

Spirit of God

A series on the Holy Spirit

The Bible reveals that God is one personal being who continually shows himself in three dimensions- as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God had no beginning and will have no end. He simply “is” God. Therefore the Holy Spirit – or Spirit of God has always been present in everything that God is or does. This short series takes us from the very beginnings of time through the Incarnation and to the equipping of the first followers of Christ – Christians.

Session 1: Creative Spirit Genesis 1:1-2; 2:4b-7; John 3:1-8,16 (15 April 2007)

Read Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning of what? (v1)

Who exactly is meant by “God”?(v1)

What is the reason for writing “S” as a capital initial letter? (v2)

What is the function of the Spirit of God?(v2)

Read Genesis 2:4b-7. This is the second, supporting account of creation.

Why are the words “Lord God” used here? (v4)

What is special and personal about God “forming” man? (v7)

What happens when God’s “breath” enters the man thus formed? (v7)

The word used for breath is the Hebrew word “ruach”. It means “breath, wind, soul”. What is the connection with the Spirit of God in these words?

Read John 3:1-8,16

What does this night visit tell us about Nicodemus?(v2)

What has brought him to Jesus? (vv1-2)

Why does Nicodemus not grasp the meaning of the words “born again” (also = born from above)? (vv3-4)

Why does Jesus use the words “water and Spirit”? (vv5-6)

What is the function of the Holy Spirit in the new birth? (vv6-8)

The Spirit of God gives us natural life, and through faith in Christ, supernatural life forever.

Session 2: God in the Flesh Luke 1:26-38; 3:21-23a; 4:1-13; 14-21 (22 April 2007)

The Bible texts show how the Spirit takes a person from birth to total commitment in serving God

Read Luke 1:26-38

The words “Holy Spirit” are written here. What do we understand by these two words placed together?(v35)

The Holy Spirit gives life to us all. What is special about this birth and why? (See Matthew 1:18-25)

Read Luke 3:21-23a

What is the function of the Holy Spirit here?

What does the Spirit’s presence enable Jesus to do now?

Read Luke 4:1-13

How does Jesus manage to resist the temptations?

Why did he go to the desert in the first place?

How is the number 40 significant?

Read Luke 4:14-21

How was Jesus able to return from his ordeal in the desert “In the power of the Spirit”?

How does God use trials to strengthen us?

What was the Spirit’s role in giving Jesus the (already chosen) daily scripture reading on that day?

Verses 18-19 are a summary of our daily ministry as Christians. How can we hope to fulfil this?

The Holy Spirit gives the power of life and the power for living for God.

Session 3: Way In Acts 2:22-24, 32-34, 36, 37-41 (29 April 2007)

The resurrection is the way in to work in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 2:22-24

How was Jesus able to perform miracles, signs and wonders?(v22)

How did Jesus organise his life so that it coincided with God's "set purpose"? (v23)

Who gave the new resurrection life that was able to free Jesus from his death? (v24)

Read Acts 2:32-34,36

Why is the resurrection so powerful for witnessing to faith in Christ? (v32)

What were the ways in which Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all at work in the resurrection?

Read Acts 2:37-41 – What the resurrection did for us

What two actions must happen before a person becomes a Christian? (vv37-38)

What is actually involved in "repent"? (v38)

What does God offer in return for our response to his call? (v38)

How is this guaranteed? (v39)

Why should people be saved?

What part does the Holy Spirit play in our conversion?

The Holy Spirit gives forgiveness and eternal life in return for repentance and faith.

Session 4: Signs and Wonders Mark 1:21-34; 16:14-20 (06 May 2007)

Read Mark 1:21-28

Why did the evil spirit react to Jesus in this way?(v24)

What did the evil spirit recognise in Jesus? (v24)

What can we learn from the way that Jesus handled the situation? (vv25-26)

Where is the Holy Spirit in all this?

Read Mark 1:29-34

What prompted the family to ask for Jesus' help?

What made this woman well?

How was Jesus able to heal and deliver people?

Read Mark 16:14-20

How is "lack of faith" a problem?(v14)

What exactly IS the Good News? (v15)

How do we "preach" it?

Why are the consequences of a response to the Good News so clear-cut?(v16)

What is necessary for signs to follow the ministry of believers?

Miracle is the work of the Spirit – not human expertise.

Session 5: Special Forces Acts 13:1-13 (13 May 2007)

Read Acts 13:1-3

What are the effects of 1. Worshipping? 2. Fasting?(v2)

Why are these disciplines so vital to Christians and the Church?

How might the Holy Spirit have communicated his message here?(v2)

Why was further prayer and fasting necessary?(v3)

What is the purpose of the laying on of hands here? (v3)

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands? When else is this practice used?(see Acts 9:17-19; 19:6 ff.; 28:7-9)

Read Acts 13:4-5

How might the Holy Spirit have shown them what to do?

How is the Holy Spirit present in "proclaiming the word of God"? (v6)

Read Acts 13:6-13

What prompted the opposition to Barnabas and Saul?

How was Saul (now called Paul) able to contest the interruption?

What part did the Holy Spirit play in the conversion of the proconsul?

The Holy Spirit is supreme over all powers.

Session 6: Mixed Fruit Galatians 5:13-26 (20 May 2007)

Read Galatians 5:13-18

In what sense are we “free” as Christians?(v13)

Why then are there restrictions on this freedom? (v13)

What does it mean in practice to “love your neighbour as yourself”? (v14)

What behaviour can sabotage this command to love?(vv15,17)

How do we actually “live by the Spirit?(v16)

How does the Holy Spirit want to work in our lives?

Read Galatians 5:19-21

Go through the list of actions that come from a life not controlled by the Spirit. Try to examine 1. What is wrong 2. How to avoid these

Read Galatians 5:22-26

Now go through this list. Try to understand how we can let the Spirit “grow” this fruit in us

Where the soil is right, the Holy Spirit produces fruit.

Session 7: Gift Day 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (27 May 2007)

This key passage lists the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives for the church to be effective in witness and worship. There are two other passages –Romans 12:3-8 and Ephesians 4:11-13 that list further gifts of the Spirit. You can look these up after this study if you wish.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-6

What causes “ignorance” about the gifts of the Spirit? (v1)

What is the special significance about the words “Jesus is Lord” as used in the early church? (v3)

How does v3 reveal how the Spirit will show us who is Christ’s and who is not?

What is the encouragement for us in vv 4-6?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Why are the gifts mentioned here not our own personal possession? (vv 7 and 11)

So what are they given for?

Go through all the 9 gifts listed here. Try to determine how this gift might happen in a church setting and what the response should be.

Can you remember when you witnessed any of these gifts?

Why are they so vital to the life of the local church?

The local church is a channel for the gifts of the Spirit, so that God may be glorified by all that we are and do.

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