

## Introduction: What is the Holy Spirit?

### ➔ FALSE IDEAS

- “Divine Science”<sup>1</sup>
- “magnetism”
- “electricity”
- “divine fluid”
- “impersonal energy”<sup>2</sup>
- “...the holy spirit is *the active force of God*. It is **not a person** but is a **powerful force** that *God causes to emanate* from himself to accomplish his holy will.”<sup>3</sup>

### ➔ THE TRUTH

- The Holy Spirit is a **PERSON**—the “third” Person of the triune Godhead.
  - ▶ **JOHN 16:5-15**—“...if I do not go away, *the Helper* will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send **HIM** to you. And when **HE** has come, **HE** will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment... when **HE, the Spirit of truth**, has come, **HE** will guide you into all truth; for **HE** will not speak on **HIS** own authority, but whatever **HE** hears **HE** will speak; and **HE** will tell you things to come. **HE** will glorify Me, for **HE** will take of what is Mine and declare it to you” (7b,8,13,14).
- Traits of the Holy Spirit
  - ▶ **Actively**, the Holy Spirit can:
    - **Speak** (Matt. 10:20; 1 Tim. 4:1); **Bear Witness** (Jn. 15:26); **Teach** (Jn. 14:26); **Guide, Hear, Declare** (Jn. 16:13); **Send** (Acts 10:20); **Forbid** (Acts 16:6); **Will** (1 Cor. 12:11); **Search and Know** (1 Cor. 2:11); **Help, Love** (Rom. 8:2; 15:30)
  - ▶ **Passively**, the Holy Spirit can be:
    - **Spoken Against** (Matt. 12:32); **Blasphemed** (Mk. 3:29); **Lied To** (Acts 5:3); **Grieved** (Eph. 4:30; Isa. 63:10); **Resisted** (Acts 7:50); **Insulted** (Heb. 10:29)

## Discussion: The Work of the Holy Spirit

### ➔ WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES **NOT** DO

#### I. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES **NOT** WORK MIRACLES TODAY.

- A. **MARK 16:20**—“And they...preached everywhere... **confirming the word** by the signs that followed.”
- B. **1 COR. 13:8-10**—“...For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but **when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away.**”

#### II. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES **NOT** OPERATE DIRECTLY IN THE CONVERSION PROCESS (IN REMOVING SIN).

- A. **1 COR. 12:13**—“For in one **Spirit** we were all baptized into one body...”

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<sup>1</sup> Eddy, Mary Baker. p. 55.

<sup>2</sup> Pratt, Parley. 1993; via Jackson, p. 26.

<sup>3</sup> Watchtower. *Reasoning from the Scriptures*. 1985. p. 81.

- B. EPH. 5:26—“...that He might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with **the word**...”
  - C. 1 COR. 4:15—“For I became your Father in Christ Jesus **through the gospel**...”
  - D. ROM. 1:16—“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for it is **the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
- III. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT **OFFER SPECIAL ILLUMINATION** (IN UNDERSTANDING DIVINE REVELATION).
- A. This theory is extremely popular in the world of “Christendom.”
  - B. One of the major problems with it is **a failure to consider the CONTEXT of certain passages**.
    - 1. JOHN 14:26—“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**”
    - 2. MARK 13:11—“...do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say **whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.**”
      - a) These statements, along with John 16:5ff, were spoken strictly to **the twelve apostles**, and have *absolutely no* application to any person today!
  - C. EPH. 5:17—“Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**”
  - D. EPH. 3:4,5—“**When you READ THIS**, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed **by the Spirit to his holy APOSTLES and PROPHETS.**”
    - 1. In other words, this “mystery” was revealed **at the very first**, directly from the Holy Spirit, and these men who were directly “illuminated” by the Spirit wrote the revelation by His leave, and from then on, mankind learns (and thus *understands*) the will of God by **studying the written word!**
- IV. THE PERPETUAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (WHAT THE SPIRIT DOES TODAY)
- A. SOME PRELIMINARY TERMS & CONDITIONS
    - 1. It is without scriptural support to claim that the Holy Spirit does **anything TO anyone** directly today.
    - 2. It is both erroneous and ignorant to say that the Holy Spirit absolutely, positively does **NOTHING apart from the written word** (see below).
    - 3. It is without Scriptural support to suggest that the “indwelling” of the Holy Spirit in the Christian **necessarily** means that the Holy Spirit **DOES anything** from “within” the Christian.
      - a) Our task is to look at **what the NT alone says about the work of the Holy Spirit** in both *apostolic* and *post-apostolic* periods, and to look only at what it **says**—not build a doctrine or belief based on something it does not say.
  - B. When one opens the Scriptures to passages about the Spirit’s perpetual activity, one thing becomes clear:
    - 1. **Everything the NT says the Spirit does, He CAN do THROUGH THE WORD... with one exception:**
      - a) ROM. 8:26—“In like manner the Spirit also helps our infirmity. For we know not how to pray as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us**, with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
    - 2. This *single* exception, however, the Holy Spirit can do **FROM HEAVEN**.
    - 3. Therefore, while one cannot say for **certain** that the Holy Spirit does *nothing* apart from the Word, the NT does not give the reader even the *slightest* inclination to believe so; in fact, it is quite the **opposite**.

## Conclusion

- ➔ There is a wonderful pattern of the work of the Godhead:
  - GEN. 1:1,2—"In the beginning **God** (*plural*) created the heavens and the earth. The earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and **the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**"
  - JOHN 1:3; COL. 1:16—The eternal "Word" (Jesus Christ) the **active Creator** of all things.
- ➔ THE GENERATION OF MAN
  - FATHER—**INITIATOR/DESIGNER** (Gen. 1:1)
  - WORD—**IMPLEMENTOR/DEVELOPER** (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16)
  - SPIRIT—**INTEGRATOR/DECORATOR** (Gen. 1:2)
- ➔ THE REGENERATION OF MAN
  - FATHER—**INITIATOR/DESIGNER** (Gen. – Mal.)
  - "SON"—**Implementor** (Matt. – Acts 1)
  - SPIRIT—**Integrator** (Acts 2 – Rev. 22 [and beyond])
    - ▶ First, *directly* (to apostles and Bible writers);
    - ▶ Then (and now), **through the Word.**
  - This is not bad news, but *glorious news*—for we have the *entirety* of God's revealed Word in our hands, which is "**the power of God for salvation**" (Rom. 1:16), which includes "**ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness**" (2 Pet. 1:2-4)!