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What About The Person of The Holy Spirit?

We want to look at the person of the Holy Spirit that is addressed by the personal pronoun, characteristic of a real person, not a mere essence or power.

It is imperative that we yield to the refining work of the Spirit in our lives, his guidance and power in each of our lives, as well as the church body of believers to be used by the Lord.

Dr. Alen Redpath in his book "Victorious Christian Faith" declared that the church today is professing more than she is actually experiencing in regards to the work of the Holy Spirit and His power.

There are basically four groups that the church falls into:

1. Where emotionalism has been the criteria and every sort of experience is attributed to the work of the Spirit, though it can not be confirmed through the Scriptures.
2. Then on the other extreme, you have those who declare limits on the Spirit of God as to how He works today, saying certain gifts were only for the apostolic age and now ceased.
3. In between these two extremes, we have those who profess much about the Spirit, yet experience little regarding His activity.

4. Then there is the group that professes not only much, but experiences much of the Spirit life, having a total dependency on the work and power of the person of the Holy Spirit.

My prayer is that we collectively and as individuals fall into this last group everyday of our lives.

We want to look at "What about the person of the Holy Spirit" from three vantage points.

- I. The important reasons for the doctrine of the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - II. The scriptural evidence of the person of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - III. The identity of the person of the Holy Spirit.
- I. **The important reasons for the doctrine of the person of the Holy Spirit.**
 - A. There is great ignorance about the Holy Spirit being a person.
 1. The Old King James uses the phrase "Holy Ghost".
 - a. To some be they non-believer or young believers the phrase does not clearly describe a person, but may be a bit obscure and misleading.
 - b. To others the phrase "Holy Ghost", communicates merely a power or

essence, instead of a person with personality.

2. The Apostles' Creed for centuries has brought many services to a close by the often repeated Creed,
 - a. "I believe in the Holy Ghost".
 - b. Many of the hymns of Charles Wesley used the phrase "Holy Ghost", at least more than thirty.
 - c. Now the idea is that which is sacred, holy and divine but not necessarily to the unbeliever.

B. The age of grace is called the ministration of the Spirit in contrast to the ministration of death and condemnation of the Old Testament. 2Cor. 3:3-11

1. The Old Covenant under the Law revealed man's sin, it accused him before God.
2. The Old Testament Law was our tutor or schoolmaster to bring man to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Gal. 3:24
3. The ministration of death had its temporal glory written in tables of stone, symbolic of the shekinah glory that was to fade away from the face of Moses. 2Cor. 3:7, 13
 - * "But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was **glorious**, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of

the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away."

4. The ministration of the Spirit written in tablets of flesh, that is our hearts, which is the New Covenant surpassing the old in glory, the ministry of the Spirit being more glorious. 2or. 3:9-11
 - * "For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made **glorious** had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away *was* **glorious**, what remains *is* much more **glorious**."
- C.** The Holy Spirit is worthy of worship and adoration, being deity, and not just an essence. 2Cor. 13:14
1. The apostle Paul closes his epistle to the Corinthians with a doxology ascribed to the Trinity.
 - a. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ", the second person of the Trinity.
 - b. "And the love of God", the First person of the Trinity.
 - c. "And the communion of the Holy Spirit", the third person of the Trinity.
 - d. And applies all three, "Be with you all. Amen", all three persons in their respective roles of the Holy Trinity.

2. The person of the Holy Spirit is found throughout the Old Testament, but He was not identified as the third person of the Trinity as after the Incarnation of Jesus.
 - a. He was called “the Spirit of God”. Gen. 1:2
 - b. He was called “the Spirit of the Lord”. Judges 3:10
 - c. He was called “Thy Spirit”. Ps. 139:7
 - d. He was called “My Spirit”. Is. 44:3
 - e. He was called “His Spirit”. Is. 48:16
 - f. He is called only three times Holy Spirit”. Ps. 51:11; Is. 63:10-11

D. The Holy Spirit is the source of life and power, the agent for the church till Christ comes for His church.

1. Luke writes, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8
2. Luke again tells us, “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and

began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4

* There never was any other commission from Jesus or the Father to replace the person of the Holy Spirit!

E. There are antagonistic spirits towards the Spirit of Christ in the church age.

1. The Holy Spirit warns about seducing spirits and doctrines of devils in the latter times.

1Tim. 4:1

* “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

2. We are told not to believe every spirit, but to try them to see if they are of God, by their acknowledgment that Christ came in the flesh. 1Jn. 4:1-3

* “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ **has come in the flesh is of God**, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

Illustration

Hebert Lockyer stated, “The error of treating the Spirit in an impersonal way can be traced back to the third century when the theory was advanced that the Holy Spirit was a mere influence, an exertion of divine energy and power, an emanation from God.” (A Cont. Wesleyan theology: Vol. 1:416)

Application

1. Each believer is responsible to study God’s word to see what it teaches about the person of the Holy Spirit and compare it to what men says. Acts 17:11
2. Each believer is to know that the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace. Heb. 10:29
3. Every believer receives the Holy Spirit when they are born again, being born of the Spirit and the word. Jn. 3:3-5
4. Every sort of spirit is being consulted today in our society, from the common person to the professionals, under the guise of wisdom and openness of mind through tolerance and acceptance of diversity and Political Correctness, evident of willfully rejecting God. Rom. 1:21-22
 * “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

These are some important reasons for the doctrine of the person of the Holy Spirit!

II. The scriptural evidence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and New Testament.

- A. The scriptural evidence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
 1. The book of Genesis allows us to see the person of the Holy Spirit as co-creator.
 - a. “And the Spirit of God moved or brooded upon the face of the waters.” Gen. 1:2
 - b. “By His Spirit He adorned the heavens.” Job 26:13a
 2. The Holy Spirit is the giver of life in the creation of man.
 - a. “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God, and formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Gen. 1:27; 2:7
 - b. “The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4
 3. The book of Exodus tells us God filled Bezalel and Aholiah with His Spirit to perform all manner of workmanship for the tabernacle.
 - a. “And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, “to design artistic

- works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, “in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.” Ex. 31:3-5
- b.** “And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, both in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. “He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver--those who do every work and those who design artistic works.” Ex. 35:34-35
- 4.** The Holy Spirit is seen coming upon men to equip them for leadership and service.
- a.** God took of the Spirit that was upon Moses and placed it on the seventy elders. Num. 11:17, 25
- b.** In the book of Judges, the Holy Spirit came upon Gideon, Samson and others and clothed Himself with them. Judges 7
- c.** Samuel told Saul the Spirit of God would come upon him. 1Sam. 10:6
- d.** The Spirit came upon David as Samuel anointed him. 1Sam. 16:13
- e.** David cries out, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” Ps. 139:7

- f.** The Spirit of the Lord came upon the prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea., Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.
- B.** The scriptural evidence of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
- 1.** The Holy Spirit is responsible for the conception of Christ in the womb of Mary.
- a.** Matthew tells us, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” Matt. 1:20
- b.** Luke says, “Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” Lk. 1:34-35
- 2.** The Holy Spirit is seen descending on Christ at his baptism in the shape of a dove, symbolic of gentleness and purity.
- a.** “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and

behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.”

Matt. 3:16

- b. “And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Lk. 3:22
 - c. John says that God told him that the descending of the Spirit was the sign to identify the Messiah. Jn. 1:33
 - d. There was never a time that Jesus was without the Holy Spirit; He was conceived, endowed, filled, led and driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, “for God gave him not the Spirit by measure”. Jn. 3:34
3. The Holy Spirit is the regenerator, illuminator and developer of our faith in Christ.
- a. Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Jn. 3:5
 - b. Paul told the Corinthians that the things of God are revealed to us by his Holy Spirit. 1Cor. 2:10
 - c. Paul says we are being changed into the image of Christ, from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord. 2Cor. 3:18

4. The greatest amount of evidence in the New Testament is given to us in the book of Acts, which in reality are the acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles.
- a. Peter identifies the Holy Spirit as fulfilled prophecy. Joel 2:28; Acts 2:14-16
 - b. We are told that great power came on the apostles. Acts 4:33
 - c. We are told that the people were cut to the heart by the Holy Spirit. Acts 5:32-33
 - d. Stephen could not be resisted due to the wisdom of the Spirit by which he spoke. Acts 6:10
 - e. The Samaritan received the Holy Spirit after they believed. Acts 8:15-17
 - f. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:17
 - g. The Holy Spirit fell on all the house of Cornelius. Acts 10:44
 - h. The Holy Spirit was the advisor to the first church council, “It seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us.” Acts 15:28
 - i. The Holy Spirit forbade Paul to preach in Asia. Acts 16:6
 - j. Paul told the Ephesian elders that he was going bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem. Acts 20:22
 - k. Paul says, “Well spoke the Holy Spirit by Isaiah.” And he went to the Gentiles. Acts 28:25, 28

Illustration

William Barclay say, “To call the Holy Spirit “parakleitos” is to say that the Holy Spirit is the person who enables a man to meet four-square and erect, the sorrows, the struggles, the burdens of this world, the person who nerves the feeble for the battle and who makes the coward brave, When we think of all that, we can do no other than pray: “God, send Thy Holy Sprit upon me!” (A Cont. Wesleyan Theol:430c)

Application

1. The person of the Holy Spirit is the One who is responsible for the life of Christ in the believer, we can not do it ourselves.
 - a. Paul tells the Galatians, “Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?” Gal. 3:3
 - b. Paul’s death affirmation, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20
2. The person of the Holy Spirit is used to equip the believer for service in the church, talents and abilities won’t do!
 - a. “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” Rom. 12:3

- b. “For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” 1Cor. 4:7
3. The person of the Holy Spirit is the One continuing the ministry of Jesus in the believer and the church.
 - a. The seven churches of Revelation are addressed by the Holy Spirit, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Rev. 2-3
 - b. Zechariah says, “So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by **might** nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.” Zech. 4:6

The scriptural evidence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the New Testament is overwhelming!

III. The identity of the person of the Holy Spirit.

- A. The position of the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity, third in order of submission and not in quality, for He is God.
 1. He is part of the baptismal formula. Matt. 28:16-20
 2. He is included in the benediction to the Corinthians. 2Cor. 13:14
 3. He possesses the same attributes of the Father and Son.
 - a. He is called the eternal Spirit. Heb. 9:14

b. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient.

B. The Holy Spirit is just like Jesus Who came to be the representative of the Father, the Holy Spirit is the representative of Jesus and not of Himself.

1. He is called the Spirit of Truth, Jesus said, "I am the truth ." Jn. 16:13c
2. He will guide you into all truth, Jesus came to guide men into all truth about God. Jn. 16:13e
3. He will not speak of His own or Himself, but of Christ just as Jesus spoke not of himself, but of the Father. Jn. 16:13f-g
4. He will tell us of things to come, as Jesus told of the Father's plans and will. Jn. 16:13h
5. He will not glorify Himself but Christ, even as Christ glorified not Himself, but the Father. Jn. 16:14
6. Jesus said, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me." Jn. 15:26
* The person of the Holy Spirit testifies the truth about Jesus not Himself.

C. The Holy Spirit is the agent Who came along side the church that she be not an orphan. Jn. 14:16, 18, 15:26

1. John writing about the Holy Spirit said, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." Jn. 14:16
 - a. The word another "allos" expresses a numerical difference and denotes another of the same sort, according to Vines dictionary.
 - b. The Comforter "paraketos" is made up of two words, found four times. Jn. 14:16; 26; 15:26; 16:7
 - 1) The word "para", which means along side.
 - 2) The word "kaleo", which means to call.
 - 3) The person of the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the one to come along side to help and aid the believer as an advocate or lawyer for and in our defense in order to stand by and strengthen us.
2. He will abide with you forever. Jn. 14:16
 - a. The promise of abiding forever is in contrast to Jesus leaving since His ministry was fulfilled, the Holy Spirit is permanent for the age of the Spirit and grace, this is the context.
 - b. This passage is used often by Calvinist for eternal security out of it's context.
3. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. Jn. 14:18

- a. The word orphans “orphanos”, means bereaved or parentless.
 - b. The idea is one of being comfortless and alone.
 - c. The believer has been adopted as a son or daughter of God. Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5
- D.** The Holy Spirit is the One who is to come upon the believer continuously.
1. Jesus spoke of a future time, after His glorification when the Holy Spirit would be given without measure, out of a person’s inner most being would gush forth rivers of living water. Jn. 7:37-39
 2. Jesus speaking to His disciples on prevailing prayer said that God would give the Holy Spirit to those who asked. Lk. 11:1-12
 - a. This is not referring to being born-again, for you do not ask to receive the Holy Spirit when you are born again, it is given to you.
 - b. The giving of the Holy Spirit in Luke is synonymous with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus told His disciples to wait to empower them for service. Acts 1:8
 - * There are many other synonymous names and phrases for it!
 3. The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit”.

- a. The word receive “lambano”; is active and volitional not passive.
 - b. The statement was not an immediate impartation of the Spirit in the form of the Baptism of the Spirit but rather a command to take the Spirit.
 - c. The verb is hence a command to incisive action. Lk. 24:49 (A Cont. Wesleyan Theol:431d, 432a)
4. The book of Acts tells us that being all of one mind, they were continually devoting themselves to prayer. Acts. 1:13-14
 - a. The Greek indicates an untranslated article “the”. (A Cont. Wesleyan Theol:429c)
 - b. The text really says, “devoting themselves to “the prayer”.
 - c. What prayer? Could it be the one Jesus told them in Luke’s Gospel and the one for their Baptism in the Spirit? I think so, I do not think that there is room for any other interpretation in view of what took place at Pentecost.
 5. John said, “There is one among you who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” Jn. 1:33
 - a. John Stott points out that the use of the present participles is timeless. It describes, not the single event of Pentecost, but the distinctive ministry of Jesus”. (A Cont. Wesleyan Theol:436b)

- b. Jesus is the one who Baptizes in the Holy Spirit, not man!

Illustration

A.W. Tozer of a previous generation challenges all of us as he stated the following, “That every Christian can be and should be filled with the Holy Spirit would hardly seem to be a matter of debate among Christians. Yet some will argue that the Holy Spirit is not for plain Christians, but for ministers and missionaries only. Others hold that the measure of the Spirit received at regeneration is identical with the that received by the disciples at Pentecost. A few will express a languid hope that some day they may be filled.

I want here boldly to assert that it is my happy belief that every Christian can have a copious outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a measure far beyond that received at conversion.” (A Contempt. Wesleyan Theology:430a)

Application

1. The person of the Holy Spirit, being the third person of the Godhead is called God by Peter when he told Ananias that he had not lied unto man but to the Holy Spirit, God. Acts 5:3-4
2. The person of the Holy Spirit will never say anything contrary or in addition to the words of Jesus or Scripture, He does not speak of Himself. Jn. 16:13
* “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak

on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

3. The Holy Spirit spoke and directed the affairs of the church calling men out by name. Acts 13:2

* “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

4. Every believer needs to be filled daily with the Holy Spirit to be empowered to please God. Eph. 5:18

The identity of the person of the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead!

Conclusion

We have looked at “What about the person of the Holy Spirit” from three vantage points.

- I. The important reasons for the doctrine of the person of the Holy Spirit!
- II. The scriptural evidence of the person of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the New Testament!
- III. The identity of the person of the Holy Spirit!