

HC 53– The Holy Spirit: His Nature, Work, and Results

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Is the Holy Spirit some type of mysterious force? Is he strange? No, he is not. He is Divine God and he freely chose to live in you and help you. And you need him! Without his help you will die and go to hell. He stays with you and fills you with essential gifts for life and living. The only thing that is mysterious about the Holy Spirit is his love for a sinner like you!

Now since you need him, you have to learn about him from God's Word. We will do so today.

Our headings are:

The Divinity of the Holy Spirit.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Results of the Work of the Holy Spirit.

Our goals are: That you will **praise God for his Holy Spirit** and **you will then live your life with boldness and confidence, knowing Christ's Holy Spirit is in you.**

53 Q. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE CONCERNING "THE HOLY SPIRIT"?

A. First, he, as well as the Father and the Son, is **eternal God**. Second, he has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, he **makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.**

The Divinity of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is God; he is one of the 3 persons of the Godhead.

He has **no lesser or greater power** than the Father or the Son.

He **works consistently and concurrently with the Father and the Son.**

The 3 persons of the Godhead **never disagree with each other**. They are in perfect unity with each other.

But **all 3 persons are all distinct from each other**. Notice how all 3 are mentioned in this text.

Isaiah 48:16 "Come near to **Me**, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And **now the Lord GOD** and **His Spirit** have sent **Me.**"

"Me" refers to the Son. "Lord" refers to God-Father. The "Spirit" is clear.

See also Isaiah 61:6; 63:9, 10, and places like this one in the NT. You are blessed with a Trinitarian blessing.

2Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the **love of God**, and the communion of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all. Amen.

2. Look at the Biblical proof of the Deity of the Holy Spirit.

Keep in mind some of the evidence is by clear deduction. For example, the Holy Spirit is described as Creator...and if the only Creator is God...then the Holy Spirit is God. Our first passage is from Genesis, but also see Job 26:13.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

The **Holy Spirit was the wind** over the water who **separated water in the upper firmament from water in the lower firmament.** He then separated the oceans from the land. (Wind is the same word as Spirit.)

The Holy Spirit was the one who made Adam a living soul!

The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary so she conceived.

No one is to be baptized into any other person than God. And Jesus made it clear the disciples were to baptize each convert into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Acts 28: 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,

Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit whom Peter correctly called God.

Acts 5: 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**"

3. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

He does not proceed from the Father alone as the Eastern Orthodox Church teaches. See also John 16:7.

John 15:26 "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.**

More, the "Spirit of God" and the "Spirit of Christ" is the same person.

4. The Holy Spirit isn't a mysterious force as the Jehovah Witnesses teach, nor is he a "spiritual influence" or the "power of God."

He is God. He has his own person and will, and he exercises his own power.

Acts 16:7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit did not permit them.**

5. Because the Holy Spirit is God, it means he has the power to do all things needed for your salvation.

And because he was sent by the Father and the Son (Isaiah 48) **out of their love for you, you know he will be willing to do** everything he says. **It is a mystery that he would love you, but he is not a mystery.**

The Work of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit lives in you, showing an intimate setting.

1Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

He knows your deepest thoughts. This explains why you can grieve the Holy Spirit when you sin.

So don't hurt the one who is closest to you.

Do you remember how pure the temple and all the elements of worship had to be in the Old Testament? How much cleaner shouldn't you be as the Holy Spirit lives in you?

Remember, he is in you because of love and because you need him. Don't grieve him.

2. The Holy Spirit regenerates you.

He awakens you and creates faith in you by which you receive the promises of the Lord and receive all his blessings. Without faith it is impossible for you to believe and be saved.

Galatians 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might **receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

3. The Holy Spirit seals you, marking you as the Lord's property, till you go to heaven.

This is to your comfort. You can never be lost. You can't be stolen by the Devil.

2Corinthians 1: 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

A seal was pressed into the animal skin or a cloth scroll and it couldn't be wiped away like surface writings.

4. The Holy Spirit helps you to pray.

He understands that **because of your ignorance** and **because of your sin** you can't pray as you ought to. So he cleans up your bad prayers and prays for good things for you.

So don't worry about bad prayers you've made.

Galatians 4: 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, **crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For **we do not know what we should pray for as we ought**, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

5. The Holy Spirit wrestles with you when you are living sinfully.

God loves you too much to leave you alone.

6. The Holy Spirit comforts you in all your persecution and struggles in all areas of your life.

He will help you to know Jesus Christ is always with you.

John 15:26 "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.**

Acts 9: 31...the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the **comfort of the Holy Spirit**, they were multiplied.

7. The Holy Spirit is not just someone who helps from time to time, but always...and forever.

There is never a time when he is not with you. **And when you are confronted with challenges, he gives you right words to speak.** And when you are afraid, **he gives you the courage to speak.**

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever—17 "**the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Look at how precious you are in God's sight... Non-believers cannot have the Holy Spirit in them.

8. There were some temporary special gifts the Holy Spirit gave, mostly gifts to help believers know things miraculously, but also gifts to confirm the words they heard.

You don't have those temporary gifts today but you have a greater gift today. **You have the miraculously preserved Word of God in your hands.** You can know with certainty the truths of God confirmed by many miracles. The previous temporary gifts (prophecies, speaking in tongues, etc. were compared to childhood things that must pass away when the mature thing came. 1 Corinthians 13. **And God's Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that the Word of God – that perfect thing - is true.** This is key.

The Results of the Work of the Holy Spirit

1. You will bear fruits as the Holy Spirit lives in you.

(All doctrines have implications!)

Galatians 5: 22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

These fruits are good for you; they are the basis of your reward in heaven.

These fruits are good for those around you. People, good or bad, would want to be around a gentle, peaceful, patient, self-controlled person.

If people you are around are not Christians, they might want to know the one who made you the way you are. And you will get an opportunity to speak of your Lord.

If those people are believers, you will cause them to praise God for your life.

Either way, the fruits the Holy Spirit produce in your life will bring glory to Jesus Christ.

2. So yield yourself to the Holy Spirit so he will nourish your soul to bear these fruits and nourish others around you and bring glory to Jesus.

When you are tempted of the Devil to be selfish and not bear fruits for others, say: *Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world. Resist the Devil and he will flee.* Let the Holy Spirit reign in your life.

Conclusion:

The **Holy Spirit is God.** This means he **has all power** to do for you what he promised to do. **He loves you,** so he is **willing to do** what is good for you. **He creates and keeps faith** in you so you hold on to Christ's promises. He **teaches you.** He **comforts you.** He **rebukes you.** He **emboldens you.** He **readies you** for service to Christ and he **prepares you for eternity in heaven.** He is no mere force of God. He is Almighty God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Praise for the Holy Spirit to fill your life. Listen to him. Receive his benefits. Receive his corrections. Let him **strengthen you so you bear good fruits.**

2. If you rebel against the Holy Spirit you rob yourself of the ability to produce good fruits, you rob those around you of a good example, and you rob your Savior of the glory that belongs to him.

3. Pray the Holy Spirit will fill the hearts of your brothers in Christ too! Pray he will work in the hearts of your friends, families, and foes who don't know Jesus and save them.

Finally, the blessings of the Holy Spirit are for those who love the Lord—those who are his children. For you to receive these blessings, you need to be adopted as God's child. For you to be adopted as God's child, you need to ask him to take away your sins on account of Christ paying for them.