

Study 1. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

READ: Psalm 139: 7-12, Hebrews 9: 13 & 14



KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 13: 14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”

The Holy Spirit is often referred to as ‘The third Person of the Trinity’. Although the word ‘Trinity’ is not found in the Bible, it is a useful term to convey the idea of ‘Three-in-One’ (‘tri-unity’). Christians believe in ONE God who is expressed in THREE Persons. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Some Bibles use the word ‘Holy Ghost’.)

In this first Study, we aim to show from the Bible that the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and with the Son. He is no less God than they are. That is why the Study is entitled ‘The Deity of the Holy Spirit’. It means, the Holy Spirit IS God.

Consider these facts:-

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ETERNAL.

Hebrews 9: 14 tells us that it was **“through the eternal Spirit”** that Christ offered Himself to God. The use of the word **“eternal”** shows that He is God, and not just a created being, as each of us are.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNISCIENT (HE IS ALL-KNOWING.)

“The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God ... no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2: 10 & 11) Only a Being who is equal with God possesses such knowledge. It is another proof of His deity.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNIPRESENT (HE IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE.)

Genesis 1: 2 records that at Creation **“the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters”**. Job declares that **“By His Spirit, He adorned the heavens”**. (Job 26: 13) David, too,

recognized that the Holy Spirit cannot be confined by human boundaries when he wrote, **“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”**. (Psalm 139: 7) The omnipresence of the Spirit is another indicator of His deity.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNIPOTENT (HE IS ALL-POWERFUL.)

When the angel Gabriel told Mary, a virgin, that she would bear a son, Jesus, he said, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God”**. (Luke 1: 35)

Years later, when Peter wrote about the death and resurrection of Christ, he said that He was **“... made alive by the Spirit”**. (1 Peter 3: 18)

These are two remarkable statements regarding the omnipotence (all-powerfulness) of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit’s unique power was seen in both the BIRTH and the RESURRECTION of the Lord Jesus.

We also find that many Bible verses link the Spirit with the Father and with the Son, as being EQUAL. Here are two examples:-

1. When the risen Lord sent His disciples to preach the gospel in all the world, He said, **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**. (Matthew 28: 19) Note that **“name”** is singular; this emphasizes the oneness and the equality of the Persons of the Godhead.

2. The **Key Verse**, is a benediction, or a blessing. Read it again! If the Holy Spirit is inferior to the Father and the Son, we can be sure Paul would never have written these words!

Our conclusion, then, is that the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and with the Son.

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WorkSheet

Study 1. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

1 **WHAT DOES THE TERM 'TRINITY' MEAN?**

2

2 **ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:-**

- i. Christians believe in three Gods. _____
- ii. Christians believe in one God who is revealed in three Persons. _____
- iii. The Holy Spirit is greater than men, but less than God. _____
- iv. The Holy Spirit had an important role in the birth of Jesus. _____
- v. The Holy Spirit had nothing to do with Christ's resurrection. _____

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3 **A. GIVE A SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THESE THREE WORDS WHICH ARE OFTEN USED TO CONVEY HOW GREAT GOD IS:-**

- i. omnipotence = _____
- ii. omnipresence = _____
- iii. omniscience = _____

B. WHAT DOES THE FACT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES ALL THESE QUALITIES SHOW ABOUT HIM? _____

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4 **READ AGAIN DAVID'S TWO QUESTIONS IN PSALM 139: 7, THEN WRITE OUT HIS ANSWER, FROM VERSES 9 & 10.** _____

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5 **IN WHAT WAY DOES LUKE 1: 35 EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT JESUS HAD NO HUMAN FATHER?**

3

6 **CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE BAPTIZED "IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT".**

- i. What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit?

- ii. What do you think it means to be baptized "*in the name of . . .*"?

5

7 **READ THE KEY VERSE. (2 CORINTHIANS 13: 14) "COMMUNION" MEANS 'PARTNERSHIP' OR 'FELLOWSHIP'. IT IS THE IDEA OF THE SHARE WHICH A PERSON HAS IN ANYTHING. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, WHAT DOES "THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" MEAN?**

4

Study 2. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

READ: John 14: 16, 17 & 26
Romans 8: 12-17



KEY VERSE: Romans 8: 16

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

The Holy Spirit is just as real a Person as the Father, and as the Son. He is a being in His own right, not merely an impersonal influence. He is not SOMETHING, but **SOMEONE!**

At first, we may find this difficult to understand, because we naturally think of a person as having a physical body. We must, however, grasp the fact that personality does exist either with, or without, a tangible body!

The essential marks of personality are INTELLIGENCE, EMOTION and WILL. These qualities enable us, as human beings, to KNOW, FEEL and CHOOSE. In this Study, we want to show that in the Bible, these three features of personality are shown to be true of the Holy Spirit. Let us examine what it says about each of them:-

I. PERSONALITY IMPLIES INTELLIGENCE - THE ABILITY TO THINK AND TO KNOW.

In **1 Corinthians 2: 10-12**, Paul states that **“no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God”**. It is only the Spirit who can search **“the deep things of God”**. It follows, then, that we need the help of the Spirit of God if we are even to begin to understand God! Read **verse 14** carefully. The intelligence of the Holy Spirit is also clearly taught when the Lord Jesus speaks of Him as the One who **“will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you”**. (**John 14: 26**)

2. PERSONALITY IMPLIES EMOTIONS - THE ABILITY TO FEEL.

Does the Holy Spirit possess emotions, such as love and sorrow? The Bible’s answer is a clear, ‘Yes!’

For proof of this, think about:-

- i. **Romans 5: 5** where Paul teaches the Christians at Rome that it is BY THE HOLY SPIRIT that **“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts”**. This is a further proof of His personality.
- ii. **Ephesians 4: 30** instructs Christians that they must guard against grieving the Holy Spirit of God. This implies His personality, for it is not possible to grieve an influence! Only someone who is close to you and who loves you can be grieved by your words and actions! The Holy Spirit is that kind of Person!

3. PERSONALITY IMPLIES WILL - THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE AND TO DO.

The Holy Spirit is presented to us in Scripture as the One who **“will guide you into all truth . . . and tell you things to come”**. (**See John 16: 13**)

In addition, He has the ability to direct the lives of those who put themselves at His disposal. For two examples of the Spirit making His will known to Christians who were serving God see **Acts 8: 39 & 40 and 16: 6**.

His exercise of His will is also seen in local churches. After naming some of the spiritual gifts which are to be found in such a church, Paul writes, **“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually AS HE WILLS”**. (**1 Corinthians 12: 11**)

It is important for us, as believers in the Lord Jesus, to understand that we have the Holy Spirit with us every day. He is not a mere influence, or an impersonal energy, but indeed a real Person, our Comforter and Helper, as the Lord Jesus called Him. (**See John 14: 16 & 17**) The fact that we cannot see Him does not reduce His personality!

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Study 2. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

1 WHAT THREE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONALITY ARE MENTIONED IN THE STUDY?

3

2 THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS EMPHASIZED BY THE USE OF "HE" SEVERAL TIMES. WHAT DOES IT SAY "HE" WILL DO IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES IN JOHN 14?

i. Verse 16 _____

ii. Verse 17 _____

iii. Verse 26 _____

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3 'FOR TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD WE ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT.' WRITE OUT PART OF A VERSE FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 2: 10-14, TO SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT.

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4 READ CAREFULLY EPHESIANS 4: 25-32, AND THEN WRITE A SHORT PARAGRAPH OUTLINING SOME WAYS IN WHICH A CHRISTIAN MIGHT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.

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5 'ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH THEM EVERY DAY.' DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT? GIVE REASONS FOR YOUR ANSWER, REFERRING TO JOHN 14: 16 & 17 AND ROMANS 8: 9-11.

4

6 USING THE REFERENCES, SUPPLY THE NAMES OF THESE PEOPLE:-

i. This man "lied to the Holy Spirit". (Acts 5: 3) _____

ii. This man was "caught away" by the Spirit of the Lord. (Acts 8: 39) _____

iii. These two men were "called" by the Holy Spirit to serve God. (Acts 13: 2) _____

iv. The Holy Spirit "filled" this man. (Acts 4: 8) _____

v. This man "showed by the Spirit" what was going to happen. (Acts 11: 28) _____

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7 'THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A REAL PERSON.' WHAT DIFFERENCE DO YOU THINK THIS SHOULD MAKE TO OUR LIVES, AS CHRISTIANS?

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This study sheet belongs to:



KEY VERSES: Genesis 1: 2
“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

Revelation 22: 17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ ”

In this Study, we trace some of the activities of the Holy Spirit from Creation to Christ’s second coming.

1. The Holy Spirit, in CREATION.

Because the Holy Spirit has very special functions in the period in which we are living, it is sometimes called ‘The Age of the Spirit’. We must not think, however, that He has been inactive until now! The first **Key Verse** (which is the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the Bible) teaches us that He played a vital part in Creation. There are Bible verses which stress the part played by ‘God’; others refer to the role of the ‘Son’. (See **Exodus 20: 11 & Hebrews 1: 2**) We can understand these varied references by accepting that Creation results from the Father, Son and Spirit working together, in perfect harmony. (See **Genesis 1: 26** and notice the word “us”!)

2. The Holy Spirit, in CONVICTION OF SIN.

Before the Flood, the human race became very wicked. But God did not abandon it! Instead, His Spirit convicted people of their sinfulness. He warned them, saying, “**My Spirit shall not strive with man for ever**”. (**Genesis 6: 3**)

Even today, the Spirit convicts of sin, as **John 16: 7-11** teaches us. We may not fully understand how conscience and the Holy Spirit interact. We should, however, be thankful when the Holy Spirit rebukes us, for sin is always serious in God’s sight!

3. The Holy Spirit, in CHOOSING and CALLING.

From earliest times, the Spirit has fitted people to speak for God and to work for Him. For example, when Moses was building the Tabernacle, it was the Holy Spirit who gave Bezaleel his wonderful skills! (Read **Exodus 35: 30-35**) Likewise, judges such as Othniel and Samson (**Judges 3: 10 & 14: 6**) and

Study 3. The Holy Spirit through the ages

READ: John 16: 7-11, 1 Corinthians 12: 13, Ephesians 5: 17-21

prophets, like Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 2: 2**) received strength by the Spirit to do what God wanted. We, too, can depend on His help, if we yield our lives to Him.

4. The Holy Spirit, in CHRIST.

In Study 1, we mentioned the part played by the Holy Spirit in both the birth and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Between these two points of time, ALL His words, miracles and movements were Spirit controlled. At His baptism, the Spirit descended from Heaven and REMAINED upon Him. (See **John 1: 32**) God did not give the Spirit “**by measure**” to Him. (**John 3: 34**)

5. The Holy Spirit, in the CHURCH.

This present period of time may also be called ‘The Church Age’. It continues until the Lord Jesus comes again for His church. It began with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, as described in **Acts 2**. As a result of the Spirit’s coming, all Christians were baptized “**by one Spirit ... into one body**”. (See **1 Corinthians 12: 13**) So this age is also very properly spoken of as ‘The Age of the Spirit’, for now the church is “**being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit**”. (**Ephesians 2: 21 & 22**)

6. The Holy Spirit, in the COMING again of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus came the first time in lowliness, to die for our sins. He will come again in power, to set up His millennial kingdom. (**Revelation 20: 4-6**) The Holy Spirit awaits that great event, as the second **Key Verse** shows. (This is the last reference to the Spirit in the Bible.) When the Second Coming takes place, the words of Old Testament prophets about a great outpouring of the Spirit will come true. (See **Joel 2: 28 & 29, Isaiah 32: 15-17, Ezekiel 37: 9-14**)

We can now see that the Holy Spirit has been active through the ages. All of us, who belong to the Lord Jesus, should be convinced that God, the Holy Spirit, has a plan for us. He wants to work in us, and through us, for God’s glory and the blessing of others. Are you willing to let Him take control of your life? (**Ephesians 5: 18**)

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Study 3. The Holy Spirit through the ages

1 **PSALM 104: 30** SPEAKS ABOUT THE CREATIVE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. WRITE IT OUT.

2

2 **JOHN 16: 7 & 8** RECORDS WHAT THE LORD JESUS SAID ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- i. What promise did He make in **verse 7**? _____
- ii. By what name, or title, did He refer to the Holy Spirit? _____
- iii. What three things does the Spirit **“convict the world of”**? _____

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3 **A. USE EXODUS 35: 30-35** TO FIND SHORT ANSWERS TO THESE POINTS ABOUT BEZALEEL:-

- i. What special ability did God’s Spirit impart to him? _____
- ii. Name two metals which he worked with. _____
- iii. What OTHER materials did he use his skills for? _____

B. WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CHRISTIANS TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL THEIR ‘GIFTS’ (ABILITIES AND SKILLS) COME FROM GOD?

5

4 **HERE ARE REFERENCES TO PEOPLE UPON WHOM THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAME, FITTING THEM TO DO HIS WORK. WRITE THEIR NAMES IN THE BOXES.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| i. Judges 6: 34 <input type="text"/> | ii. 1 Samuel 11: 6 <input type="text"/> |
| iii. Luke 2: 25 <input type="text"/> | iv. Acts 8: 29 & 39 <input type="text"/> |

2

5 **READ CAREFULLY 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 17-20. TODAY, ALL BELIEVERS HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE TO THE WAY WE LIVE?**

4

6 **IN LUKE 4: 1, JESUS WAS “FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT” AND WAS “LED BY THE SPIRIT”. IN VERSE 14, HE RETURNED “IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT”. EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THESE EXPRESSIONS TEACH US ABOUT THE LORD JESUS.**

4

7 **A. THE STUDY USES TWO NAMES FOR THIS PRESENT AGE. FILL IN THE BLANKS:-**

- i. ‘The _____’ . ii. ‘The _____ of _____’ .

B. EXPLAIN AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN WHAT THESE TERMS MEAN.

4

25

Total marks
for this study

Study 4. The Holy Spirit and the Bible

READ: 2 Timothy 3: 14-17,

1 Peter 1: 9-11,

2 Peter 1: 19-21



KEY VERSE: 2 Timothy 3: 16

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

In this Study, we concentrate on the very special place which the Holy Spirit had in giving us God’s written Word, the Bible.

At the outset, we remind ourselves that the Bible is a collection of 66 books, written over a period of about 1500 years. The writers came from a wide variety of backgrounds. Because they lived at different stages of history, and in different parts of the world, there was no possibility of them meeting together to discuss what they should each write!

How remarkable, then, that the end product should be a book which is coherent and meaningful! All the parts fit together, like a jigsaw puzzle, to show a unique, glorious Person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this amazing book, we note that prophecies are shown to come true, hundreds of years after they were first uttered. For example, Micah, 700 years before it happened, foretold Bethlehem as the place of Christ’s birth. (See **Micah 5: 2**) Scenes connected with His suffering and death are vividly portrayed in such chapters as **Psalms 22** and **Isaiah 53**. The New Testament shows how all these things came true.

How, then, do we explain the origin and the ongoing effectiveness of this remarkable book? The answer lies in this: The Bible is **THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD**. Or, to say it in another way: We believe in **THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**.

We must be clear about the meaning of these terms. Let us first dismiss TWO wrong ideas!

1. We do not simply mean that the Bible is ‘the inspiring Word of God’. If that were the case, we would be saying that the Bible inspires us to

live better lives, to be wise and good! The Bible should have that kind of effect upon us, but to speak of it as ‘THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD’ means much, much more!

2. Neither do we mean that the writers were ‘inspired’ in the same way as poets, artists and musicians are ‘inspired’ to produce masterpieces.

What, then, is meant by the inspiration of Scripture? The expression comes from our **Key Verse (See 2 Timothy 3: 16)** Paul is speaking about how God communicated His thoughts and words to the writers of the Scriptures. The word ‘inspired’ pictures God ‘breathing out’. Indeed, the verse could literally be translated, ‘All Scripture is God-breathed’. This refers not only to the thoughts, but also to the very words of the original writings. The result is that we have, in the Holy Scriptures, a completely reliable revelation of God Himself.

From **2 Peter 1: 20 & 21** we learn something more about how God ‘breathed out’ His Word. It was by the agency of the Holy Spirit - **“prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”**. The picture is of the writers of Scripture being ‘carried along’ by the Holy Spirit, in much the same way as a sailboat is ‘carried along’, as the wind fills its sails.

This is indeed what the Bible claims for itself chapter after chapter. Read what David said in **2 Samuel 23: 2**, **“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue”**. And again, **“The Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas ...”**. (Acts 1: 16)

We accept, therefore, the Bible’s total accuracy and its final authority. Our Lord Jesus has given it His seal of approval, when He said, **“The Scripture cannot be broken”**. (John 10: 35) Let us then, read it, believe it, obey it, and allow it to direct our lives.

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Study 4. The Holy Spirit and the Bible

1 "ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD." (2 TIMOTHY 3: 16) EXPLAIN AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, WHAT THIS MEANS.

4

2 OUTLINE BRIEFLY TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE BIBLE DIFFERS FROM ORDINARY BOOKS.

2

3 HERE ARE:-

A. FOUR OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES, ALL OF WHICH RELATE TO THE LORD JESUS.

Zechariah 13: 7, Psalm 22:1, Micah 5: 2, Isaiah 42: 1-4

B. FOUR NEW TESTAMENT VERSES, IN WHICH THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CAME TRUE.

Luke 2: 3-7, Matthew 26: 31, Matthew 12: 15-21, Mark 15: 34

PLACE THE CORRECT NEW TESTAMENT ONE BESIDE ITS OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

(_____) (_____)

(_____) (_____)

4

4 WHAT DIFFERENCES DO YOU UNDERSTAND TO BE BETWEEN THESE TWO STATEMENTS? 'THE BIBLE INSPIRES ME.' & 'THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.'

4

5 READ AGAIN 2 TIMOTHY 3: 16 & 17, THEN ANSWER:-

I. WHAT FOUR USES IS SCRIPTURE "PROFITABLE" FOR?

II. ACCORDING TO VERSE 17, WHAT DOES A KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE EQUIP US FOR?

4

6 THE BIBLE ITSELF CLAIMS TO BE LIKE SOME EVERYDAY THINGS. IN THESE REFERENCES, TO WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD COMPARED?

i. *Jeremiah 23: 29* _____

ii. *Psalm 119: 103* _____

iii. *1 Peter 2: 2* _____

iv. *Ephesians 6: 17* _____

4

7 READ JOHN 14: 26 AND NOTE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGING TO THEIR REMEMBRANCE WHAT HE HAD TAUGHT THEM. (SEE ALSO JOHN 16: 13 & 14) KEEPING IN MIND THAT SOME OF THE DISCIPLES LATER BECAME THE WRITERS OF NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS, HOW IMPORTANT WOULD JESUS' PROMISE ABOUT "THE HELPER" (OR "COMFORTER") BE TO THEM?

3

Return your study sheets to:

or the PBS Centre below

25

Total marks for this study