

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

#### Sharing

1. Have you ever been confused between the person of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you believe the Holy Spirit is a 'force' a 'presence' or a person?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
3. In your opinion, is the Holy Spirit equal with God the Father and God the Son? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
  - Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit plays any part in the decisions you make every day?
  - Discuss: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Studying

5. Jesus promised His disciples that He would not leave them alone in the world. He promised that he would send them 'another' Helper. Jesus used the Greek word 'allos' when He said 'another.' This Greek word meant "another of the same kind." So, the Holy Spirit was also a God, just as Jesus was. Jesus promised He would petition the Father to send One who was just like Himself to remain with the disciples, not temporarily, but forever.
  - Read John 14:15 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may \_\_\_\_\_ with you forever."
6. The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead. He is part of all things: from the very beginning of our earth's history—first mentioned in Genesis 1:2—to the close of this earth's history—last mentioned in Revelation 19:10. The work of the Holy Spirit spans the entire Bible.
  - Read Genesis 1:1,2 "In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (plural form of the Hebrew word *Elohiym*—pronounced 'el-o-heem' is used) created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God was hovering over the face of the waters."
  - It is evident from the very first words of the Bible that God is more than one person. At the same time, there was only one Godhead.
  - Read Genesis 1:26,27 "Then God said, 'Let \_\_\_\_\_ make man in Our image, according to \_\_\_\_\_ likeness. So \_\_\_\_\_ (plural Elohiym again) created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."
7. The Holy Spirit not only participated in the creation of our world, He also, from the very beginning, played an active role in the lives of men and women—He 'pulled' or 'drew' each person towards God.
  - Read Genesis 6:3 "And the Lord said, 'My \_\_\_\_\_ shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh.'" We see from this passage of Scripture that men and women resisted the 'pull' of the Holy Spirit and instead chose sinful behavior.

8. There are many passages of Old Testament Scripture that show the activity of the Holy Spirit:
- Read Judges 13:24,25 “So the woman bore a son and called his name \_\_\_\_\_; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.” The Holy Spirit may call us from birth to do a special work in the world.
  - Read Judges 14:5,6 “Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him. And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat.” The Spirit of the Lord gives us physical power when we need it.
  - Read 1 Samuel 10:6 “Then the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.” These are the words of the prophet Samuel when he anointed Saul to be king over Israel. When the Spirit of God came over Saul, he became a changed man. When the Spirit of God comes upon us He has the power to change our thinking, our habits, and the direction of our lives.
  - Read 1 Samuel 16:13 “So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him (David) in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD came upon David in power.” it was the Holy Spirit that allowed David to defeat Goliath on the battlefield. (Read the account in 1 Samuel 17.)
  - David understood the need for the Holy Spirit in his life. When David sinned, he repented and pleaded with God to continue to fill him with the Holy Spirit’s power. The cry of David’s heart in the text below was in sorrow for his sin with Bathsheba.
  - Read Psalm 51:10,11 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy \_\_\_\_\_ from me.” David knew that the Holy Spirit within us is what draws us and keeps us connected to God. He also realized that God is everywhere and sees and records all of our actions.
  - Read Psalm 139:7-10 “Where can I go from Your \_\_\_\_\_? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me.” The Holy Spirit will direct our lives.
  - We can do nothing in and of our own selves—as the word of the Lord said to Zerubbabel, (Zerubbabel was the head of the tribe of Judah during the time of the return from the Babylon exile. He was the prime builder of the second temple on the old site in Jerusalem. For over 20 years he was closely associated with prophets, priests, and kings until the new Temple was dedicated and the Jewish sacrificial system was re-established.)
  - Read Zechariah 4:6 “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 \_\_\_\_\_,’ says the Lord of hosts.”
9. Not only did the Holy spirit have an active part in the creation of the world, and in people’s lives in the Old Testament period of history, He also had an active part in the plan of salvation and in the birth, baptism, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Birth of Jesus.** Read Luke 1:34,35 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy \_\_\_\_\_ will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

- **Birth of Jesus.** Matthew 1:20 “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy \_\_\_\_\_.”
- **Baptism of Jesus.** Read Luke 3:22 “And the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (See also Matthew 3:16,17 and Mark 1:10-13.) Note that all three members of the God-head were involved in Jesus’ baptism.
- **Temptation of Jesus.** Read Luke 4:1 “And Jesus being full of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”
- **Preaching of Jesus.** Read Luke 4:18 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”
- **Jesus’ death.** Read Hebrews 9:14 “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal \_\_\_\_\_ offered himself unblemished to God...”
- **Just like His baptism, all three members of the Godhead were involved in Jesus’ resurrection.**
  - ⇒ **The Father.** Read Ephesians 1:19,20 “And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when \_\_\_\_\_ raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in heavenly places.”
  - ⇒ **The son.** Read John 10:18 “No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have \_\_\_\_\_ to lay it down, and I have \_\_\_\_\_ to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”
  - ⇒ **The Holy Spirit.** Read Romans 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

10. The Holy Spirit is an awesome God.

- **Imperative that Jesus leave world so Holy Spirit could come.** Read John 16:7 “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the \_\_\_\_\_ will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”
- **Jesus instructed His followers to wait and prepare their hearts before the Holy spirit could come.** Read Acts 1:4 “And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father . . . You shall be baptized with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ not many days from now.”
- **All recognized the power.** Read Acts 2:2 “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- **Jesus own mother needed the Holy Spirit to be an effective witness.** Read Acts 2:14 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and \_\_\_\_\_ the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

11. What are some of the things the Holy Spirit is equipped to do in our lives? (This is by no means an exhaustive list—there's so much more said in God's Word about the Holy Spirit!)
- **Convicts of sin.** Read John 16:8 (NEB) "When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world, and show where right and \_\_\_\_\_ and judgment lie. He will convict them of wrong..."
  - **Teaches us.** Read John 14:26 "But the Advocate, the Holy \_\_\_\_\_, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."
  - **Guides us to truth.** Read John 16:13 "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all \_\_\_\_\_."
  - **Reveals prophecy to us.** Read John 16:13 "...for He shall not speak of Himself but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to \_\_\_\_\_."
  - **Directs us to encounters with those who are searching for truth.** Read Acts 8:29 "The \_\_\_\_\_ told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'"
  - **Intercedes for us.** Read Romans 8:6 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself \_\_\_\_\_ for us with groans that words cannot express."
  - **Molds our character.** Read Galatians 5:22,23 "But the fruit of the \_\_\_\_\_ is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
  - **Equips the church.** Read 1 Corinthians 12:28 "And in the church \_\_\_\_\_ has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."
  - **Will control us.** Read Romans 8:9 "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the \_\_\_\_\_, if the Spirit of God lives in you."
  - **Speaks to the churches.** Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the \_\_\_\_\_ says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."
  - **Calls all men to salvation.** Revelation 22:17 "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the \_\_\_\_\_ gift of the water of life."
12. The office and work of the Holy spirit and the relationship which He maintains between God and fallen man is awesome in every aspect and truly beyond our comprehension. Just as '*The Word*' is used to suggest Jesus' unique position as spokesman for the Invisible God, so '*Holy Spirit*' is used to designate the One who supervises the implanting of God's own nature in the lives of His people.
13. Everything the Holy Spirit does is for our benefit. We often are 'born again' and become Christians but then, after a little while, we want to return to controlling ourselves. The Holy Spirit will use every persuasive power to keep us in line and close to Jesus Christ so that we may be saved.
14. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can overcome every sin and live a victorious life in Christ Jesus each day of our lives. There is no sin from which He cannot deliver us if we repent.
15. The Holy Spirit will never leave us nor forsake us. However, we are given free will by God through the power of choice. We can reject the Holy Spirit's calling in our lives. We can say, "No," to Him. What a terrible thing it would be to miss the eternal glorious life that Jesus Christ died to give us because we made wrong choices in this life and rejected the Holy Spirit.

## Applying this lesson

16. The Holy Spirit's function and purpose is to bring us into alignment with God's will for our lives.
  - I understand that when I accepted Jesus Christ into my life and was baptized I received the Holy Spirit as a gift from God.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I will seek guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit as I go through my daily life through prayer and study of God's word.
17. Jesus directed His disciples in Matthew 28:19 to "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
  - I believe that Jesus gave this directive in the name of three Gods in one (Triune God) who are equal in nature and one in purpose.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I accept the belief in a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
18. 2 Corinthians 13:14 indicates that we may have fellowship with the Holy Spirit. ("May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.")
  - It is my belief that we may have fellowship with the Holy Spirit because He is not an inanimate 'force' but a person and a member of the Godhead.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I am grateful for the provision God has made for me through the ministry of His Holy Spirit in my life.
19. John 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."
  - My salvation depends on accepting this new birth experience through the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I will yield my life completely to the power of the Holy Spirit as He sees fit to lead me.