

LEAD 360
Christian Theology

Study Guide for Session 3
Part II: “The Christian Belief in the Holy Spirit”

1. Questions to prompt thought and discussion:

- (1) Identify and briefly explain the three main movements about the Holy Spirit in the 20th century.
- (2) How does the O.T. describe God’s Spirit?
- (3) Is the belief of the Trinity clearly taught in the O.T.? If it is not, does this mean the Holy Spirit is not eternal? What part does progressive revelation play in our understanding this question?
- (4) How is the H.S. related to Jesus? Where in John’s gospel does Jesus explicitly teach who the Holy Spirit is and what he does?
- (5) When did the Holy Spirit get his “first” name? How important is Pentecost for understanding the Trinity?
- (6) What specifically does the H.S. do in Christian conversion and spiritual growth?
- (7) How does the H.S. relate to God’s Kingdom now and in the future?
- (8) How is it possible to avoid faith being a blind act or repentance being only an emotional experience?
- (9) Understand the significance of the H.S. as the Gift and how he distributes spiritual gifts to build up the church.
- (10) What’s the relationship between spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit?
- (11) How did the H.S. produce the Bible? What key verses in the Bible help us answer this question? Does the Bible clearly explain “how” God inspired individuals? If it doesn’t, does this mean we cannot trust the result of the Spirit’s work in regard to Scripture?
- (12) Why and how was the biblical canon (Protestant Bible) produced? What part did human “recognition” play in regard to the canon?
- (13) Why do many Christians choose to stress inerrancy views in regard to the authority of the Bible?

(14) How does one's submission to the teachings of the Bible signify one's true belief in the trustworthiness of the Bible and a respect for biblical authority?

2. Recommended resources for further study:

(1) Basic level resources:

- Conner, W. T. *The Work of the Holy Spirit: A Treatment of the Biblical Doctrine of the Divine Spirit*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1940.
- Drescher, John M. *Spiritual Fruit*. Kitchen, Ontario: Herald Press, 1974.
- Fee, Gordon D. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. See especially, Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, rev. ed., *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993. There is an appendix at the back of this book that has a list of recommended commentaries on the Bible.
- Herring, Ralph, et al. *How to Understand the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1974.
- Hoekema, Anthony A. *Holy Spirit Baptism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972.
- Keener, Craig S. *Gift & Giver: The Holy Spirit for Today*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- MacGorman, J. W. *The Gifts of the Spirit: An Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1974.
- Newport, John. *Why Christians Fight over the Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1974.
- Packer, J. I. *Keep in Step with the Spirit*. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1984.
- Sire, James. *Scripture Twisting: 20 Ways the Cults Misread the Bible*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1980.

(2) More advanced resources:

- Bloesch, Donald. *Holy Scripture: Revelation, Inspiration & Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1994; also, *The Holy Spirit: Works & Gifts*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Bruner, Frederick Dale. *A Theology of the Holy Spirit: The Pentecostal Experience and the New Testament Witness*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publisher, 1970.
- Carson, D. A. *Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1987.
- Dockery, David. *Christian Scripture: An Evangelical Perspective on Inspiration, Authority and Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.
- Ewert, David. *The Holy Spirit in the New Testament*. Kitchener, Ontario: Herald Press, 1983.
- Fee, Gordon. *God's Empowering Presence*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1994. See also his, *Listening to the Spirit in the Text*. Vancouver, B.C.: Regent College Publishing, 2000.
- Karkkainen, Veli-Matti. *One with God: Salvation as Deification and Justification*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical press, 2004. See also his *Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit in Ecumenical, International, and Contextual Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Moody, Dale. *Spirit of the Living God: What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1976.

Pinnock, Clark. *Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

3. Personal & Group Activities:

- (1) Attend an Orthodox worship service and observe the style of worship. Interview an involved Orthodox believer regarding the Orthodox perspective on worship and salvation. Notice their focus on spirituality and their belief in the Holy Spirit.
- (2) Log in your journal the first time the Holy Spirit was revealed personally to you. Did this experience draw you to Jesus Christ? Do a Bible search for the ways that Christ and the Holy Spirit relate to each other.
- (3) Do a concentrated study of the book of Acts. List all the barriers that were transcended by the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. Try to answer the question why the book of Acts ends with an adverb (“unhinderedly, without hindrance”).
- (4) Do a comparative study of spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit in Paul’s letters.
- (5) Interview a Pentecostal pastor on the subject of the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” (note: not all Pentecostals currently have the same understanding). Do a Bible search to see if you can find this event used as a noun or as a verb.
- (6) Log in your journal a list of all the ways the Holy Spirit is engaged in building God’s Kingdom.
- (7) Form a group and use Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Caution: do more than just study this book about how to understand the Bible, follow their suggestions for group Bible study.