



Study Notes

Who Is The Holy Spirit and What Is His Work?

The centerpiece of New Testament Christianity has something to do with the Holy Spirit and power—the power of God coming inside us. Genuine Christianity has to do with not only with the work of Jesus Christ on the cross but also the work of the Holy Spirit inside an individual.

This is one of the key differences between man's religion and Christianity. In religion we may try to be good, to be a moral person, but we end up with no morality. In Christianity, transformation occurs through the indwelling Spirit of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working inside us, not by us trying to be good.

The working of the Holy Spirit

In our journey to grow up into mature, spiritual Christians, we must become experienced in the working of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand who the Holy Spirit is, the work of the Holy Spirit, how the Holy Spirit leads us, the movement of the Spirit in our spirit, and the need to rely on the Holy Spirit, rather than trying to fix ourselves.

This includes discovering the difference between our spirit and soul, recognizing the voice of God, exercising our spiritual senses, responding to the nudging and witness of the Holy Spirit, and learning how to use the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in ministering to others.

In this series on the Holy Spirit, you will discover how important it is to make the Holy Spirit your teacher, rely upon the Holy Spirit to do a work within you, and be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, rather than our reasoning. In Session One, we focus on the questions: Who is the Holy Spirit, and what is the work of the Holy Spirit?

Key Scriptures

- I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him, because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you (John 14:16-18).
- But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17-18).



↩ Your Response

- As you read the Study Notes, pay attention to which scriptures or teaching point seem to have your name on it.
- ❖ The ideas in this series on the Holy Spirit are drawn mostly from Kenneth E. Hagin, Ralph Nault, Watchman Nee, and my own studies and wealth of personal experiences.

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity

From the following scriptures, we identify three distinct Spirits in the Trinity: the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. But because of ignorance, we often mistake Jesus for the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit for the Father, or lying demonic spirits for the Holy Spirit.

- However you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the *Spirit of God* dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the *Spirit of Christ*, he does not belong to Him. ... But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you (Romans 8:9-11).
- Jesus therefore said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive *the Holy Spirit* (John 20:21-22).
- And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, ... and they were all filled with *the Holy Spirit* and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was given them utterance (Acts 2:1-2, 4)

Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, but yes he is with us through His Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus inside of us. This is how we are united with Him. The Father is also seated in heaven, but the Holy Spirit is here with us – Ralph Nault.

Seven Spirits of God

To add to your confusion, what do you know about the seven Spirits of God in Revelation?

- There were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God (Rev 4:5).

Bible scholars suggest these seven Spirits refer to seven distinct expressions of the Holy Spirit: 1) Spirit of the Lord, 2) Spirit of Wisdom, 3) Spirit of Understanding, 4) Spirit of Counsel, 5) Spirit of Power/Strength, 6) Spirit of Knowledge, and 7) the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. (Drawn from Isaiah 11:2-3).

In St. Paul's prayer for believers, we get a glimpse of these different expressions of the Holy Spirit: "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,..., may give to you a *spirit of wisdom* and of *revelation in the knowledge of Him*...what is the surpassing *greatness of His power*... in accordance with the working of the *strength of His might*" (Ephesians 1:17-19).



The Holy Spirit is a person

It is important to recognize that as the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is a Person, not merely a force or energy.

The Holy Spirit is the same Person who brooded over the waters, who came down upon Jesus when He was baptized, who was upon the prophets of old, and who filled the people at Pentecost with power.

1. Possesses distinguishing marks of personality

What is it that makes someone a person? What are the essential characteristics of personality? Is it not because we have an intellect, a will, and emotions? A force or power does not have these personal attributes and abilities!

The Holy Spirit has an intellect, a mind of infinite knowledge

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit *knows* the things of God. No man understands God and what God is like, but the Holy Spirit does. In order to *know* things, the Holy Spirit must have intellect.

- But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in My name, He will *teach* you all things, and *bring* to your memory all that I said to you (John 14:26).
- In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should,... And he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).
- For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

The Holy Spirit has a will

In Acts, it says, "They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them" (Acts 16:6-7).

Who decided that they should not preach the Word of God in Asia? Who decided that they should not go into Bithynia? The Holy Spirit directed them and led them! They were not led by an 'it' or by a force or by some kind of energy. No, they were led by a Person.

Have you ever seen an "energy" make a decision? Does the lightning bolt say, "I think I shall decide where I am going to strike"?

- But you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:15-16).
- But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11).



The Holy Spirit has emotions

- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).
- How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29)?

Can you insult someone who does not have emotions and feelings? You can only enrage others if they are capable of having the emotion of anger.

- ❖ Remember, the Spirit of God is HOLY and He hates sin. If we could only realize that when we sin, we grieve a Person who loves us so very much! — Unknown source

2. The Holy Spirit does things only a person can do

The Holy Spirit guides, He speaks, He hears, and He shows—only a person can do these things!

The Holy Spirit can teach us

When we think of a teacher, we usually think of a person, not an impersonal force. For the believer, it is a very comforting truth to realize that the One who dwells within us (1 Cor 6:19) is our personal Teacher, who can reveal to us the wonderful things about our Savior Jesus Christ and can show us spiritual truths that it would be impossible to know apart from Him.

- But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your memory all that I said to you (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit can pray for us

Only a person can pray and intercede for us.

- And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; (Romans 8:26).
- And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:27).

The Holy Spirit can speak to us

An impersonal force does not give commands. It was a Person who gave Philip a command, and Philip obeyed this Person who said it and did as he was instructed.

- Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go up and join this chariot’ (Acts 8:29).
- While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them’ (Acts 13:2).
- When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:13).



The Holy Spirit can lead us

Believers are not led by an impersonal force or by a mere energy system. We are led by a blessed Person, God the Holy Spirit.

- But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (Galatians 5:18).
- For all you who are being led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

3. Three biblical images of the Holy Spirit

The Bible gives us three symbolic images for the Holy Spirit that helps us understand who He is and how He works. They are 1) the dove, 2) the wind/breath, and 3) the fire.

The dove

In the Old Testament, when Noah sent out doves after the flood, one returned with an olive branch (Gen 8:8-11). At the baptism of Jesus in the New Testament, “the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove” (Luke 3:22).

- ◆ The dove symbolizes peace; the presence of the Holy Spirit; reconciliation with God.

The wind or/breath

In the New Testament, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). Then on the day of Pentecost, “there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house ... and there appeared to them tongues as of fire being distributed and they rested on each one of them” (Acts 2:2-3).

Jesus compares the Spirit to wind: “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:7).

- ◆ The wind/breath is the most universal of all the images of the Spirit. It signifies divine power, the effects or the expression of the divine spirit.

The fire

Closely relate to the wind is the fire. In the Old Testament it says, “For behold, the Lord will come in fire and His chariots like the whirlwind ... and the Lord will execute judgement by fire” (Is 66:15-16). In the New Testament, John, the baptizer, explained that he baptized with water, “but One is coming ... He will baptize you with (*in/by*) the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). The ancients believed that out of the wind came fire, as we saw in Acts 2:3.

- ◆ Fire is a symbol of purifying and renewing. Because of its power to destroy, it can be understood as a means to rebirth at a higher level.



4. The Third Person of the Trinity brings transformation

Author Helen Luke¹ writes that this wind, this fire of the spirit, must enter into us before we can in truth create anything at all: “Whenever a breath of that wind or a spark of that fire lodges in mind or heart or body, we are immediately aware of some kind of newness of life.

“If we look at the various contexts in which the word *spirit* occurs, from chemistry to the Christian Trinity, we see that it is predominately used on every level ... to express what which brings about a transformation.”

- ◆ Oil is transformed into power through the spirit in petroleum.
- ◆ Spirits of salt and spirits of ammonia burn, cleanse, purify, and destroy.
- ◆ The spirit in alcohol lifts us out of our ego and alters our personality before our eyes.

- ❖ The Spirit that came at Pentecost ran like fire through the pagan world and gave birth to the new Christian era. The greatest transformation of all was when the Holy Spirit in the Godhead entered into a woman and transformed God himself into incarnate man. — Helen Luke

Reflection on the Trinity – Iris Schurmann

“As I was thinking about the Trinity, the Lord asked me, “Do you think three of me is too much?” I answered immediately, ‘No Lord, it can’t be too much; otherwise you wouldn’t be three!’ And then I started thinking ... *The FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT, each of them is all in all and could achieve everything.*

“But the HOLY SPIRIT is so near to me; He leads me and He brings my faith to life! I would like to learn how to flow with the Holy Spirit, as Judith says.

“And JESUS showed us how the Father is, for we didn’t know! And JESUS brought the sacraments and the church. He gave us a home, His presence in the Holy Eucharist and His living grace through the sacraments. Lots of healing takes place hearing Him say, ‘Your sins are forgiven!’

“The FATHER, He’s the Creator, the one who has got the best plan for my life. It’s the most joyful thing to worship the Father and the safest way is to trust HIM. And I know I’m loved since ever.

“So I said to the Lord: ‘Three seems to be perfect, even for my little head.’”

Your Response

- Who do you feel closer to: The Father? The Son? The Holy Spirit?
- How important is the Holy Spirit to you?

¹ Helen M. Luke, *Woman, Earth and Spirit* (1993), pgs. 5-6.



The Holy Spirit, the Power of God

The Holy Spirit is the power of God in operation

Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will give us power from God.

- I am sending the promise of the Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with **power (*dunamis*)** from on high (Luke 24:49).
- But you shall receive **power (*dunamis*)** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- Having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them **authority (*exousia*)** over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness (Matt 10:1).
- To the seventy, Jesus said, “Behold I have given you **authority (*exousia*)** to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you” (Luke 10:19).

Defining "power" & "authority"

In the Greek, power (*dunamis*) means a force, a miraculous kind of power, ability, and strength; and authority (*exousia*) means privilege; delegated influence. It refers to the sense of ability.

Christianity offers believers power

Authentic Christianity goes beyond ceremonies, creeds, and rituals, offering us a source of power that will transform and change our lives. It says we can receive the Holy Spirit and as a result, there will be a resurrection power at work within each of us who believes – to set us free from the past, to heal our broken hearts, to give us a new heart, a new spirit, to make all things new.

Moreover, it also will give us a source of power to minister to others and set the captives free. If we have the power of God working within us, we will be able to do the things He did, be His witnesses on earth, and bear fruit for Him

- Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do (John 14:12-14).
- And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ... These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:15, 17-18).



Reflection on the power of God—Ralph Nault²

“Many Christian people are in a very sad condition, because they do not have the power of God active in their lives. They do not know how to pray hands on the sick or deal with evil spirits that come against their families, homes, loved ones, pastors, and churches.

“The Bible makes it clear that the Holy Spirit gives God’s people the power and authority to deal with evil spirits. Yet very few Christian people know to deal with this, so they stay away from it. They don’t want to do this type of ministry, because they feel powerless themselves. In effect, they *are* powerless, because they simply do not know to use the spiritual authority God has given them.

“In recent years, many arts (psychics, fortune tellers) have sprung up that seem to have a spirituality to them. This is why we need spiritual discernment. This gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to recognize the spirit that is speaking: Is it the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit? Or is it another spirit—a familiar spirit, an unclean spirit, a lying and deceiving spirit, or an evil spirit?”

↪ Your Response

- How have you experienced the power of God in your life?

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth

Years ago I was moved by the following words from Jesus: At the time, I didn’t understand them, but I thought to myself, *if the Father is looking for such people, I will volunteer*. So I made God aware of my decision: “Lord, here I am; I volunteer!”

- But an hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).

Over the next few years, I slowly began to understand what it means to worship God in spirit and truth, and moreover, why this is so important to Him.

² Ralph Nault (ralphnault.com) is an author, speaker, mentor, and spiritual father to many. Called to be a water boy, for over fifty years he and his wife have traversed the USA, helping people grow closer to Jesus Christ, experience the healing, freeing power of God, and learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit.



My quest for reality

In my search for spiritual reality, I did much reading. From psychiatrist M. Scott Peck, I learned that mental health is dedicated to truth at all cost. The more my view of myself and the world is filled with lies, the more difficult it will be for me to make life-giving decisions in my life.

My search for truth was a quest for reality. A dictionary definition of reality refers to the quality of being true to life, the real or true state of things. Not merely seeming, lying, or pretending but genuine, absolute, pure.

I made a commitment to examine everything I believed or thought I believed, including my ideas about God, my mother, and myself. I decided that if something is true, it would stand up to my questioning. But if it is based on deception, delusion, or illusion, I didn't want it.

I was motivated by the fruit I'd seen in the lives of many older people. Why did so many older people sink into apathy or despair as they aged? I didn't want this to happen to me!

The father of lies

I learned that the father of lies takes advantage of each traumatic moment. He offers us a lie, saying something like this: *it is your fault, no one loves you, and you were not good enough*. The lies become embedded into the memory of the traumatic moment. In the years following, every time something similar happens, the lie rears its ugly head. We react all out of proportion.

This is why we need the Spirit of Truth!!

God gave us a Helper, the Spirit of truth

- I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-18).
- When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also (John 15:26-27).
- When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:13).

It is truth that will set us free

This is one of the basic things of Christianity: Jesus has come so that we can be different. He says, *you will see the truth, and the truth will set you free*. So all of a sudden we see something in a new way, and an act of repentance comes about, and we begin to function in a different way.

- And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8:32).

Truth deeply impacts our sense of well-being. It is essential for our relationship with God as well as our emotional and mental health. It also affects our relationships with others and our capacity to love others honestly.



- Everyone who is of truth hears my voice (John 18:37).
- Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth (John 17:17).

King David prays for truth

Dr. Bruce Morgan taught me, *it is by seeing truth, not by my trying harder, that I will be freed*. He was right. This is why I began to pray like King David.

- Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation (Psalm 25:5-6).
- Oh send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places, Then I will go to the altar of God, to God the gladness of my joy (Psalms 43:3-4).
- Behold, Thou does desire truth in our innermost being (*inward parts*) (Psalms 51:6).

Additional resources

⇒ See my notes: <https://judithdoctor.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Bible-Study-Notes-on-Truth-Lies.pdf>

The Holy Spirit, Our Helper

In bringing us to salvation, holiness, and wholeness, each part of the Trinity has its work to do. The Father has His, the Son, Jesus Christ, has His, and the Holy Spirit has His. The Holy Spirit, our Helper (*parakletos*) is here on earth, and He is here for many purposes, including teacher, guide, comforter, leader.

The general working of the Helper is to edify, transform, lead, and fill us with God's power and authority, giving us spiritual gifts.

Scriptures

- But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (*parakletos*) shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you (John 16:7).
- I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (*parakletos*), that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him, because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you (John 14:16-18).

Defining “helper”

In the Greek, “helper” (*parakletos*) means an intercessor, counselor, advocate, comforter.



Here are some things the Holy Spirit wants to do you:

↪ Your Response

- Which of the following do you want the Holy Spirit to do for you?

1. Reveal & bear witness to Jesus

- When the Helper comes ... He will bear witness of Me (John 15:26)

2. Make you a child of God—an heir

- God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” You are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:5-7)

3. Establish a witness in your heart

- The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:15-16).
- Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (2 Corinthians 1:21)

4. Set you free from the Law of Moses—give you freedom

- But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (Galatians 5:18).
- Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom) (2 Cor 3:17).

5. Teach you things you need to know

- The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things (John 14:26).

6. Guide you to all truth

- When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth (John 16:13).

7. Bring to your mind what the Lord has said

- He will ... bring to your remembrance all that I said to you (John 14:26).

8. Prepare you for the future

- And He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:13).



9. Give you wisdom & revelation of spiritual things

- God may ... give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him (Ephesians 1:17).

10. Help you with your praying

- In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should (Romans 8:26)

11. Intercede for you according to the will of God

- But the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26).

12. Reveal God's thoughts and words to you

- I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you (Proverbs 1:23).
- Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit (1 Cor 2:9-10).
- I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now (John 16:12).

13. Reveal the things freely given to you by God

- Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God (1 Cori 2:12).

14. Lead and guide you

- For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Rom 8:14).
- And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot" (Acts 8:29).

15. Make you adequate to serve the new covenant

- Our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Cor 3:3-6).

16. Bring you to life, make you fully alive

- It is the Spirit who gives life (John 6:63).
- I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life (Ezekiel 37:14).



17. Transform you

- The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

18. Bring you dreams, visions, and prophecies

- I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams (Acts 2:14-17).

19. Give you gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Yet earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy (1 Cor 14:1)
- But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one as He wills (1 Cor 12:4-11)

20. Enable your spirit to pray to God in an unknown tongue

- When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying (Acts 19:6).
- But you beloved, building yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20).
- For one who speak in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God... (1 Cor. 14:2)

21. Give you authority over evil spirits

- [To the seventy, Jesus said,] “Behold I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you” (Luke 10:19).

22. Enable you to discern spirits

- Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... for to one is given ... and to another the distinguishing of spirits ... (1 Cor 12:4,8,10).

23. Convict the world of sin, righteousness, judgment

- And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
- Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged (John 16:9-11).



Reflection: The Holy Spirit, Our Teacher – Ralph Nault

“When we are first born-again of the Spirit, we are not able to function as a fully spiritual man. It takes years after that to fully develop. Just like when we are born of the flesh, it takes us years to mature. In the spiritual man, it is the same thing. It takes growth over time.

“The growth depends somewhat upon how responsive we are to the Holy Spirit, this teacher who God gives us. This is His work and purpose. He teaches us how to begin to see spiritually, how to begin to hear spiritually, how to begin to speak spiritually, and how to begin to respond spiritually to the things of God.

“The Holy Spirit is sent to us to help us develop fully into being that new creation. This is his work and purpose. We cannot come into a place of spiritual maturity without the Holy Spirit. We must have the Holy Spirit there to usher us into it. It is the Spirit alone who can make people live and change – not our cleverness, education, charisma, or personal power.

“The Holy Spirit is the teacher, the guide, who reveals Jesus Christ in us and guides us into the truth. No one else can lead us into a place of spiritual maturity. I can point to the way, but the Holy Spirit must teach you and guide you into the fullness of whatever the Lord has for you. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. We must go to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to teach us.”

↪ Your Response

- Have you made the Holy Spirit your teacher?
- I urge you to pray the prayers St. Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus. Years ago I memorized these prayers and prayed them often for several years. God answered them! (See Ephesians 1:16-19; Ephesians 3:14-20)

Additional resources

- ⇒ Get Ralph Nault’s book, “Led by the Spirit: Learn how to know what God is saying to you.” <https://www.amazon.com/Led-Spirit-Learn-know-saying/dp/1984238264>
- ⇒ See my notes: <http://judithdoctor.com/what-do-you-know-about-the-holy-spirit/>