

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

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Is the Holy Spirit mysterious 奥秘 as some think? Is he strange, or sinister 险恶? No, he is not. The Holy Spirit is only mysterious in the sense of “why he would do the things he does for us.” Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit does not need anything from you. Yet he freely chose to live in you and helps you – and without his help you will die and go to hell. You don’t and you can’t add anything to his nature 本性. And yet, he stays with you and fills you with essential gifts. Only his love for you is a mystery. Today we will be introduced to the details of what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit – who he is and what he does for you.

Our headings are: The **Divinity 神性 of the Holy Spirit**, the **Responsibilities of the Holy Spirit**, and the **Results of the Work of the Holy Spirit**.

Our goals are: That you will **praise God for his Holy Spirit** and that **you will then live your life with boldness knowing that 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 大能 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. But they are all distinct from each other. Notice how all 3 are mentioned here!

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-the Son. Lord God-Father. See also Isaiah 61:6; 63:9, 10. And places like these in the NT.

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 神性 of the Holy Spirit. You find this from Genesis to Revelation. And keep in mind that some of the evidence is by clear deduction 演绎. EG: If 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. Also 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 运行 over the face of the waters.**

The Holy Spirit the wind over the water who separated water from the top firmament 苍穹 with the bottom firmament, and then separated the oceans from the land. (Wind is the same word as 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**,"

No one is to be baptized into any other person than God. And Jesus made it clear that the disciples were to baptize each convert into the name of the Father, the Son, and 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 东正教 teaches. The Belgic Confession of Faith: The Holy Spirit is the eternal power and might, proceeding from the Father and the Son. 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."

4. The Holy Spirit is not a mysterious force 奥秘的力量 as the Jehovah Witnesses 耶和华见证人 teach. He is not the "spiritual influence" or the "power of God." No, he is God. He had 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 that he has the power to do all things that are needed for your salvation. And because he is sent by the Father and the Son 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 Responsibilities of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit lives in you, the Christian. This speaks of an intimate 亲密 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?

This means the Holy Spirit 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. Remember how pure the temple and all the elements of worship had to be in the Old Testament? How much cleaner should you be as the Holy Spirit lives in you? Remember, he is there because of love and because you need him.

2. The Holy Spirit regenerates 重生 you. He 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 给你印记. He seals you and shows you that you are owned by the Lord. His sealing is a comfort. You can be sure that you are secure and won't ever be lost.

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 skin...and wasn't wiped away 擦不去 like surface writings.

4. The Holy Spirit helps you to pray. He understands that because of your ignorance 无知 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. You don't have to 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 叹息 which cannot be uttered.

5. The Holy Spirit wrestles 脚力 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. You will know that 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.** 27 "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

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.

1Peter 4: 14 If you are reproached 受辱 for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Brothers and sisters, 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 that the Holy Spirit gave, mostly gifts to help believers **know things miraculously, but also gifts to **perform miracles**. 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 确言 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. 1Corinthians 13. And God's Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that the Word of God is true. This is key.**

The Results of the Work of the Holy Spirit

1. As always, doctrines have implications 含义. So what does the doctrine of the work of the Holy Spirit imply for you as a Christian? Again, let the Scriptures speak.

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.

You will bear fruits as the Holy Spirit lives in you. **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, these fruits will bring glory to Jesus Christ.

2. So **yield yourself more and more to the Holy Spirit so he will **nourish** your soul to bear these fruits in your life. When you are tempted of the Devil, 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 责备 you. He emboldens 鼓励 you. He readies you for service to Christ and he prepares you for eternity in heaven. He is no force. He is Almighty God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Praise the Lord for his Holy Spirit in your life. Don't grieve 担忧 the Holy Spirit** by living in rebellion. **Listen to him. Receive his benefits. Receive his corrections.** When you do not resist the Holy Spirit but submit to his leading you, you will desire to obey all God's laws. And in obeying God's law you will bring glory to your Redeemer.

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.