

A LOOK AT THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 1:29-34

Introduction: The Holy Spirit is spoken of often in the Bible and throughout the Old Testament the Spirit of God came upon people, enabled them to do whatever task God wanted them to do, then left, however in the New Testament the Holy Spirit is seen coming upon, into and staying with people, starting with our text as Jesus was beginning His ministry and His forerunner, John the Baptist, recognized Jesus as the "promised one," he saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus and told others what he saw.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO GOD

1. "Spirit" in Hebrew is Ru-ach, in Greek is pneuma both meaning breath or wind, thus "spirit."
 - "Spirit" is used to describe a living person.
 - "Spirit" is used to describe one's attitude, such as "a 'spirit' of forgiveness, etc.
 - "Spirit" is used to describe the soul (a person) after death.
 - "Spirit" is used to describe good or evil power.

2. The "Spirit" of God is separate of God, yet not apart from God.
 - In the Old Testament:
 - The spirit of God brooded over the chaos of creation.
 - The spirit of God was breathed into man and man became a living soul.
 - The spirit of God created animal life.
 - The spirit of God gives physical strength.
 - The spirit of God gave military skills to men such as Moses, David and Joshua.
 - The spirit of God also has given mechanical skills to people.
 - The spirit of God causes/enables God to be omnipresent.
 - In the New Testament:
 - The spirit of God dwells within Christians/believers.
 - Christians are said to be God's Temple.
 - The Church is also said to be the House of God.
 - The Church is also said to be the Body of Christ.

3. The "Spirit " of God is personal.
 - The Holy Spirit is not a "thing." HE is a person, HE has personal functions, personal qualities.
 - Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a personal friend (**John 14-16**)
 - Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as being a paraclete (helper).
 - The Holy Spirit helps believers pray, moves and guide them to ask for the right things.
 - The Holy Spirit has a mind which of course thinks.
 - The Holy Spirit is sensitive, capable of suffering, etc.
 - The Holy Spirit decides which gift/gifts to give the believer. (**1 Corinthians 12:11**)
 - The Holy Spirit produces personal holiness in believers.
 - The Holy Spirit gives each believer personal attention and guidance.
 - The Holy Spirit gives a call of "special" service to some believers.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit. (*Luke 4:18*)
2. Believers see Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus breathed on His disciples saying, "...*receive ye the Holy Spirit...*"
 - The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost.
 - The Holy Spirit didn't come to replace/displace Jesus Christ, but to make Jesus REAL.
 - The Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ known as Savior and Lord.
 - The Holy Spirit came so people could see Jesus Christ, not Himself, the Holy Spirit.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO SALVATION

1. The Holy Spirit came to convict of sin. (*John 16:8; Acts 2:37*)
2. The Holy Spirit causes spiritual renewal in creating in the hearts of sinners the desire and capacity for salvation. He regenerates the convicted sinner by leading him/her to repentance.
3. The Holy Spirit gives assurance of one's salvation. (He is a "seal," a "downpayment.")

IV. HOW A PERSON MAY RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Upon one's belief in Jesus Christ, he/she is baptized into the Holy Spirit.
2. Believers in Jesus Christ are "clothed" in the Holy Spirit.
3. Believers are "filled" with the Holy Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit is to be "poured" out upon believers.
5. The Holy Spirit is given as a gift to the believer.

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO THE CHURCH

1. The Holy Spirit works not only in individual believers, but also in Churches and communities.
 - The Holy Spirit brings believers into Christian fellowship with each other in the Church.
 - The Holy Spirit inspires and guides the worship services and work of the Church.
 - When the Holy Spirit is present, there is no coldness, dullness or boredom.
 - When the Church leaves the Holy Spirit out of its planning, the church becomes a place of entertainment.
 - The Holy Spirit and tongues and such:
 - God is not a God of confusion.
 - The greatest thing God could give a believer is NOT tongues or the ability to perform miracles, but it is to make Christians to LOVE others.

- Tongues and miracles will not speed the gospel or bring in the kingdom of God.
 - What the world needs so desperately is more men and women who can love after the example of Jesus.
- What the world needs is Christ-like men and women and only the Holy Spirit can produce them.

CONCLUSION:

1. Each believer limits the power of the Holy Spirit in his/her life.
2. Only through believers can the Holy Spirit work, using their feet, voice and hands.
3. We, believers, either let the Holy Spirit control us completely as God desires OR we limit the Holy Spirit's capabilities and ours as well.
4. Don't you want to be used by the Holy Spirit as God desires? It's up to YOU whether that happens or not.