, when it says that He teaches, guides, comforts and intercedes.¹ He possesses emotions, intellect and will.² The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and gave counsel to the church at Jerusalem.³ He was sinned against and lied to.⁴

The Scriptures also attest to the deity of the Holy Spirit. He is spoken of as God and is identified with the title of Jehovah.⁵ The Christian who is indwelt by the Spirit is indwelt by God.⁶ The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of deity, such as omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence and eternity.⁷ He does works only God can do, such as creating, regenerating and sanctifying.⁸ He is equally associated with the other members of the Trinity.⁹

The work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament differed somewhat from His work in the New Testament. The possession of the Holy Spirit by the believer was not permanent in every case.¹⁰ The Spirit had a ministry of restraining sin and in the creation of the world.¹¹

The Holy Spirit today plays a major role in the application of salvation to the individual. It is the Spirit who brings conviction to the unbeliever and causes him to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light.¹² Those who respond to this conviction and place their faith in Jesus Christ receive eternal life and a new nature.¹³ The Holy Spirit unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ, the church.¹⁴ He also unites the believer with Christ in His death, enabling him to live victoriously over sin.¹⁵ The Holy Spirit controls the believer who yields to God and submits himself to God's Word.¹⁶ When these conditions are met, the believer lives in the power of the Spirit and produces the fruit of the Spirit.¹⁷

The Holy Spirit indwells the believer permanently.¹⁸ While the child of God may sin and grieve the Spirit, the Spirit will never leave the true believer.¹⁹ Absence of the Holy Spirit is the mark of the unsaved.²⁰ The Holy Spirit seals the believer.²¹ This ministry guarantees the security of the believer "until the day of redemption."²²

The Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts or abilities for service to every believer.²³ Although His restraint of evil in the world today will cease with the rapture,²⁴ He will continue to be present in the earth. In the tribulation period the Spirit will be involved in salvation and filling.²⁵ In the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Spirit will be in God's people and the Spirit will be upon the King.²⁶

References:

- ¹ John 14:26; Romans 8:14; John 14:26; Romans 8:26
- ² Ephesians 4:30; 1 Corinthians 2:10–14; 1 Corinthians 12:11
- ³ Acts 8:29; 15:28
- ⁴ Acts 5:3, 4
- ⁵ Acts 5:1–4; Isaiah 6:8–9 with Acts 28:25; Jeremiah 31:31–34; with Hebrews 10:15
- ⁶ 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Ephesians 2:22
- ⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:10–11; Psalm 139:7; Zechariah 4:6; Hebrews 9:14
- ⁸ Genesis 1:2; John 3:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- ⁹ Matthew 28:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 13:14
- ¹⁰ Psalm 51:11
- ¹¹ Genesis 6:3; Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 40:12
- ¹² John 16:8–11
- ¹³ John 3:3–7; Titus 3:5
- ¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:13
- ¹⁵ Romans 6:1–10
- ¹⁶ Romans 12: 1, 2; Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:16
- ¹⁷ Galatians 5:16, 22, 23
- ¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20
- ¹⁹ Ephesians 4:30
- ²⁰ Romans 8:9; Jude 1:19
- ²¹ 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30
- ²² Ephesians 4:30
- ²³ Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4
- ²⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:7
- ²⁵ Zechariah 12:10; Joel 2:28–32
- ²⁶ Jeremiah 31:33; Isaiah 11: 2–3

From the Moody Bible Institute Doctrinal Statement:

<https://www.moodybible.org/beliefs/positional-statements/holy-spirit/>

THE LUKE – ACTS CONNECTION

Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles—the Gospel being the story of Jesus and Acts being the story of the early church. The two books are separated in the New Testament by the Gospel of John; placing Acts directly after Luke would help us to see how the Acts of the Apostles picks up where the Gospel of Luke leaves off. This is significant to the story of Pentecost, because the first Christian Pentecost is deeply rooted in the Gospel of Luke:

- We might think of the first Christian Pentecost as beginning, not with the words, “Now when the day of Pentecost had come” (Acts 1:1), but with the words of the angel to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:35). **The Spirit responsible for the birth of Jesus is also responsible for the birth of the church.** The birth of the church in Acts 1-2 parallels the birth of Jesus in Luke 1-2.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 fulfills the prophecy of John the Baptist in Luke’s Gospel, “He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16).
- Jesus alluded to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost when he told his disciples to “wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). It also fulfills his promise that “you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5).
- The Spirit that fills the disciples (Acts 2:4) is the same Spirit that descended upon Jesus at his baptism (Luke 3:22).
- Jesus began his ministry Spirit-filled (Luke 4:1), and so does the church (Acts 2:4, 38).
- Jesus told the disciples not to worry about what they would say when brought before the authorities, because the Spirit would teach them (Luke 10: 11-12)—a prophecy that we see fulfilled in Acts (4:8; 5:29-32; 6:10; 7:1-55; 13:46-47; 16:35-39; 21:37 – 22:39; 23:6-10; 24:10-21; 25:1-12; 26:1-32; 28:23-30).

From: <https://sermonwriter.com/biblical-commentary/new-testament-acts-21-21/>

The Gift of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church

I. When It Happened

A. Three pilgrimage festivals

1. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Leviticus 23:4 – 8; Numbers 28: 16 – 25; Deuteronomy 16: 1 – 8

2. Pentecost – the Feast of Weeks; the Feast of Harvest; the Day of First Fruits.

50 days after Passover; Numbers 28:26

3. The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles

Leviticus 23: 33 – 36; Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 15

B. How was Pentecost celebrated?

II. What happened?

A. The disciples had been told to wait for the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4,5 - [Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

1. The disciples and other followers were waiting and anticipating.

2. They were in “one accord.”

B. SUDDENLY, there was loud sound from heaven!

1. The assembled believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

2. The baptism of the spirit is a one-time experience – a gift of God.
For us, it now occurs at salvation.

C. They saw what appeared to be cloven/divided tongues of fire.

1. John the Baptist's prophecy – Matthew 3:11 - "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
2. Divided (cloven) tongues rested on everyone.
3. Fire is a sign of purification.
4. They were filled with the Holy Spirit.
5. Uniqueness of the baptism and the filling.

III. What followed?

- A. They began to speak in other tongues/languages.
- B. This was a reversal of Babel.
- C. They heard weighty things of God. (Acts 2: 11 – "we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.")
- D. Acts 2 versus I Corinthians 14.
- E. The crowd's reaction.

IV. What is the significance of Pentecost? Why? The so what?

- A. Pentecost signaled the presence of God's glory.
- B. Pentecost signaled the birth of the church.

- C. Pentecost signaled the intent of the great commission – world evangelism.
- D. What happened at Pentecost restored what was broken.
- E. The power seen at Pentecost signals the resources God will employ to accomplish his mission in and through the church.

Praise the Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit. May we go out into the world to be a witness of the omnipotent power of God and the Holy Spirit.