

LESSON 16

ACTIVITIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - III

TYPES REPRESENTING HOLY SPIRIT

Reading : Eze. 37:1-14, 47:1-12

Memory verses : Isa. 44:3, John 7:38

Theme : *To understand the nature of the working of Holy Spirit by looking at the types or comparisons made in the Scriptures about Him.*

Introduction: Holy Spirit is God and has equal status as the other persons of the Holy Trinity, namely, Father and Son. His activities are special in nature and are compared with the following objects for a clear understanding.

1. DOVE:

He descended like a dove and dwelt upon Jesus Christ at the time of His baptism (Matt. 3:16, Luke 3:22, John 1:32). Dove is known for its purity and beauty. It will not dwell in a dirty surrounding (Psa. 68:13, Song 5:2, 6:9). Dove represents the beauty of the holiness of Holy Spirit. We must maintain purity and separations as we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Individuals and churches in-dwell by the Holy Spirit will be shining gloriously (Psa. 45:13, Song 6:10).

2. WIND:

Holy Spirit is compared to wind in the Word of God.

- a) **John 3:8.** Wind blows as it pleases and we can hear its voice. But we do not see it nor can we know its direction. Similarly we may not see the movement of the Holy Spirit, but we can experience His touch and hear His voice.
- b) **Eze: 37:7-14:** Dry bones in the valley heard the Word of God and joined together. Tendons and flesh appeared and skin covered

them, but there was no life. They stood up as an army only when the wind blew on them Holy Spirit, alone, can impart real spiritual life into individuals and societies. Let us pray that the wind of the Holy Spirit blows nationally and internationally so that the churches all over the world are revived.

- c) **Acts 2:1-2**; Power of the wind is boundless. So is the power of the Holy Spirit. The power which blew over the disappointed and fearful disciples on the day of Pentecost transformed them to become people who turned the world upside down.

3. FIRE (*Acts 2:3, Matt. 3:11, Luke 3:16*).

Baptism of the Holy Spirit has been described as baptism in Spirit and fire. Tongues of fire rested on each of the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Fire tries and purifies (1 Cor. 3:11-15). Holy Spirit is a fire which tries and purifies individuals and societies and their works. He destroys all that are unwanted and enhances in value those that are less valuable. Children of God need purification by the Holy Spirit.

4. OIL

In the Old testament times, priests, kings and prophets used to be anointed with oil (Exo. 29:7, Lev. 8:12, 1 Sam. 10:1, 1 Kings 19:16-17). It was a shadow for the anointment of the Holy Spirit on the New Testament believers who are kings and priests (1 Pet. 2:9). Oil imparts beauty, health and strength to the body. In the same way, Holy Spirit imparts spiritual health to believers (Psa. 23:5, 89:20, 92:10, 104:15). Oil is needed for lighting lamps. Believers must be filled with the Holy Spirit to give light to the world. As the wise virgins, we must be equipped with lamps filled with oil (Matt. 25:1-3, Zach 4:1-6).

5. RIVER (*John 7:38*)

Jesus told the Samaritan woman: "The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life". On the last day the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus stood in the Temple of Jerusalem and declared about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 4:14, 7:38). There are prophecies on this topic in the Old Testament too (Isa. 12:3, 44:3). Other pictures of the Holy Spirit depicted elsewhere are listed below.

- a) The river which flowed out from the Garden of Eden (Gen.2:10-14).
- b) Water that flowed from the smitten rock in the wilderness for the people of Israel (Exo. 17:6-7, 1 Cor. 10:4).
- c) The river of living water that Ezekiel saw in his vision (Eze.47:1-12)
- d) The river of living water that John saw in Revelations (Rev. 22:1-2).

What does the river accomplish?

- a) Waters the garden: The church which is the garden of God must be watered continuously by the Holy Spirit. Otherwise it will become dry and withered (Gen. 2:10)
- b) Quenches thirst: Thirst of man will be really quenched only when he drinks from the river of the Holy Spirit (John 4:13-14, Psa. 42. 1-2, 1 Cor. 10:4).
- c) Gladdens (Psa. 46:4, 36:8): Holy Spirit gives real and sustained happiness in hearts of men. The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17).
- d) Begins as a small stream, but gradually becomes wider and deeper (Eze. 47:1-6): The river of living water in the vision of Ezekiel begins in the Temple and increases in depth as it flows along. Finally it becomes a very deep river which can be crossed only by swimming. The Holy Spirit leads us into deeper Christian experiences. "He who speaks in tongues edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church (1 Cor. 14:4-5). We must desire the deeper experiences of the Holy Spirit.
- e) Produces fruits: In Eze. 47 and Rev. 22, we read about trees growing on the banks of the river of living water, producing new fruits every month. The trees have leaves which produce healing of nations. If we constantly drink from the river of the Holy Spirit, we can always be filled with spiritual fruits and gifts (1 Cor. 14:1, Gal. 5:22-23).
- f) Generates purification and life in the surroundings (Eze. 47:8-9): The river of life in the vision of Ezekiel purifies water in places where it flows and gives life to creatures there. Plenty of fishes

grow in the water. Wherever the believers were scattered by persecution, gospel was preached, people received new life and new churches were formed (Acts 8:4-8, 11:19-21). In the same manner, let the living water flow from us in places wherever we are, producing purification and spiritual life in the surroundings.

CONCLUSION:

Will you decide to be filled with the Holy Spirit and live a bright and holy life? Do you experience the power and life of the Holy Spirit? Let us dedicate ourselves in the presence of God to be cleansed by the fire and be anointed by the oil of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for the flow of living water in us and through us.

Questions

1. Which are the main types used for showing the working of the Holy Spirit?
2. How does dove show the work of the Holy Spirit?
3. Compare the work and nature of the Holy Spirit to 'wind'.
4. How does nature of fire compare with that of the Holy Spirit?
5. How is oil related to Holy Spirit?
6. Describe the flow of the river of the living water in the vision of Ezekiel. How is it compared to the nature of the Holy Spirit?
7. What is the nature of the flow of a river? Compare it with the workings of the Holy Spirit.
8. Are you able to win your neighbourhood for Christ? If not, find out the reasons.

