

## Systematic Theology: The Holy Spirit

### I. The Person of the Holy Spirit

#### A. The Importance of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“The Holy Spirit is the point at which the Trinity becomes personal to the believer.” (Erickson, 772-773)

#### B. Difficulties in Understanding the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is often described in the scripture functionally, His roles and purposes, by directing the attention to the Son of God to the glory of the Father. There is a lack of direct and concrete imagery. Due to the charismatic movement, additional challenges emerged in the last 100 years.

#### C. The History of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Throughout the history of the church the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has received different points of emphasis. Early in the church, the emphasis was on the role of the Spirit in the production of the Bible. By the second century, the divinity of the Holy Spirit took on significance. By the fourth century, the charismatic groups emphasized the Spirit's supernatural work in and through believers.

Protestant scholasticism emphasized correct doctrine or correct theology based on a more mechanical view of the role of the Scriptures. The Word, without the witness of the Spirit, became the basis of authority. “Since belief rather than experience came to be viewed as the essence of the Christian religion, the Holy Spirit was increasingly neglected.” (Erickson)

Scholasticism combined with emerging rationalism, put the emphasis on human ability to reason through God's revelation without the aid or need of the Holy Spirit.

The early 20th century charismatic movement with its emphasis on spiritual gifts, especially the gift of tongues, brought the doctrine of the Holy Spirit back to the forefront of theological discussions. As the shift to supernatural gifts began to take center stage in the mid to late 20th century, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit became a significant factor of the theology of the church.

#### D. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

##### i. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

I Corinthians 2:10-11 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among people knows the thoughts of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the thoughts of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

John 3:7-8 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 14:16-17 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

2 Peter 1:20-21 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## ii. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

"The Holy Spirit is a person, not an impersonal force." (Erickson)

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

## E. Implications of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

### 1. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a vague force.

2. The Holy Spirit, being fully divine, is to be accorded the same honor and respect given to the Father and the Son.

3. The Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son.

4. God is not far off. In the Holy Spirit, the Triune God comes close, so close as to actually enter into each believer.

## II. The Works of the Holy Spirit

### A. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Creation, prophetic works and scripture, skills for tasks, administration, power and gifts, other special capabilities, producing righteousness

Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Ezekiel 11:5-6 Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and He said to me, "Say, 'Thus says the Lord, "So you think, house of Israel, for I know your thoughts. You have multiplied your slain in this city, filling its streets with them."

Exodus 35:30-33 Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel...of the tribe of Judah. And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship; to make designs for working in gold and in silver and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work.

### B. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus

The conception, the announcement of both John the Baptist and Jesus, presence at the baptism of Jesus, filling Jesus, miracles performed through Jesus, casting out demons, resurrection of Jesus

#### The conception

Luke 1:34-35 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18-19 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Matthew 1:20-21 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

The announcement of both John the Baptist and Jesus

Luke 1:41-42 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

Luke 1:43-45 And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

Luke 1:67-68 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people..."

Luke 2:25-27 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus

Presence at the Baptism of Jesus

Luke 3:21-22 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Filling Jesus

Luke 4:1-2 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:14-15 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

Miracles Performed through Jesus

Luke 4:17-19 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

#### Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit

Luke 10:21-22 At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

#### Casting out Demons by the Holy Spirit

Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

#### Resurrection of Jesus

Romans 1 Paul...set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord...

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.