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The Holy Spirit

Nature, Work, and Impact

Rough Draft 1

Level 2

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## INTRODUCTION: Knowing the Holy Spirit

The goal of this disciple making module is for followers of Jesus Christ to move in the power of the Holy Spirit.

First, they must know who the Holy Spirit is.

Second, they must know what the Holy Spirit does.

Third, they must learn how to move in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## UNIT 1. Nature of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

### The Holy Spirit is a Person:

Some people may think of the Holy Spirit as a force. Others may treat the Holy Spirit as an object. But, reality is that the Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit has been designated as the third person of the Godhead or Trinity. The purpose of this section is not to describe the relationship of the Holy Spirit within the Godhead but to establish that the Holy Spirit is a person rather than a force or an object. George Lucas who inspired the Star Wars movie series depicts a universal pantheistic worldview of everything originating out of an impersonal capricious divine energy force and mankind being trapped in an endless process of reincarnation towards enlightenment. Atheists, agnostics and secular humanists have tended either to deny, to ignore or the treat the Holy Spirit as some kind of object to be manipulated for selfish reasons.

Unfortunately, many professing Christians mistakenly approach the Holy Spirit having adopted certain elements of those false worldviews. Though most would deny monistic pantheism some practically relate to the Holy Spirit as some kind of impersonal force. They believe the Holy Spirit is God but rarely relate to Him. Others may deny atheism, agnosticism and secular humanism. But, they practically treat the Holy Spirit like an object that can be manipulated through prayer or religion for selfish reasons. Some committed Christians approach the Holy Spirit for other sad reasons such as personal enlightenment or exciting experiences. At the very least these tainted worldviews grieve the Holy Spirit.

Scripture presents the Holy Spirit as a person who thinks (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11), feels (Ephesians 4:30), searches (1 Corinthians 2:10), decides (Genesis 6:3; 2 Peter 1:21), creates (Genesis 1:2), speaks (Ezekiel 1-2; Matthew 10:20; Mark 13:11; John 16:13; Acts 13:2; Revelation 2:7), testifies (Romans 8:16; Hebrews 10:25), teaches (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13), convicts (John 16:8), indwells (1 Corinthians 3:16), strives with man (Genesis 6:3), loves (Romans 5:5), intercedes for man (Romans 8:26), comforts (Acts 9:31), gives hope, peace and joy (Romans 14:17; Romans 15:13), gives gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Hebrews 2:4), guides people (Acts 16:6), shares His wisdom, understanding and knowledge with people (Exodus 31:3), appoints leadership (Acts 20:28), builds a dwelling (Ephesians 2:22), fellowships (2 Corinthians 13:14), and cries out Abba Father (Galatians 4:6). Though there is more this should be sufficient proof that the Holy Spirit is a person.

Being a person the Holy Spirit can be rejected (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8), insulted (Hebrews 10:29), grieved (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30), or obeyed (Acts 5:32). The Holy Spirit is that Person of the Trinity that intimately indwells the believer in personal relationship (1 Corinthians 3:16; James 4:5). One should probably consider the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as persons and realms or kingdoms at the same time. We have already proved they are persons. Building, house, kingdom and realm vocabulary can be used to describe how the Holy Spirit can indwell every believer (1 Corinthians 3:16) and at the same time build up a dwelling consisting of all believers (Acts 7:49; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 2:2; 2:21; 4:12; 1 Peter 2:4-5) and at the same time consider us to be a kingdom and priests (1 Peter 2:4-5; Revelation 1:6: 5:10; 20:6). Realms is contemporary vocabulary that can be used to describe how believers can be “in Christ” (Romans 8:1) and Christ “in believers” (Romans 8:10) and “Jesus is in the Father” and “the Father in Jesus” (John 14:10) and “the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father” (John 15:26) all at the same time.

### The Holy Spirit is God:

Introduction:

Christian theologians have been known to describe the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity. Though the word “Trinity” is not found in the Scriptures the idea of One God Being who relates as Three Persons is found in many places in the Bible. The concept of the Trinity is easily seen in the New Testament. In the High Priestly Prayer Jesus uses this vocabulary: “that they may be one, even as the Father is in Me and I am in the Father, that they may be in Us” (John 17:20-21). Jesus uses language describing a unified Godhead in a plurality of persons. To make this even more clear in His Great Commission Jesus names functional Personhoods of the Trinity: “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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded…” (Matthew 28:19). The entire reason that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus is because He equated Himself to God. The Jews, orthodox monotheists, religiously reciting the “Shema” call to worship: “Hear oh Israel; the Lord your God is One” (Deuteronomy 6:4); simply could not bridge the interpretative gap of Jesus being equal to God, the Father. But, Jesus used the same Old Testament “Shema”, history, psalms and prophecies to prove that He was indeed the Son of God, the promised Messiah. “Jesus answered… ‘Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is One Lord… You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength… How is it that David said in the Holy Spirit ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies beneath your feet?” (Mark 12:29-31). We see Jesus quoting their own authoritative Scriptures to prove the Personhood within the Godhead.

The Jews failed to properly interpret the vocabulary, meaning and fulfillment of their own authoritative Scriptures. Thy failed to comprehend that the Hebrew name for God, Elohim (Genesis 1:1), is plural in grammatical form and singular function at the same time. They failed to observe hints of the Godhead in sentences throughout the Old Testament such as: “Let us make man in our own image” (Genesis 1:26); “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:22); “Come let us go down there and confuse their language” (Genesis 11:7); “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us” (Isaiah 6:8). Likewise they failed to draw interpretative conclusions from the Old Testament vocabulary of the “Father”: “His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6); and “He will cry to Me, You are my Father, My God and the Rock of my salvation” (Psalm 89:26). They failed to acknowledge the Old Testament revelation regarding the Son: “You are my Son, today I have begotten Thee” (Psalm 2:7). They failed to acknowledge the Trinity Godhead in the gospel recorded by Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18).  These passages from the Old Testament are the ones that Jesus used to prove His point: God relates as Three Persons in One Godhead. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit are the same God who relates as Three Persons.

### The Holy Spirit is God’s Change Agent:

Introduction:

A careful student of the Scriptures should see that the Holy Spirit functions as a Change Agent who is sent by the Son and who proceeds from the Father (John 15:26). In the creation event we see the Holy Spirit hovering over the surface of the waters. The Spirit of God contended with man (Genesis 6:3). The Spirit of the Lord shared with wisdom and knowledge with Joseph for interpreting dreams (Genesis 41). The Spirit of God provide wisdom for the craftsmen to build the temple and the many related accessories (Exodus 28, 31, 35). Moses was commanded to lay hands upon and distribute the Spirit of God among the seventy elders (Numbers 11:25). On the way to the Promised Land the Holy Spirit moved Balaam to speak favor upon the people of God (Numbers 24). Joshua was moved by the Spirit of God (Numbers 27:18). The judges were moved by the Spirit of God (Judges). Samuel anointed King Saul who received the Spirit of the Lord for a period of time (1 Samuel 10-11). Later Samuel anointed David who received and spoke by the Spirit of God (1 Samuel 16). The prophets were moved by the Spirit of God (2 Peter 1:21). Isaiah and Ezekiel were called and moved by the Spirit of God (Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1-2). Joel prophesied by the Spirit of God that one day God would pour out His Spirit on all mankind (Joel 2:28-29). Mary was overshadowed by the Spirit of God and was found to have child by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). John the Baptist was filled with Holy Spirit while still in the womb (Luke 1:41). Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit to prophesy about Jesus (Luke 1:67). Simeon was filled with the Holy Spirit to recognize the identity of Jesus (Luke 2:26-27). When Jesus was water baptized by John the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove (Luke 3:22). Jesus preached the prophesied gospel from Isaiah 62 saying “the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...” Luke 4:18). Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Spirit (Matthew 12:28). Jesus promised that after He returned to the Father He would send the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). While on the cross of crucifixion Jesus committed His Spirit into the Father’s hands (Luke 23:46). The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11); He is the One who guides believers into all the truth (John 16:13); He is the One who glorifies Jesus disclosing these things to those who believe (John 16:14). At Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell upon believers in the upper room that they would boldly witness in multiple languages about Jesus (Acts 1-2). The apostles and followers moved and spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15). The Holy Spirit gave nine spiritual gifts to believers for the edification of the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). The apostle John was caught up in the Spirit to receive what is called the book of Revelation. The common thread in all these events is the fact that the Holy Spirit is God’s Change Agent. When God wants to relate with humanity He sends the person of the Holy Spirit.

## UNIT 2: Work of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

### Convicts the World:

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11). The Holy Spirit was sent with a mission to the world to convict people of sin. Satan has blinded the minds of people to their sin. People need someone outside of the sinful world system to uncover sin.

### Seals the Believer:

The Holy Spirit seals the believer (Ephesians 1:13). What does a seal do? A seal identifies ownership, explains the authority of the sender, secures the contents, ensures delivery to the destination, and demands the attention of the recipient to open the package…

### Indwells the Believer:

The Holy Spirit indwells the believer (1 Corinthians 3:16). Since only God is holy, in order for people to be holy they need the presence of God to make them holy. Therefore, upon belief in the atoning work of Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer. In the Garden of Eden God dwelt with mankind. When mankind sinned they were banished from His presence. For a period of time God dwelt among His chosen people in a temple. In the New Testament believers become the temple in which God dwells in the Holy Spirit. This is how Peter can write that believers are living stones being built up into a holy temple.

### Baptizes the Believer:

The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer (Acts 1:5). There is much confusion about baptism. For specific detail on the various baptism read our document on this topic. In this section we simply want to point out the fact that one of the works of the Holy Spirit is to baptize the believer. The Holy Spirit is the Agent who identifies the believer with God. When a person in born into this world they usually receive a birth certificate identifying their name and parents and location. A witness has to be present to properly identify the newborn. Similarly the Holy Spirit serves as the Identifier that the believer was born again into the kingdom of God. Those with the Spirit of God are born of God.

### Teaches the Believer:

Believers have the Holy Spirit as their teacher (1 Corinthians 2:10-14)

### Guides the Believer:

The Holy Spirit guides believers (John 16:13)

### Conforms the Believer to the Image of Christ:

The Holy Spirit conforms believers to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

### Produces Fruit through the Believer:

The Holy Spirit is responsible for producing nine spiritual fruits through the believer: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control through the life of a believer (Galatians 5:22-23).

### Gifts the Believer:

The Holy Spirit is responsible for gifting believers with nine spiritual gifts to be used for the edification of the church: (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

## UNIT 3: Impact of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

### Change Agent Advancing His Kingdom Agenda on Earth:

The purpose of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to advance kingdom of heaven agenda on earth as in heaven. This is covered in the Lord’s Prayer.

## CONCLUSION:

The Holy Spirit