

The Holy Spirit

Introduction

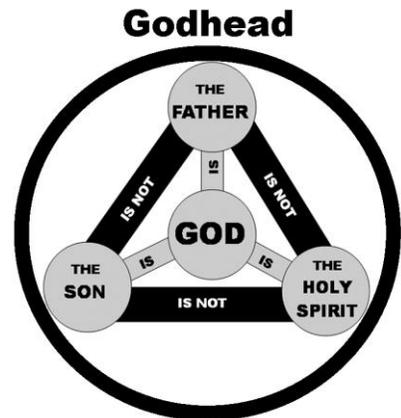
Lesson 1

Introduction:

- I. The Holy Spirit is one of the most misunderstood and under-appreciated persons of the Godhead.
 - A. This misunderstanding is not due to a shortage of information.
 1. Sermons have been preached; books and articles have been published.
 2. Still, there exists a wide range of conflicting views about the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Why is there so much confusion and so many unscriptural concepts about the Holy Spirit?
 1. We have not studied the Holy Spirit as much as we should.
 2. Therefore, it is imperative that we go to the Bible to find exactly what the Bible teaches on the subject.
 3. To do this requires:
 - a. Having an open mind that is willing to honestly examine what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Accepting that truth regardless of what we have been taught in the past.
 4. We must search the scriptures for the truths we need to understand concerning such topics as the person, work, indwelling, and gift of the Holy Spirit.

Body:

- I. First, we need to understand that the Holy Spirit is a Member of the Godhead.
 - A. What does "Godhead" mean – what is the "Godhead?"
 1. "Godhead" could also be substituted for the word "Godhood" – defined as "the divine nature or essence of God... deity... or divinity."
 2. It describes the "quality or state of being God; the sum total of the attributes and characteristics that are common to deity."
 3. We use similar words, such as:
 - a. "Manhood" – "the quality or state of being a man; the sum of all the attributes and characteristics that are common to men."
 - b. The same would be true of the term "womanhood" or "childhood."



- B. "Godhead" is found three times in the KJV and the ASV, and is rendered as "Deity," "Divine Nature" or "Divine Being" in other translations.
 - 1. Acts 17:29; Rom 1:20; Col 2:9.
 - 2. The term "God" is often used in place of the term "Godhead" to speak of the attributes of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. All are called God, and worthy of being called God because they are all divine in nature and character.
- C. The Bible speaks of God in a plural sense (a plurality) in several passages – here just three.
 - 1. Gen 1:1.
 - a. "God" is from the Hebrew "Elohim" – God in the plural sense.
 - b. Gesenius (Hebrew lexicon) renders the word "Elohim" as "the Deity" – suggesting a plurality of persons or entities that are incorporated in the term "God."
 - 2. Gen 1:26-27.
 - a. Who are the "us" and "our" of Gen 1:26?
 - b. The "us" and "our" is God speaking to God – Deity speaking to Deity – the Divine speaking to the Divine.
 - c. Some argue that Jehovah God was speaking to the angelic hosts of heaven when He used the words "us" and "our."
 - (1). This is the Jehovah's Witness and Oneness Pentecostal position who both deny the concept of "Godhead."
 - d. However, after "Elohim" said "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..." (v 26), we are told, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God..." (v 27)
 - (1). Man and woman were created in the image of God not after the likeness of angels.
 - (2). We were created after the likeness of GOD.
 - 3. John 1:1-3.
 - a. In this verse John uses the term "God" in the plural sense.
 - (1). John says the Word (Jesus) was "in the beginning" and that He was "with God."
 - (2). John then affirms the deity (the divinity, and Godhood) of Jesus Christ by saying, "the Word was God."
 - b. Jesus is as much "God" as the God He was with in the beginning.
 - (1). He is as deserving of the title "God" as the "God" He was with when we marked the beginning of time.
 - (2). Jesus was already there and possessed all the qualities and characteristics of One whom we would call God.
- D. The Bible refers to the Godhead (the plural nature and character of God) as "the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
 - 1. The three were present in the beginning when "God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).
 - a. John has already told us God and the Word were together, and that the Word (Christ) made everything that was made (John 1:1-3).

- b. Moses tells us God and the Spirit were together in the beginning along with the Word: Gen 1:2 – ...the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 2. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit were also present at the baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:16-17).
 - a. The Son was baptized; the Spirit was descending; and the Father spoke.
 3. Baptism is to be administered in the name of (by the authority of) these three (Matt 28:18-20).
 4. Paul's appeal to God was an appeal to all three (Rom 15:30).
 5. Paul's benediction of the saints at Corinth was in the name of all three (2 Cor 13:14).
- II. The Bible affirms the Holy Spirit possesses all the qualities of Deity as a member of the Godhead.
 - A. Think of the qualities and attributes of God mentioned in the Bible.
 1. God is said to be:
 - a. Eternal (no beginning or end).
 - b. Omnipresent (the presence of God is everywhere).
 - c. Omniscient (there is nothing God does not know).
 - d. Omnipotent (God can do anything – God is not limited in power).
 2. The Bible attributes these same qualities and attributes to the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Called God (Acts 5:3-4).
 - (1). When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he lied to God.
 - (2). Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as God – compare Matt 12:28; Luke 11:20.
 - b. Eternal (Heb 9:13-14).
 - c. Omnipresent (Psa 139:7-10)
 - (1). The Holy Spirit is even in us (1 Cor 6:19-20).
 - d. Omniscient (1 Cor 2:10-11; John 16:13-14).
 - e. Omnipotent (He possesses Divine power).
 - (1). The Spirit participated in creation (Gen 1:2; Job 26:13; Psa104:30).
 - (2). The Spirit works miracles (1 Cor 12:7-11).
 - (3). The Spirit inspires prophets (2 Pet 1:20-21).
 - (4). The Spirit possesses the same divine character as God – holiness, grace, goodness, and truth (Psa 51:11; Heb 10:29; Neh 9:20; John 14:16-17).

Conclusion:

- I. This is a lot to digest.
 - A. However, these are points to remember.
 1. The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead.
 2. The term Godhead simply means the "quality or state of being God; the sum total of the attributes and characteristics that are common to deity."

3. The scriptures speak of God (or the Godhead) in a plural sense as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – there are numerous passages that speak of all three as "God."
 4. And finally, the Holy Spirit (as God) possessed all the qualities and characteristics we ascribe to God (to Deity).
 - a. The Spirit is called "God."
 - b. The Spirit is eternal.
 - c. The Spirit is omnipresent (His presence is everywhere).
 - d. The Spirit is omniscient (He is all-knowing).
 - e. The Spirit is omnipotent (He is all-powerful).
 - (1). He participated in creation.
 - (2). He works miracles.
 - (3). He inspires prophets.
 - (4). He possesses holiness, grace, goodness, and truth.
- II. This fundamental understanding of the nature and character of the Holy Spirit is essential to understanding the work of the Holy Spirit, and how He accomplishes His work through us.
- A. We have already cleared up some doctrinal error taught about the Holy Spirit by the Jehovah's Witnesses and Oneness Pentecostals.
 1. They deny the whole concept of Godhead – denying that the term God is ever used in the plural sense.
 - a. The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jehovah, God the Father is the one and only God; that Jesus is merely a created being (inferior to Jehovah).
 - (1). They will often point to Deut 6:4 ("The Lord our God, the Lord is one!") – ignoring the fact that the word "one" is the Hebrew word "echod" meaning "a united one" or "brought together as one" – in the same way that a man and woman become "one flesh" (cf. Gen 2:24).
 - (2). They deny there is a third member of the Godhead known as the Holy Spirit.
 - (3). They teach the Spirit is merely God's own Spirit, not a separate entity, and is just another way of describing Jehovah God.
 - b. Oneness Pentecostals teach there is only one divine being – God – and that He assumes the role of the Father, or the Son, or the Spirit whenever the occasion calls for it.
 - (1). They explain the baptism of Jesus by saying God was in heaven speaking, but the presence of God was also in the man Jesus as he was being baptized, and in the dove as the dove was descending.
 - (2). However, this all gets very confusing when we read in John of Jesus telling His disciples that God will send the Spirit in the name of Christ, and that the Spirit would remind the disciples of the teachings of Jesus and reveal things yet to

come, which are not just the teachings of Jesus but the teachings of God.

2. It would be simpler to just let the Bible speak for itself.
 - a. Namely, that God is a term applied in the Bible to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – because all three possess the same qualities and characteristics of divinity.
- B. Next, we will expand our understanding of the Holy Spirit.
 1. We will discuss the "Person of the Holy Spirit" – which is a concept that is crucial to our understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in us.
 2. Then we will show how the Holy Spirit cooperates with the Father and the Son to accomplish the divine, eternal purpose and plan of God that results in our salvation from sin.