

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:1-4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There is the heavenly Father, there is the Father's Son, Jesus, and then there is the Holy Spirit. Just who exactly is the Holy Spirit and what does the Holy Spirit do? Who has ever seen the Holy Spirit? Who has ever heard the voice of the Holy Spirit? Where does the Holy Spirit come from? What relationship does the Christian have with the Holy Spirit? Why is the Holy Spirit mentioned so much in God's Word? There is one thing for sure about the Holy Spirit and that is that the Holy Spirit is prominent throughout the entire Bible. (He stands out)

I. THE PROMINENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE

1. The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Old Testament:
 - The name of the Holy Spirit is mentioned 88 times.
 - There are 23 of the Old Testament Books that refer to the Holy Spirit.
 - The term "Holy Spirit" is only mentioned a few times - Psalm 51:11
 - The other times the Holy Spirit is mentioned refers to the "Spirit of God" - Genesis 1:2
2. The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the New Testament:
 - The New Testament mentions the Holy Spirit 264 times.
 - There are more than 60 references in the Gospels.
 - The book of Acts has 57 references of the Holy Spirit and is also entitled "The Acts of the Holy Spirit"
 - The Epistles refer to the Holy Spirit 132 times.
 - Only 3 of the Epistles do not mention the Holy Spirit - Philemon and 2 and 3 John.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS PROMINENT IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

1. The Holy Spirit was involved in the birth of Jesus:
 - Mary conceived Jesus by means of the Holy Spirit - Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:30-35
 - Several people were filled with the Holy Spirit to make pronouncements about Jesus' birth:
 - Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist - Luke 1:41-42
 - Zacharias, father of John the Baptist - Luke 1:67-79
 - Simeon, who saw the baby Jesus when He was presented in the Temple - Luke 1:23-35
2. The Holy Spirit was present when Jesus was baptized by John:
 - The Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form as a dove - Luke 3:21-22
 - The Holy Spirit in the dove for lit upon Jesus - Matthew 3:16
3. The Holy Spirit was present with Jesus during His temptations in the wilderness:
 - Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit - Luke 4:1
 - Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to begin with - Luke 4:1; Matthew 3:1
4. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus during His ministry:
 - Jesus returned from His "temptations" to teach in the synagogues in the power of the Holy Spirit - Luke 4:14-15
 - Jesus applied the prophecy of Isaiah to Himself when He said, "...*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.*" Luke 4:16-21
 - Jesus "rejoiced in the Spirit" on at least one occasion - Luke 10:21
 - Jesus claimed to cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit - Matthew 12:28

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PROMINENT IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

1. The Holy Spirit is involved in a person becoming a Christian:
 - People are convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit - John 16:7-8
 - People are "born again" of the Holy Spirit - John 3:5-8
 - People are "renewed" of the Holy Spirit - Titus 3:4-6

2. The Holy Spirit is present in the life of the Christian:
 - Christians "live in the Spirit" - Galatians 5:25a
 - Christians are to "walk in the Spirit," therefore producing "fruit of the Spirit" - Galatians 5:25, 16-18
 - Christians are to set their minds upon "the things of the Spirit" - Romans 8:5-6
 - It is "by the Spirit one puts to death the deeds of the body" - Romans 8:12-13
 - Only when one is "led by the Spirit" is he/she truly the "sons of God" - Romans 8:14
 - The Holy Spirit makes intercession for the Christian in his/her prayers - Romans 8:26-27
 - God strengthens the Christian "with might through His Spirit" - Ephesians 3:16
 - The Christian can enjoy the fellowship of the Holy Spirit - 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PROMINENT IN REGARDING TRUTH AND ERROR

1. The Holy Spirit is the source of God's truth:
 - The Old Testament scriptures and prophecies came by means of the Holy Spirit - 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Peter 1:10-11
 - Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and teach them all things and guide them into all truth - John 14:25-26; 16:12-13
 - The Holy Spirit is the only source to know the truth of God's will as it is revealed to the Apostles - 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

2. The Holy Spirit is the subject of a lot of error:
 - Much error is taught about the nature of the Holy Spirit:
 - Some think the Holy Spirit is just an impersonal force of God's power.
 - Some think the Holy Spirit is really Jesus in another form.
 - Many misunderstand:
 - The baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit
 - The spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - Many attribute "impressions/feelings" to being led by the Holy Spirit.
 - They are ignorant of how the Holy Spirit leads Christians.
 - They are attributing to the Holy Spirit what is really the "human spirit."

CONCLUSION:

1. The more one understands the Holy Spirit, the more will be the appreciation of the Holy Spirit.
2. It is not essential to have a thorough knowledge of the Holy Spirit to be saved.
3. It is essential that Christians respond to the terms of being pardoned as revealed by the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:36-38

