



Living the Christian Life Bible Study

Lesson 9a (NIV)

Understanding The Holy Spirit (Part 1 of 2)

Student's Name _____ **Unit** _____

Instructor _____

Comments _____

3.0 The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ (cont'd)

3.2 The Holy Spirit in the Teachings of Jesus Christ

Read John 3:1-8. What does Jesus say is necessary for a person to see the Kingdom of God?

On the night before the crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples many things about the Holy Spirit. Read each of the following verses and write down what it tells us about the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-17 _____

John 14:25-26 _____

Comforter, Counselor: The Greek word is "paraclete" which literally means "one called alongside to help." Typical uses include advocate, as an attorney in court, or an intercessor.

John 15:26-27 _____

John 16:7-11 _____

Testify, bear witness: to be a witness, to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because of being taught by divine revelation.

John 16:12-15 _____

In Acts 1:4-5, after His resurrection and just before His ascension, Jesus makes a great promise to his disciples. What is that promise?

Baptize (Greek: *baptizo*): "the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence." One common use was the process of dipping a cloth into dye to change its color. In Biblical usage it can mean the physical ceremony of water baptism or the spiritual act of being immersed in and changed by the Holy Spirit.

1.0 Introduction

When the Bible speaks of God, it sometimes speaks of Him as being one. (Deuteronomy 6:4 - *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*) In other places it speaks of God as being three. (2 Corinthians 13:14 - *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all* and Matthew 28:19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*)

We are accustomed to thinking of Jesus Christ as God from the many statements about Him in the New Testament, especially the gospels, where we see Him living among people as the God-man. It is also clear that God the Son is eternal. (John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning.*)

But it is more difficult when we think of the Holy Spirit, because we never read about Him appearing in physical form. First we must understand that He is a living presence mentioned throughout the Bible, from the very beginning (Genesis 1:2 - *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*) to the very end (Revelation 22:17 - *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"*.) and literally hundreds of places in between. He is never seen as a spirit in the sense of a feeling, for example a "spirit of generosity" or a "spirit of love;" these would be an "it," the Holy Spirit is always "He," indicating a person, not a feeling.

Our purpose in this study is to understand the Holy Spirit more clearly - who He is and what He does.

2.0 The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Read the following verses and identify the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

Exodus 31:1-5 - *Then the LORD said to Moses, 2"See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- 4to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.*

What did being filled with the Spirit of God help Bezalel to do?

2.0 The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (cont'd)

Continue reading the following verses and identify the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Judges 3:10-11 - *The Spirit of the LORD came upon Othniel, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. 11So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.*

What was Othniel able do when the Spirit of the LORD came upon him?

2 Chronicles 15:1-3 - *The Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded. 2He went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you."*

What was Azariah able to do when the Spirit of God came upon him?

From these and many other examples, we see that the Holy Spirit was a vital part of God's activity throughout the Old Testament. We see that He came upon people for certain times to perform great feats of skill, leadership, and prophecy. We see that He takes over a person at the deepest level of his being, gives a power and direction that he would not ordinarily have, so that person can carry out the work of God.

Peter also tells us that it was through the Holy Spirit that the prophets wrote the Bible. 2 Peter 1:20-21 - *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

3.0 The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ

3.1 The Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit was active in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ from His conception on through to the end of His life.

Read Luke 1:26-35. How was Jesus able to be called the Son of God?

Read Luke 3:21-22 Who descended on Jesus at His baptism?

Read Luke 4:1-2 Who led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?

Read Luke 4:14-21 Who gave Jesus the power to preach to the people?

Read Luke 10:21 What else did Jesus have through the Holy Spirit?

From these and other passages we see that the Holy Spirit was active throughout the life of Jesus Christ. When we also read of how Jesus was obedient to God the Father and how often He prayed to the Father, we realize that when we look at the life of Jesus Christ, we are seeing all three members of the Trinity in action. Think about these actions of the Holy Spirit and summarize the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus.
