



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Marcus & Thompsons Roads, LOWER TEMPLESTOWE VIC 3107
www.bulleenbaptist.org.au 9850 9633

Series : "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"

Sunday, January 29, 2006 : Study 1

"WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

INTRODUCTION

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. John 3:6-9

These short verses teach us that the work of the Holy Spirit is:

1. ESSENTIAL "No one can enter ... unless..."
2. EFFECTIVE "Spirit gives birth to spirit"
3. ELECTIVE (Outside our control) "wherever it pleases"

In spite of this clear teaching, historically the Spirit of God has been

1. DISCOUNTED Not thought of very much.
2. DISCONTINUED Not for today
2. INSTITUTIONALISED Identified with the Church, its Offices or Ceremonies
3. "THEOLOGISED" The Spirit may be essential to our standing before God and our continued relationship with him, but practically he does not figure very much in our experience.
4. APPROPRIATED The exclusively possession of our group.
"We are Spirit-filled Christians." (By implication - "you're not.")

How does the Holy Spirit figure in our experience of the Christian life? Have we not all asked at some time if there is not "something more" to being a Christian? We long to know God better, to be more effective in ministry and to know more consistent growth in Christ and a decisive victory over the grip of sin. We cast longing eyes back to the story of the early Church in the book of Acts, compare it with our experience, & wonder

What is the purpose of this Series?

To increase our UNDERSTANDING of who the Holy Spirit is and what he does in our life.

To help us IDENTIFY and DEAL with anything that hinders the Spirit's work in us

To ENCOURAGE us to rely on his presence and power in living for Christ & in ministry in his name

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A "PERSON"

The use of the word 'person' is awkward; its intention is to indicate that in light of the Biblical material, the Holy Spirit cannot be understood as just our experience of God's power but as a "relational personality" ... ie. The Holy Spirit knows us and that we relate to him. Consider

1. **HIS TITLE** : "Parakletos" (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7) ... means "One Called Alongside" In the Greek language this word is only used of a person.

2. **GRAMMATICAL CONSTRUCTION** the grammar used is interesting. In Greek, "Spirit" is neuter, so the associated pronoun should be "it". John, breaking the rules of Greek grammar, nearly always uses the masculine pronoun "he." Eg. Jn 16:13 (Note: the awkward phraseology in English is because of the even greater "awkward" construction in the original.

But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

3. THE THREE MARKS OF PERSONALITY

- a. INTELLECT : *The Spirit searches (comprehends) the deep things of God ... no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 1Cor2:10-11*
- b. WILL : *All these (gifts) are the work of the one Spirit, who gives them as he pleases. 1Cor11:28*
- c. EMOTIONS : *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God Rom15:30*

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS, BY NATURE, GOD.

1. THE SPIRIT HAS THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- a. ETERNAL : *How much more then the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit, offered himself unblemished to God. Heb9:14*
- b. OMNIPRESENCE : (Present everywhere at the same time)
Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? Ps139:7
- c. OMNISCIENT : (Knows all things)
...no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 1Cor2:10-11
- d. OMNIPOTENT : (All - Powerful)
The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Luke 1:35

2. THE SPIRIT IS EXPLICITLY CALLED "GOD" : *Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit You have not lied to men, but to God. Acts 5:3-4.*
Compare also Hebrews 3:7f : a quote from Psalm 95 - where God is speaking - is attributed in Heb3:7 to the Holy Spirit. Also linked in this way are Heb10:15 & Jer31:33.

3. THE SPIRIT IS "RANKED" WITH GOD

There are many NT verses that link God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit together. Eg. Mt28:19
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. See also Jn15:26; Eph1:13-14; 17; 2Th2:13-14; Gal4:6; 1Cor12:4-6; 2Cor13:14; Rom8:9-11; 1Ptr1:2

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS "ANOTHER" JESUS

Who is God the Father like? *If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. Jn14:9*
Who is God the Holy Spirit like? *I will send you another comforter, the Spirit of Truth. Jn14:16*
The word translated "another" is the Gk "allos" which means "another of the same kind."
The Gk word "heteros" (another of a different kind) was available, but not used here.

Note the progression in John 14:16 - 23

IDENTITY		LOCATION	
<i>I will send another comforter</i>	v16	<i>He will live with you and be in you</i>	v17
<i>I will come to you</i>	v18	<i>On that day ... you will realise that I am in you</i>	v19
<i>My Father and I will come to you</i>	v23	<i>and make our home with you.</i>	v23

In these remarkable verses, Jesus teaches that
through the Holy Spirit's PRESENCE in us
the full presence of God dwells in us PERSONALLY.

We do not relate to God's impersonal "FORCE" or "INFLUENCE",
but through the Holy Spirit to God HIMSELF.