

THE HOLY GHOST

(A study in the person, work and ministry of the Holy Ghost)

Because we are living in the Holy Ghost dispensation, it is imperative that we as Christians seek to understand all that we possibly can concerning the person, the work and the ministry of the Holy Ghost. Some use the term, "Holy Ghost, while other use the term, "Holy Spirit." These are one and the same and can be used interchangeably. Many Christians know of the Holy Ghost but perceive him merely as an influence and not as a person. The words oil, water, wind, breath and fire are used to depict the operation of the Holy Ghost in scripture and perhaps that is one of the reasons believers have a hard time perceiving him as a person. However the Bible declares that we can know him. Not only can we know him, but it is the will of God that we not be ignorant concerning the Holy Ghost.

Two factors are extremely important concerning the Holy Ghost:

#1: The Holy Ghost is absolutely essential to a full Christian life of Service.

#2: How we perceive the Holy Ghost will determine to what extent he works through us. Also, our knowledge or lack of knowledge of him will gauge to what degree he will minister through us to accomplish the will of the father.

The Holy Ghost is a Person:

The Holy Ghost is the third person of the Godhead. He occupies a coordinate rank with other members of the Godhead. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Although these three are one, they each have their own personality and their own office.

A good way to visualize this is by considering the fact that all families consists of various family members. They may all be "Smith's" by virtue of the family name, but the father, mother and children each have their own personalities and their own responsibilities.

It is easy to comprehend the idea that God is a person because one can view the handiwork of God in creation. One can relate to the fact that he is God and that he sent his son to die for our sins. It is also easy to comprehend Jesus Christ as a person because he is the one who came down in flesh and died on the cross. But when we think of the Holy Ghost perhaps he seems impersonal because he is viewed as mystical, or just figurative but the Holy Ghost has his own office just as the Father and the Son does and his own work and personality.

The following scriptures confirm that the Holy Ghost is not just a symbol but a person with a mind, knowledge, will and emotions, all of which are personal.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:27)

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, and the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. (I Corinthians 2:10, 11)

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption: (Ephesians 4:30).

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (St. John 14:26)

Howbeit when he the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (St. John 16: 13, 14).

The Holy Ghost is omnipotent (all powerful); omniscience (all knowing) and omnipresent (He is everywhere).

The omnipotence of the Spirit:

The Holy Ghost is all-powerful in that he “searcheth all things, guides “into all truth;” and teaches “all” things: (I Corinthians 2:10, 11; John 16:12, 13; John 14:26)

The Omniscience of the Spirit:

The omniscience of the Spirit is affirmed in I Corinthians 2:10: “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, and the deep things of God.” He has perfect knowledge of the hidden counsel of God. He knows all things, even the deep things of God, and has the ability and knowledge to search all things.

The Omnipresence of the Spirit:

Psalms 139 gives us a vivid picture of the Omnipresence of the spirit. David declared, “*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*” (Psalm 139:7). He is omnipresent in essence, and the fact He is everywhere at all times cannot be denied.

The Holy Ghost is the Administrator of the Affairs of the Church

The Spirit is the chief administrator of the church. This is beautifully portrayed in Acts 15:28. When the announcement of the decisions of the Council of Jerusalem was made,

Peter said, *“It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us.”* Their conclusions were joint conclusions. The Holy Ghost was their fellow counselor.

The Holy Spirit of God will administer the affairs of the church when He is given consideration. When he is recognized, revered and respected as the presiding officer, he actually exercises all of his blessed offices of administration – leading, teaching, guiding and governing the body of Christ.

SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATIONS

The word manifestation means “making visible, or that which is shown forth or evidenced.” In this particular context, manifestations are the evidences of the gifts of the Spirit. There are various scriptures that confirm the manifestations to men, through men and with men.

Example of Manifestations to men:

On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Ghost appeared to men in cloven tongues as of fire. (Acts Chapter 2)

Example of Manifestation With Men:

The Holy Ghost works with men to confirm the Word. Signs, wonders, and miracles accompany the ministry to confirm their testimony. Mark 16:20 gives us an example of the Holy Ghost working with men. “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.”

Example of Manifestation through men:

We receive the Holy Spirit as Christ’s ascension gift, then we commit ourselves to His indwelling, inworking, and outworking. We receive Him by opening our heart to His fullness, then we give Him full possession and power, service and control of our entire being. This includes every faculty of our mind, every affection of our heart, and complete obedience to His bidding. His will becomes ours and we become servants under His authority. All of his power is at our disposal, provided we are at His disposal. The power resident in the source is transmitted through us. It does not belong to us. It is not ours. Power belongs unto God, but He manifests Himself through us.

World evangelization is made possible through the manifestation of the Spirit, because the Spirit has a preeminent place in all true evangelism. It is He who convicts of sin and magnifies Christ. It is through Him and His sovereign work that His gifts are manifested.

THE HOLY GHOST –THE COMFORTER

The title “Comforter” is an English translation of the Greek word *paraclete* that is used in the New Testament to designate both the second and third persons of the Holy Trinity. This word is used primarily as a title for the Holy Ghost. It means “beside or alongside of” or “one called alongside of another to help and to give aid.” It carries the idea of close companionship or personal association.

Christ’s ministry on this earth was one of solace, consolation, forgiveness, healing, and the alleviating of guilt and grief. Likewise, the Holy Ghost has been divinely dispatched to the aid of the believer to heal his hurts. Particularly in times of grief and fear, the Holy Ghost is an awesome comforter. He gives you the assurance on the inside that whatever you are going through, it’s only temporary.

The Holy Ghost is a teacher:

It has been said that experience is the best teacher. While it is true that experience is a great teacher, it is not the best teacher. The best teacher is the Holy Ghost because the Holy Ghost knows all things, even the deep things of God. (St. John 14:26). He is our instruction in all necessary truths of righteousness. When human understanding is insufficient, the Holy Ghost enhances our ability to comprehend. He illuminates the dark passages. (I Corinthians 2:14).

The Holy Ghost is our Advocate:

The Holy Ghost will minister as an advocate, pleading our causes; He builds our cases and serves as our representative, interceding on our behalf. His power and presence encompass our total being and personality, filling us with His fullness so that we are able to cope triumphantly with life and its opportunities.

The Holy Ghost is our Helper:

The word *paraclete* means more than just, “comforter.” It also means “advocate, intercessor, teacher, guide, and helper.”

A helper is someone called in to do something -- someone who is both knowledgeable and capable.

Jesus knew that the church was going to need help. He knew each individual would be striving, that occasionally we all would need aid; that special divine assistance that only God can give.

The Holy Ghost as a revelator:

Although there are numerous aspects of the personal ministry of the Holy Ghost, his supreme ministry is to bring to light the truth of God and to communicate it to mankind. He is the Revelator, the divine communicator of truth to man.

It is very difficult for the human mind to grasp the inmost significance of God's revelation and therefore we need the aid of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost enables us to see the Bible as the very Word of God. The Spirit is the inner witness, testifying within our hearts to the truth of the Word of God, to the saving work of Jesus Christ, and to our new status as sons and daughters of God.

It is the Holy Ghost that takes the Word of God and makes it a personal reality in our hearts.

The Holy Ghost removes the veil from our hearts and enlightens the eyes of our understanding so that we can truly comprehend the truth of the written and preached Word. Only the divine light of the Spirit of God can drive darkness away and reveal to us the deep things of God.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searched all things, yea, and the deep things of God. (I Corinthians 2: 9-11)

The Holy Ghost Bears Witness to the Saving Work of Jesus Christ:

One of the works of the Holy Ghost is to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. (St. John 16:8). He does for the unbeliever what he cannot do for himself. He gives the unbeliever spiritual vision and sight, opening his heart and eyes and unplugging his ears, so that he may come to rely on the saving work of Christ. It is the Holy Ghost that makes man aware of his sinful and unsaved condition.

It is only the Holy Ghost that can soften hard hearts and bring men to see "that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (II Corinthians 5:19).

The Holy Ghost Bears Witness to our Sonship:

It is the Holy Ghost that touches us in the deep places of our hearts and grants us assurance and a better understanding of our position as members of God's family.

The Spirit is spoken of as the Spirit of adoption. He testifies to “our spirit, that we are the children. Of God.” (Romans 5:5)

The witness of the Holy Ghost takes away our doubts and fears because of adversity and teaches us to rejoice in tribulation.

Not only does he assure us of our position in Christ, but we are convicted of sin and led to faith in Christ.

THE HOLY GHOST – THE GLORIFIER

The Holy Ghost provides many ministries: convicting, comforting, teaching, guiding, enabling, empowering and many more. Probably the most important promise was that the Holy Ghost would glorify Christ: “He shall testify of me” (St. John 15:26), and “He shall glorify me” (St. John 16:14).

The Holy Ghost was identified as the divine agent at work in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son.

The child, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35).

The Holy Spirit came upon him in the form of a dove at his baptism. (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22).

The Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1) and brought him out again to Galilee with power (Luke 4:14).

*This information was obtained from the book, “Who Is The Holy Ghost,” written by Dr. Ray Hughes of the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee. We found it to be the most thorough information concerning this most vital subject.

