

Doctrine for Dummies

Lesson 4

The Holy Spirit

The third Person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit possesses all the divine attributes of eternity, omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence, and holiness. He is called by many names such as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the eternal Spirit, the Comforter, and God in us. In several passages the Spirit appears as distinct from God such as at Jesus' baptism when He descended to Jesus as the Father spoke (Luke 3). He is distinct from Jesus in that after Jesus ascended to heaven in Acts 1, the Holy Spirit descended to indwell the Apostles in Acts 2.

1. What part did the Holy Spirit have in creation (Gen 1:2, Job 33:4, Ps 104:30)? Did the Holy Spirit "come upon" people in the Old Testament (Ex 31:3, Numbers 11:17, Judges 15:14, 1 Samuel 16:13)?
2. Did the Spirit also leave people from time to time (1 Sam 16:14, Judges 16:20, Ps 51:11) in the O.T.? Did the Holy Spirit speak through the prophets in the O.T (Micah 3:8, Isaiah 61:1)? How did Peter explain the way that prophecy from God was given (2 Peter 1:20-21)?
3. In His last discourse to His disciples before the crucifixion, Jesus made it clear that He was leaving them for an extended time, yet what good news did He have for them in John 14:16-17? How long would the Spirit of truth be with them (Jn 14:16)?
4. Would the Holy Spirit have a teaching ministry to believers in Christ (Jn 14:26; 16:13)? Who would the Spirit reveal, magnify, and glorify (John 15:26; 16:14)?

5. After His resurrection, but before His ascension to heaven, Jesus told all His disciples in Jerusalem to wait on a great event to occur that would change their lives forever. What was the great commission of Jesus in Acts 1:8?

6. When did the Holy Spirit come upon them, indwell them, and fill them with power to serve God (Acts 2:1-4)? What was the result of Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit to preach (Acts 2:40-41) the Gospel?

7. From that time on in Acts 2 until now, what has been true of all who believe in Jesus as their Savior (1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:13, Eph 1:13)? Do all believers have the Spirit dwelling in them according to Romans 8:9? Does the Spirit give spiritual life to your mortal body (Romans 8:11)?

8. What is the Holy Spirit's relationship to the world in John 16:7-11 and Acts 2:37-38? In the early days of the church recorded in the book of Acts, how did the disciples of Jesus know for certain that Gentiles had been saved (Acts 10:43-47; 11:15-18)?

9. What are some of the other ministries of the Holy Spirit to Christians (Rom 8:14, 16, 26, John 14:16, 26; 16:13, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)? How are we commanded to live according to Galatians 5:16-25?

10. What do you think it means, "do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" in Eph 4:25-32?