



What Every Christian Should Know – The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, Wed. Night: November 3, 2010

## **The Baptist Faith and Message: The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration\*. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

\*note Regeneration: The word, used only twice in the New Testament (Matt. 19:28; Titus 3:5), means to be born again.

The Four Major Subdivisions of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit Are:

1. Personality
2. Deity
3. Salvation
4. Gifts

**Personality:** The Holy Spirit is a personal being, not an impersonal force

The Holy Spirit is sometimes perceived as the religious equivalent of school spirit. This is not accurate. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is treated as a person and given the attributes of personality, such as emotions, actions, intellect, and relationships.

*Key Verse: And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)*

**Deity:** the Holy Spirit is divine, the third person of the Trinity.

Not only is the Holy Spirit a personal being, He is also divine. He possesses divine attributes, such as omnipresence and omnipotence (remember these about God). He performed miracles only God could do, such as the creation of the world and the miraculous conception of Jesus. In addition, He is associated on an equal plane with the other members of the Trinity.

*Key Verse: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

**Salvation:** The Holy Spirit is instrumental in personal salvation.

The Holy Spirit plays the instrumental role in the personal salvation of individuals who become Christians. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to see our sinfulness and realize that we should turn from sin. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us see that, in order to become Christians, we must believe in Jesus, ask Him to forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life, and commit our lives to living for Him.

*Key Verse: See below (The Holy Spirits Work in Salvation)*

**Gifts:** The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual abilities to Christians

God wants to use each of us to minister to others. The Holy Spirit gives us a special spiritual "gift" to minister to others. It is something we enjoy doing and something at which we are effective. However, since God is working through us with this gift, the results must always be attributed to Him and not to ourselves.

*Key Verse: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12: 4, 11)*

### **The Holy Spirits Work in Salvation**

There are five primary areas that the Holy Spirit works in personal salvation:

1. Conviction: Revealing a need to change – John 16:8
2. Regeneration: Imparting a new spirit and eternal life with God – Titus 3:5
3. Indwelling: Living within a believer – Romans 8:9
4. Baptism: Placing a believer, spiritually, in the body of Christ – 1 Cor. 12:13
5. Sealing: Guaranteeing the believer's relationship to God – Eph. 1:13-14