

LESSON 12

HOLY SPIRIT

I. The personality of the Holy Spirit

Reading : *John 14:15-27, 15:26-27, 16:5-15*

Memory verses : *John 14:16, 26*

Theme : *To grow in the knowledge of the Holy Spirit and experience life filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Introduction: We have been studying about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. We ought to live as living witnesses for our Lord. But how do we get the strength needed for that? Read Acts 1:8. Every child of God must receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and live with continuous in-filling of the Holy Spirit. What is the impression that comes to your mind when you hear the name of the Holy Spirit? Many consider Him to be an invisible power dwelling in some believers. Is that impression correct? Let us now study about who the Holy Spirit is and what His activities are.

A. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

As the Holy Spirit is a person of the Divine Trinity, it is unscriptural to consider Him just as a power to be used by us as we like. Let us see the evidences:

1. *Personal pronouns are used to describe Him:*

- a) 'He' (John 14:7, 15:26, 16:7, 8, 13)
- b) 'Counsellor'. The same word used for Jesus Christ in 1 John 2:1 is used for the Holy Spirit also. Jesus Christ Himself refers to Holy Spirit as another 'Counsellor', meaning thereby that Holy Spirit has equal status as Himself (John 14:16, 26, 14:6, 16:7).

2. Holy Spirit has personal qualities and activities:

- a) **Knowledge:** He knows everything and understands and reveals all mysteries of God (1 Cor. 2:9-11).
- b) **Will:** He gives gifts as He decides (1 Cor. 12:11). It means that He has mind, emotion and will.
- c) **Love:** Apostle Paul tells about the love of the Holy Spirit. He intercedes for saints out of His love (Rom. 15:30, 8:27).
- d) **Intelligence:** He has intelligence to teach and instruct people (Neh. 9:20, John 14:26).
- e) **Leading:** He leads His people in the right paths (Rom. 8:14, John 16:13).
- f) **Authority:** The apostles acted according to the commands of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6-7, 13:2-4).
- g) Holy Spirit grieves (Eph. 4:30, Isa. 63:10), He speaks (Rev. 2:17), He cries out (Gal. 4:6), He witnesses (John 15:26), He teaches (John 14:26) and He convicts (John 16:8).

3. Men can work along with the Holy Spirit as a person:

Read: "Holy Spirit is mocked" (Heb. 10:29, Eph. 4:30), "Lied to the Holy Spirit" (Acts 5:3, 9), "Holy Spirit is grieved" (Isa. 63:10, Eph. 4:30), "Tell lies against the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 12:31, 32).

4. Status of the Holy Spirit as a person:

Holy Spirit has been given the position of counsellor after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this church age, It is the Holy Spirit who is the comforter, sustainer, helper and source of power for the people of God. How blessed it is to submit ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit !

B. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH FATHER AND SON:

1. Holy Spirit has distinct personality in the divine Trinity as Father and Son. But they are one at the same time.

- a) Jesus is baptized. Holy Spirit descends on Him bodily in the form of a dove. Father declares: "You are my Son whom I love, with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21, 22). All the three persons of the Holy Trinity appear distinctly in one place.

- b) In connection with the commandment on baptism and in the apostolic benediction, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are mentioned (Matt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14). Matt. 28:19 mentions 'name' in singular form pointing towards the unity in Trinity.
- c) Son prays to Father and Holy Spirit is sent (John 14:16). All the three are distinct persons.
- d) Jesus is leaving the world and Holy Spirit is coming to the world (John 16:7).
- e) Jesus occupies the right hand of Father and Holy spirit is sent into the world (Acts 2:33).

2. *Although Holy Spirit is equal in position in Trinity, He is subject to Father and Son in His ministry:*

- a) He is sent by Father and Son (John 14:26, 15:26).
- b) Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of God (Rom. 16:13-14).
- c) Holy Spirit does not speak of His own, but speaks what He hears and glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14).

We have learned that Holy Spirit is a distinct person and He is subject to Father and Son in His ministry in this 'church age'. Do you experience Him as a person? If not, will you desire and wait in prayer for such an experience?

Questions

1. Establish Holy Spirit as a person, quoting references.
2. How is the personality of Holy Spirit related to Father and Son?
3. Prove that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is subject to Father and Son during 'church age'.
4. What are the activities of the Holy Spirit which establish His distinct personality?

