

Unit 4: Pneumatology: The Study of the Holy Spirit

Unit Introduction



As we continue on in our study of Bible Doctrine, we come to the third Person of the Trinity – The Holy Spirit. The study of the Holy Spirit is called Pneumatology. In this Unit, we will see how that even though the Holy Spirit does not have a body, he does have personality. We will study the ministry of the Holy Spirit on the behalf of believers, and in the final lesson of this unit look at the different gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows on the believer.

Above all, though, we will see that the Holy Spirit’s job is to glorify the Son, Jesus Christ, and to make Him known. While it is important to study the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, we will see that the Spirit Himself gives precedence to the Son, and therefore, so should we.

Unit Outline

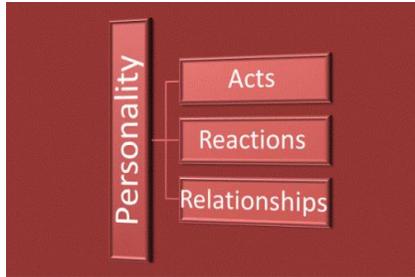
Lesson 8: The Work of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 9: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 10: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 8: The Work of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Introduction



In this lesson we will study the work of the Holy Spirit: what He is doing, and why He is doing it. We will see that while it is very important for us to study the Holy Spirit, we must not get to where we are glorifying the Spirit. The Spirit glorifies the Son and so should we.

In Topic 1, we will look at some reasons why we should study Pneumatology. In Topics 2-5, we will look at the personality of the Holy Spirit: His possessions, acts, reactions, and relationships. In the final topic of this lesson, we will see that all the attributes that are true of God are true of the Holy Spirit as well, thus showing that the Holy Spirit is God.

Lesson Outline

Topic 1: Why Study Pneumatology?

Topic 2: The Possessions of the Holy Spirit

Topic 3: Personal Acts of the Holy Spirit

 Being Led by the Spirit

Topic 4: Personal Reactions of the Holy Spirit

Topic 5: Personal Relationships of the Holy Spirit

Topic 6: Deity of the Holy Spirit

 Performing the Works of God

Topic 1: Why Study Pneumatology?

What is the work of the Holy Spirit? These are complex truths, but truths that are very important, and I think, very exciting. How do we come to understand the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. Why should we even study it in the first place? Well, the study of Pneumatology, It's the study of the Spirit, the study of the Holy Spirit—why is it important? Well let's start in 1 Corinthians 2. By the way, you're going to find a lot in 1 Corinthians and a lot in Romans 8, if you want to study in more detail. 1 Corinthians 2 will start [to] give us a hint of why it's important for us to study the Holy Spirit as Christians. In (1 Corinthians 2:9-10) We can't even start to imagine what God has in store for us down the road. Oh, He's awfully good to us here now, but we can't even imagine what it's going to be like. But here is why it's important to know the work of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:10) God is revealing to us some incredible things through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:10) The deep things of God are made plain by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is so important in the Christian's life. Now remember this, the Holy Spirit's job is to point to Jesus Christ, so we can't get off track here. It's all about the Lord Jesus Christ. And that's what the Spirit's job is. The Holy Spirit doesn't speak of Himself. He speaks of Christ. A lot that goes on within churches within Christianity is incorrect because they overemphasize the Spirit. They have an incorrect emphasis. And this confusion would not have come about if we had adequate knowledge of the Spirit's work. That's why it's important for us to know the work of the Spirit. It's something that's

operational in your life, whether you realize it or not. But it's kind of in the background. It's kind of something that is very, very critical and very important, but something that, you know, is pointing to something else. It doesn't want the glory. The Holy Spirit wants to glorify Jesus Christ and God the Father. Redemption through Christ is the theme of the Bible, and those who place the undue emphasis on the Holy Spirit are, I submit to you, not being led of the Spirit. Why is it important to study the Holy Spirit, and the Person and work of the Holy Spirit? It's because the Holy Spirit is doing a great work, and can do great things for you. But He is trying to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and to know what He is doing is helpful for us as Christians.

Assignment:

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

QUESTION 1

It is just as important to study _____ as it is to study Theology and Christology.

QUESTION 2

It is not proper doctrine to _____ the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 3

The Holy Spirit's main job is to point to and _____ Jesus Christ.

QUESTION 4

Knowing what the Holy Spirit is doing can help us know what the Spirit is doing on our _____.

Topic 2: The Possessions of the Holy Spirit

What are the possessions of the Spirit of God? Well, we see many. One thing the Holy Spirit does not possess is a body. He is a Spirit, okay. The Holy Spirit has personality—don't get me wrong—but no body. The Holy Spirit possesses intelligence. The Spirit knows the deep things of God, as we've already read. We cannot know the things of God apart from the Holy Spirit. Why is the Holy Spirit important to you? Because the Holy Spirit uses His intelligence to teach us the deep things of God, the things of God. So doesn't that mean that we ought to depend on the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit? Absolutely. Absolutely. If we're going to have the proper decisions in our life for God, we must be following the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit possesses intelligence. The Holy Spirit also possesses a will, and look at (1 Corinthians 12:11). The Holy Spirit has a will, and is accomplishing His will in your life. The Holy Spirit also possesses power. We hear "the power of the Spirit of God." Have you ever heard that phrase? Well, it's a biblical phrase. There's great power in the Spirit of God. When we are filled with the Spirit and walking with the Spirit of God. There's great power available to you. I don't think any of us really realize what the power of the Spirit is. You say, "I can't get over this sin or this temptation. I keep falling or failing." The power of the Spirit of God can overcome anything that the flesh is dealing with, anything. But in (Zechariah 4:6), It's not our power, our strength; it is the Spirit's power that we find strength in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the only way that we can really accomplish anything worthwhile in this life. The Holy Spirit possesses knowledge, (John 16:13) The Spirit has knowledge for you. The Holy Spirit possesses love. In (Romans 15:30) . . . Love, knowledge, will,

intelligence, and power are all parts of a real personality. So the Holy Spirit has no body; but does have a personality. The Holy Spirit, by the way, is not a personal name, Holy Spirit. It is a descriptive of what He is, okay. This is consistent, by the way, with His character and work. It's not a proper name. He's not there to emphasize Himself. The proper name He's trying to emphasize is Jesus Christ. Consistent with the character and work of the Holy Spirit. By the way, sometimes we say, the Holy Spirit, which is a neuter noun in the Greek, but yet the pronoun always is He in the Scripture. The Holy Spirit is a He, is always masculine.

Assignment:

- Memorize John 16:13

QUESTION 5

The Holy Spirit possesses _____ and _____.

QUESTION 6

We _____ figure out the things of God without the help of the Holy Spirit. *True or False?*

QUESTION 7

In order to make proper decisions for God in our life, we must be _____ the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 8

The power of God is _____ to us through the Holy Spirit.

Topic 3: Personal Acts of the Holy Spirit

The third point is the personal acts of the Holy Spirit. What does He do? Well, in (Acts 13:2), it says . . . The Holy Spirit speaks. Okay, now you're probably not going to hear an audible voice, but we're often taught that the Holy Spirit nudges, or maybe gives you a thought, and that thought prods you or nudges you to do God's will. Now He never will nudge you or prod you to do something outside of the Word of God. The Holy Spirit always operates within the Word of God and the revealed Word. But you all know what I'm talking about. That silent voice that man, you're so convicted that you better talk to that person next to you. That person really needs to hear the gospel. [Have] you felt that? I have. I've had it. Man, I tell you, I once said no. And I tell you it was a horrible, horrible experience, saying no to the Spirit of God. You know the Holy Spirit speaks. He said, "Separate unto me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." The Holy Spirit also does intercede. And I think this is very interesting. Look at (Romans 8), again Romans 8 is a great chapter if you want to learn more about the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26) When someone comes to the aid of somebody else, that's intercession. They're helping. The Holy Spirit helps. He helps our infirmities. (Romans 8:26) Now that's not speaking in tongues, okay. This is, I believe, a silent prayer from the Holy Spirit to God on our behalf. There are times when we don't even know what to say. We don't know what to ask, or maybe we do ask, but we're not asking the right thing. And I think the Holy Spirit often comes to our aid and asks what really ought to be asked. So it's learning to line up with the Spirit of God. It says in (Romans 8:27) these are things that the Holy

Spirit will help us with and intercede for us, and pray for the needs that we don't even know of. We're ignorant of what God wants, and the Holy Spirit is there helping do these things with us. He also testifies, something else the Holy Spirit does in John 15, we learn about the Comforter. In verse 26, (John 15:26) this is Jesus talking about the One that will be with us when He leaves, You see the work of the Spirit? The work of the Spirit is to testify of Jesus Christ. To proclaim Christ, to teach Christ, to bring back Christ into remembrance or the memory. I believe this to be the work of the Spirit of God, guiding in all truth, showing things to come. This is what Christ told the disciples the Holy Spirit would do. We also find that He commands. The Holy Spirit commands. It says this in Acts 16. In verse 6 it says (Acts 16:6) Isn't that interesting? The Spirit is stopping them from going somewhere. Why? Well, we don't know. Probably there was turmoil. There was danger. Sometimes the Spirit allows us to go into danger, but sometimes that's not God's will. And the Spirit will prevent that and stop something that might happen that shouldn't happen. And here the Spirit of God is commanding. We also find in Acts 20 that He oversees. He oversees, and He guides, and He teaches, and He leads.

QUESTION 9

When the Holy Spirit speaks, He does not use an _____ voice.

QUESTION 10

The Holy Spirit always _____ within the revealed Word of God.

QUESTION 11

The Holy Spirit _____ to God on our behalf.

QUESTION 12

The Holy Spirit proclaims Christ by bringing Christ into _____.

Being Led by the Spirit

I want to tell you this. Not every saved person is led by the Spirit. I believe if you were led by the Spirit 24/7, you would be doing so many incredible things for God. I think that's the problem, is we get sidetracked and we do (Romans 8:11) And we know that's a foundational truth of salvation. The Holy Spirit and we're going to find out some of those things the Holy Spirit does for us in relation to salvation. But we have the Spirit that dwelleth in us (Romans 8:12) You have the Spirit. You have the accessibility. It's there for you Don't be a debtor to the flesh. Don't live after the flesh. Don't like that garbage music that the world's putting out there that feeds your flesh. Don't be a slave to that nonsense, or the "Christianized" version of it. Therefore, brethren, we are not debtors. We are not debtors. (Romans 8:13) even a Christian, if you live after the flesh, ye shall die. It will bring a sooner death to you. (Romans 8:13b) It's a principle. It's a principle. This is where a lot of Christians are missing it. They don't understand the availability of the Spirit of God, and they're not walking and being led and being filled by the Spirit of God. (Romans 8:14) That's proof. That's proof. If you're being led by the Spirit of God, you are a son of God. No step can safely be taken in this world apart from divine guidance, and He's there to provide that. He's also a witness. He's a witness. He's the One that will testify. (Romans 8:16)

QUESTION 13

Not every saved person is _____ by the Spirit.

QUESTION 14

The leading and filling of the Spirit is not something that comes _____ to Christians.

QUESTION 15

The power of the Spirit of God is _____ to us if we are willing to take it.

Topic 4: Personal Reactions of the Holy Spirit

What are some of the personal reactions of the Holy Spirit? Well, we find that the Holy Spirit grieves, or may be grieved. It says in (Ephesians 4:30) . . . How can we grieve the Holy Spirit? By walking after carnal things. By having our eyes on this world and not on Heaven. We are said to be seated in the Heavens positionally. Let's act like it. When we don't act like it, that's when we grieve the Holy Spirit. We also know that the Holy Spirit can be vexed in (Isaiah 63:10) don't vex the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit may be tested. We've read in (Acts 5:9) . . . You know Who that is. Don't tempt the Spirit. Test the Spirit. . . . That's New Testament. That's the Church Age, or the Age of Grace. Folks, it's a dangerous thing to lie to the Holy Spirit, to God's people, God's man. He also may be resisted. Don't resist. It says in (Acts 7:51) . . . Why are you always resisting the Holy Ghost? These are all personal reactions. This proves His personality and His Person. He also may be blasphemed. In Mark it talks about blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Some people say there's one sin that's unpardonable. If you commit this one sin, you will spend eternity in Hell. And I agree with that. I do. Most people think that sin is suicide the unpardonable sin. It's the sin against the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's job is to testify that there is a God, that Jesus died for the sins of the world. The Spirit's job is to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment, okay. So when you reject that message, you reject what the Spirit is testifying, and you're rejecting Jesus Christ. And if you die in that state, then you have eternal Hell. When Jesus died, He paid for the sins of the world so that forgiveness is available to you, to anyone, but when you die without accepting Christ, you've rejected Christ. And that is the sin, that is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, I believe, in this verse.

QUESTION 16

It is possible for the believer to _____ the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 17

The Holy Spirit may be _____.

QUESTION 18

The Unpardonable Sin is _____ against the Holy Spirit

QUESTION 19

The only sin that God cannot forgive is the sin of _____ His Son Jesus Christ.

Topic 5: Personal Relationships of the Holy Spirit

We also see a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. He had a personal relationship with the Father. He proceeds from the Father. He executes what the Father wants Him to do. The Father bestows the Spirit on His Son. Remember that in John 3, okay, and upon all who believe. This is the Father and the relationship between the Father and the Spirit. We also know there is a relationship with Christ and the Spirit. The works of Christ were done by the Spirit, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals Christ. There's a relationship there. The Spirit was sent by Christ. He said, "When I go, the Comforter will come," so when He left, He sent the Spirit. There's the relationship there. but here's what it does for you. There's a relationship between the Spirit and the Christian. Number 1, this is important, it says in (Titus 3:5). Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone, His death and resurrection, His shedding blood for us. And it's believing in Him we have everlasting life. But at that very moment, it's a one-time decision, we are by the Holy Ghost washed. It's called the "washing of regeneration." Remember how we talked about the blood of Christ washes away our sin? That washing is done by the Spirit. That's the Spirit's work, and that's the Spirit's relationship with the Christian. And also renewing, not only the washing of regeneration, but renewing of the Holy Ghost. We're renewed, and that's how the Holy Spirit relates to us. Also, it says the Holy Spirit baptizes us. (1 Corinthians 12:13) But there is a baptism that is part of salvation. When you believe, you're baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. You are made one in the body of Christ. That is the work of the Holy Spirit that He has done for you. You're saved. That's something that's happened for you. Maybe that's something you didn't know. Maybe it's something you haven't thought about. But aren't you glad that He baptized you into one body? (1 Corinthians 12:13) It's the Spirit baptism. Not only does He regenerate and renew and baptize, but He seals us. This is proof positive that once saved, always saved. That once you've put your faith in Christ, you are sealed. (Ephesians 1:13) That is eternity. That is in Heaven. We are sealed until Glory, and that is a wonderful, wonderful truth. The Holy Spirit fills (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit indwells. What? Know you not, that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you? Corinthians . . . don't you know that when you sin, you're sinning with the Spirit of God within you? Don't you know this thing? Then why do you keep doing it? The Holy Spirit not only indwells, but the Holy Spirit anoints. And all of these activities of the Holy Spirit empower the Christian to live. Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that neat, some of the things the Holy Spirit does? How about the personal designations of the Holy Spirit? What is He called? Well, this one's interesting. It's called paraclete. Paraclete means "comforter." It means "One who is called to help." So God the Father allows the Comforter to be sent by Christ. because Christians aren't promised easy lives. But when we have trials, we have a Comforter. We have the third person of the Trinity there helping us, the Paraclete. But really, that's only a small portion of the work of the paraclete. The paraclete, the Comforter, identifies with our interests. He undertakes our causes. He sees us through our difficulties. He becomes our representative that transacts business for us. That is the work of the Spirit of God as the Comforter, or the paraclete. He is also known as the Spirit of Promise. He is known as the Spirit of Might in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Truth.

QUESTION 20

The Holy Spirit's _____ with the Father is that the Spirit executes what the Father wants Him to do.

QUESTION 21

The Holy Spirit is _____ to the believer by Christ.

QUESTION 22

The activities of the Holy Spirit _____ the Christian to live.

QUESTION 23

Baptism of the Spirit comes at _____, not after.

QUESTION 24

As the _____, the Holy Spirit identifies with our interests.

Topic 6: Deity of the Holy Spirit

We also see the deity of the Holy Spirit. This is fully God. Fully God, and a person of the Trinity, a person of the Godhead. A distinct Person with special work and personage, but yet the same. He's God. The Spirit is God. What is true of the triune God is true of the Holy Spirit, and all of those attributes that we see in God—God the Father and God the Son—we see in God the Holy Spirit. He's equal with the Father and the Son, but He subordinates Himself to the Father and gives precedence to the Son. You see how that works? The deity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament is identified as deity. We see references all the way from Adam all the way through Revelation, we see Him referred to as deity. Even in Creation we see it. We see plural, then we see singular. One God demonstrated in three distinct persons. In Genesis 1, it talks about the Spirit of God that is striving in the day of Noah, as we believe Noah was there preaching that there was more room on the Ark than just eight, or seven plus Noah. There's plenty of room, and no one was preaching, but no one got on the Ark. But the Holy Spirit was striving and working in that day. So we see the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament as deity. The Holy Spirit is called God. Ananias and Sapphira, and we've already read part of that, when they lied to the Holy Spirit, it says that they lied to God. Okay, there's an equation there: you lied to the Holy Spirit, you lied to God. Then the Holy Spirit is God. We see that same thing in (1 Corinthians 3:16). God and His Spirit are identical; they're declared to be equal. (2 Corinthians 3:17) We see deity in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit possesses attributes. You remember the divine attributes of God, of Christ? We see omnipotence, the resurrection, the Spirit's power is given as how Christ rose from the dead—that's omnipotence, the power of God in the Spirit. Omniscience—the Holy Spirit knows the deep things of the Father. God knows everything, and we see that in the Holy Spirit. Omnipresence- How is it possible? Well, the Holy Spirit has that capability of omnipresence, of being in more than one place at one time. The Holy Spirit has always been omnipresent in Creation, and now He has residence in the world in the church and in the individual believer. In (Ephesians 2:21) . . . He's everlasting. We find that in Hebrews 9. It's through an

eternal spirit, okay. Everlasting. Same as God. Everlasting Spirit executes God's will here. We see that He's love. The Holy Spirit is the Source of love.

QUESTION 25

What is _____ about God is true about the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 26

The _____ of the Holy Spirit is referenced in the Old Testament.

QUESTION 27

You _____ lie to the Spirit without lying to God.

QUESTION 28

The Holy Spirit is able to indwell all believers because He is _____.

Performing the Works of God

He does the work of God. These are all pointing to the fact that He is God. Remember Creation? It says in (Psalm 33:6). How were the worlds made? It says Jesus, in John 1, Jesus spoke. Okay, it says God spoke in Genesis. Jesus the Word, and the Spirit of God is the breath. Pneuman is breath, the Spirit, okay. So we have the Lord speaking, and that speaking is the Spirit of God. His breath of His mouth is how these things were made. So not only is He the same, doing the work of God at Creation, but also in regeneration. Now John 3 is a great example. It's a spiritual thing that is happening. When you're born again, there's a spiritual rebirth. That work is done by the Spirit of God. Let me give these pointers; in human generation, a being originates who did not exist before, but will go on forever. That's the first birth. The second birth, if you have a second birth, is spiritual regeneration. A being originates who is a member of God's family who will go on forever. Earthly parents impart an unchangeable character to their children. The Holy Spirit forms a new creation, which is unchangeable. And that's the work of the Spirit of God in regeneration. An earthly father can disinherit his son, but he can't stop him from resembling himself. And that's the same thing that happens with the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, I think that there are times that we won't get what we should get if we have followed Him, but we'll never be disowned. We'll never not be His child because of the work of the Spirit of God in regeneration. The resurrection of Christ, we see the Spirit of God doing work. The Holy Spirit Who raised up Christ from the dead will raise us up. We see transformation. We talk a lot about getting our new glorified body. You know what? That work is done internally now. When you get saved, the Holy Spirit is working. God is working in your life through the Spirit of God, trying to transform you, to mold you, to make you something that is beautiful and usable. That's what it's all about. the Spirit is alive. Follow the Spirit. Don't follow the carnal desires of the flesh. Salvation is a work of the Spirit of God. We're washed, sanctified, justified—all of these things are part of salvation. And then the last thing, the Holy Spirit is to be depended upon as God. If you are not depending upon the Spirit of God, folks, you are a fool. If you're not depending on the Spirit of God to lead you, teach you, to guide you, to give you strength, you are indeed a fool.

QUESTION 29

The Holy Spirit does the work of God in _____ at the moment of salvation.

QUESTION 30

When you get saved, the Holy Spirit begins working in your life to _____ and mold you.