



## Theology Exam Qs 21-22

### Track 5 – ACBC Certification Track

#### Additional Notes:

**Question 21: Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life describing the importance of this role in the counseling process.**

#### **I. Define the Holy Spirit**

##### **A. Demonstrate that the Bible presents the Holy Spirit as a person [a “who”]**

1. Intelligence (John 14:26)
2. Will (1 Cor. 12:11)
3. Emotion (Eph. 4:30)

##### **B. Demonstrate that the Bible presents the Holy Spirit as God – none other than the 3rd person of the Trinity. cf. Q#7 on the Trinity**

Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Acts 5:3-5

#### **II. Explain the Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

##### **A. The ministry of the Spirit in evangelism**

1. He will convict the world regarding sin (John 16:8)
2. Brings Spiritual life (Eph. 2:1-4, Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 1:2)

##### **B. The baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Placing believers in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13, Eph. 2:22)

##### **C. The indwelling ministry of the Spirit in the believer**

Ongoing presence in the believer after conversion (Rom 8:9,16; 1 Cor. 6:19).

**Additional  
Notes:****D. His role in illumination.**

Helping us spiritually appraise the things of God (1 Cor. 2:10-14)

**E. The Spirit's role in progressive sanctification**

When the believer becomes more like Christ (Romans 8:1-17, Gal 5:22-25, 1 Peter 1:1-16)

**F. The filling of the Spirit**

Control or influence where the spirit guides the believer (Eph. 5:15-21).

**G. The Spirit's role in intercession**

The spirit intercedes for us even when we can't (Rom 8:26-27)

**H. The Spirit's role in giving of spiritual gifts**

He gives gifts that are to be used to honor the Lord and edify the church. (Rom 12, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4:11-16 1 Peter 4:10-11)

**III. Explain the role of the Spirit in Counseling**

It is very important that you answer this part of the question thoughtfully. The majority of the theology exam does not ask these types of questions so when they appear they are important. Here are a few ideas, but they are certainly not the only ones:

**A. Role 1: The Spirit of God is the primary means for biblical change in the counselee.**

1. A. We are dependent on the Spirit's work to bring about real and lasting change (Eph. 1:18, 1 Cor. 2: 12-14)
2. The spirit gives life so we can walk in the newness of life (2 Cor. 3:6, Rom 6:4)

**Additional  
Notes:****B. Role 2: The Spirit helps the counselor be in a position to counsel**

1. We must be careful lest we are tempted (Gal 6:1)
2. We also must walk by the spirit so that we do not carry out the desires of the flesh. (Gal 5:16)

The Spirit is at work in the counselee and the counselor.

**Summary**

I encouraged you to divide this question in three simple parts. First, provide a 1-2 sentence summary defining the Holy Spirit as the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity. Second, explain the ministry of the Spirit today. Third, explain the significance of the Spirit to both the counselee and the counselor.

**Question #22: Provide your understanding of how the Holy Spirit guides Christians.**

ACBC included this question because the leadership was concerned about a too mystical and too subjective approach to biblical counseling. This does not mean that ACBC denies any subjective reality to the Christian life. Instead, it is a matter of degree and the place that the subjective occupies with respect to the counseling room.

**I. Reasons ACBC was concerned**

**A. Statements made with “God’s Authority” that are not verifiable.**

**B. Statements made with “God’s Authority” have been used for sinful purposes**

**II. The Guidance of the Holy Spirit**

I think it is fair to say the answer to the first question is “yes.” ACBC has a significant place for the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit – which is done not simply to the disciples but to his all his people. ACBC also believes strongly that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit ultimately results in the exalting of Jesus Christ (Colossians says that he must have preeminence) and the glorification of the Father.



So, in light of the Holy Spirit's ministry through which Christ is exalted and the Father is glorified he plays the role of the teacher of truth.

### Additional Notes:

- John 14-17: When you consider John 14-17 there are several key themes that rise to the forefront. TRUTH (he will guide you into truth; he is the Spirit of truth (14:17) John 17:17 Your word is truth). But notice that the truth ultimately returns back to the Word of God. Even to the disciples he does not speak of his own, but rather speaks of Jesus (the Word who became flesh).
- 1 Corinthians 2 emphasizes the thoughts of God some of which were recorded in the Bible because according to Timothy they were profitable for us (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- Even the prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19 (the Holy Spirit would help them understand the love of Christ) could be answered though an understanding of the Word of God that explains our condition, our need, the greatness of God, his willing sacrifice, and our continued struggle for obedience.

### Recommended Resources

- Adams, Jay. [\*Theology of Christian Counseling\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.
- Enns, Paul. [\*Moody Handbook of Theology - 25th Anniversary Edition\*](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 2014.
- Frame, John. [\*Systematic Theology \(Frame\)\*](#). Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013.
- Grudem, Wayne. [\*Systematic Theology \(Grudem\)\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
- Lambert, Heath. [\*Theology of Biblical Counseling\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- MacArthur, John; Mayhue, Richard. [\*Biblical Doctrine\*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.
- Ryrie, Charles. [\*Basic Theology\*](#). Chicago, IL: Moody, 1999.
- Thorn, Joel. [\*Experiencing the Trinity\*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.