



What We Teach – A Journey Through the KBC Doctrinal Statement

Week 9 - “God the Holy Spirit – Part 1” – October 31, 2021

During the previous four classes together, we learned about God the Father and God the Son. This morning and, Lord willing, next week, we will dive into the depths of understanding the third member of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit.

We will take a systematic approach to discussing and learning about the entirety of the Holy Spirit. Through this method we will cover every statement within our Doctrinal Statement regarding Kerrville Bible Church’s teaching and beliefs regarding the Holy Spirit, it will just be organized a bit differently than if we simply walked sentence by sentence through the statement itself. If you were in the School of Theology Class a few years ago, this will ring familiar because I’ve essentially taken the 60 dense pages of the Biblical Doctrine book and summarized it into to 45 minute classes.

I will spend less time defining the character, nature, and attributes of the triune God, since that has been accomplished in the teachings of the previous weeks. I want to spend our available time focusing more on the distinct roles and work of the Holy Spirit.

Also, here is what we will NOT address in detail - the gifts of the Spirit or Spiritual Gifts, miraculous gifts or sign gifts, abuses of the Spirit, and our church’s position belief in cessationism. Those subjects will be discussed at length in future classes together.

Our outline has six parts and we plan to cover the first two this morning and the other four next week:

1. Introduction to God the Holy Spirit
2. The Spirit’s Application of Salvation
3. The Spirit’s Work in Sanctification
4. The Holy Spirit’s Role in Spiritual Gifts or Spiritual Service
5. The Spirit’s Activity in the Word of God
6. The Spirit’s Work in the End Times

1. Introduction to God the Holy Spirit

References in Scripture

The Hebrew word ruakh (rue-awk) appears in the Old Testament 378 times. It primarily means “spirit”, “wind”, or “breath”. However, the word ruakh only refers specifically to the Holy Spirit 79 of these 378 Old Testament uses. The Holy Spirit is referred to immediately, at the initiation of Creation in Genesis 1:2 when “the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters...” and as late in the Old Testament as the last book, Malachi, in 2:15 where God says that any man who deals treacherously with his wife does not have even a remnant of the Spirit inside him.

The New Testament has far more revelation for us regarding the Holy Spirit. The Greek word pneuma (new-mah) occurs 379 times in the New Testament, yet it refers specifically to the Holy Spirit 245 of those uses. The Holy Spirit is referenced in all but four of the New Testament books. The Holy Spirit appears consistently throughout the New Testament, from Matthew chapter 1 to Revelation 21. The most frequent mentions are in Acts, Romans, and 1 Corinthians. One of the dominant themes regarding the Holy Spirit in the New Testament is that He is a gift from God to every believer.

Coequality to God the Father and God the Son

I mentioned we will just touch on this, but let us clearly affirm, as one of three members of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal, and uncreated. He is coequal and coeternal with God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit is all-knowing, all-powerful, present everywhere at the same time, and is perfectly truthful. He shares every divine attribute possessed by God the Father and God the Son.

Biblically speaking, there can be no doubt about the Holy Spirit’s existence in that he is mentioned specifically over 320 times. But is the Holy Spirit a person, like God the Father and God the Son?

Personhood is not measured by physical elements such as body parts, flesh, blood, and bones. Rather, it is determined by the possession of three basic characteristics: (1) intellect, (2) will, and (3) emotions. The Bible provides more than sufficient evidence that the Holy Spirit possesses all three essentials of personhood. Thus, scripture compels us to classify the Holy Spirit as the third person of the triune Godhead.

When we read the Bible, we learn the Holy Spirit demonstrates His **intellect** in that He counsels, imparts wisdom, intercedes, inspired Scripture, possesses a mind, provides truth, speaks, teaches, and testifies.

The Holy Spirit is shown in scripture to possess a **will** in that we see He contends, directs, distributes spiritual gifts, and regenerates.

Finally, we read the Spirit has **emotion** in that He experiences joy, can be insulted, grieves over sin, and He loves.

One other way we can be certain the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Triune Godhead is the various names and titles the Scripture uses in relationship to God the Spirit.

We see titles such as “the promise of the Father”, “the Spirit of God”, “the Spirit of the Living God”, and “the Spirit of the Lord”. God Himself speaks in Scripture and references “My Spirit”.

Then we see these titles, “the Spirit of Jesus”, “the Spirit of Christ”, and “the Spirit of His Son”.

This is just a sampling of the ways the Bible refers to the Holy Spirit and it further confirms to us God is indeed Three Persons.

1. The Father is God
2. The Son is God
3. The Spirit is God
4. The Father is not the Son
5. The Father is not the Holy Spirit
6. The Son is not the Holy Spirit
7. There is exactly one God

Holy Spirit Word Pictures

The Bible uses eight different word pictures that help us understand the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

1. Clothing - Jesus instructed the disciples that the Father would send the promised Spirit so they could be “clothed” with “power from on high”. This was anticipated then fulfilled at Pentecost when God clothed believers (note, they did not clothe themselves) and were then able to accomplish after Pentecost what they could not before. Being clothed in the Holy Spirit symbolizes empowerment and enablement.
2. Dove - The dove is innocent and blameless, truly righteous. This is why the dove descended on Christ at His baptism. The focus in that event was on the His righteousness and God the Father’s recognition of His Son’s righteousness.
3. Fire - The presence of God is often pictured by fire. We see this at Pentecost with the tongues of flame demonstrating the visible presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer.
4. Oil - The anointing of oil in both the Old and New Testaments symbolizes appointment to an important position. Priests were anointed to the priesthood with oil and David was anointed by Samuel to be king of Israel. The title “Christ” means “anointed one”. Believers are called a royal priesthood and are anointed with the Holy Spirit so they can know the truth about Christ.

5. Pledge - The Holy Spirit is said to be given to every believer as a guarantee of their full salvation, which will not be completely fulfilled until the resurrection. This term Pledge is described with synonyms such as down payment and earnest. The indwelling Holy Spirit is God's pledge that what He began when a person first believed in Christ for eternal life will eventually result in eternal life.
6. Seal - The Father set His seal on the Son. God set His seal on the apostles. Jesus our Lord set his seal on believers. The seal that God placed on all believers is the Holy Spirit. It marks out the ownership of believers by God who redeemed them out of the domain of darkness and out them into Christ's kingdom of light. The seal represents spiritual security.
7. Water - The Holy Spirit is pictured as life-giving water that saves, life-enabling water that empowers, an life-sustaining water that inducts into the body of Christ.
8. Wind - In John 3:8 Jesus likened the wind to the work of God's Spirit in salvation in that it is invisible, unexpected, unpredictable, yet always powerfully accomplishing its end. Luke described the sound of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as a mighty rushing wind. Peter described the Holy Spirit as a wind in the sails of a ship that carried along the apostles in writing the Bible. It was a necessary power to write the Word of God, just like a ship with sails must have the wind to move at all in the sea.

The Holy Spirit Ministered to Christ

Jesus Christ experienced the ministry of the Spirit of God during His time on earth. First, the Spirit implemented his virgin conception and birth. The Spirit descended on Him in baptism, anointed Him to preach, empowered Him, filled Him, lead Him, encouraged Him, aided Him, rejoiced along with Him, and finally raised Him from the dead.

The Holy Spirit Ministers to Us

This is why we can read Jesus's last words to His disciples in the Upper Room before His arrest and crucifixion and make sense of how it could be to their advantage He go away and send the Holy Spirit. Let's read several verses captured from John chapters 14-16:

John 14:16-17, 25-26

16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;
17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 15:26,27

26 "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 testify about Me,
27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:5-15

5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'

6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 But 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.

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Here is a summary of the ministries of the Holy Spirit which demonstrates what Christ meant when He told them it was to their advantage He go away and send The Helper:

1. He adopts (Rom. 8:15).
2. He baptizes (1 Cor. 12:13).
3. He bears witness (Acts 5:32; Rom. 8:16; 9:1; 1 John 5:6-8).
4. He calls to ministry (Acts 13:2-4).
5. He convicts (John 16:8-11).
6. He empowers (Ex. 31:1-3; Judg. 13:25; Acts 1:8).
7. He fills (Luke 4:1; Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18).
8. He guarantees (2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14).
9. He guards (2 Tim. 1:14).
10. He helps (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; 2 Tim. 1:14).
11. He illuminates (1 Cor. 2:10-13).
12. He indwells (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19).
13. He intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20; see 1 John 5:14-15).

14. He leads (Ps. 143:10; Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1; Acts 20:22–23; Rom. 8:14).
15. He produces fruit (Gal. 5:22–23).
16. He provides spiritual character (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25).
17. He regenerates (John 3:5–6, 8; Titus 3:5).
18. He reminds (John 14:26).
19. He restrains/convicts of sin (Gen. 6:3; Acts 7:51; 2 Thess. 2:6–7).
20. He resurrects (Rom. 1:4; 8:11).
21. He reveals truth (2 Sam. 23:2; Neh. 9:30; Zech. 7:12; John 14:17; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 3:5).
22. He sanctifies (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2).
23. He seals (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13–14; 4:30).
24. He selects overseers (Acts 20:28).
25. He sends (Acts 13:4).
26. He strengthens (Eph. 3:16).
27. He teaches (John 14:26; Acts 15:28; 1 John 2:20, 27).

2. Salvation

In the original creation man was perfectly suited for fellowship with God, but as a result of Adam's sin and fall from grace, the entire human race became corrupted. Every person born after the Fall was born into sin and unable to commune with God. All were cast out apart from God as aliens and rebels, subject to His divine judgment. But God, to demonstrate His great mercy and grace, purposed to save a remnant through the atoning work of God the Son. The Bible teaches us that the saving benefits purchased by Christ's willing and obedient death on the cross are applied to believers through the work of the Holy Spirit. Let's take a look at the Spirit's work in applying salvation.

Regeneration

The very first step in the Holy Spirit's application of salvation in the believer is regeneration. In order to understand regeneration, we must understand the reality that every human being who has ever lived was born as a spiritually dead person. No one was ever born with the ability to live for God in a way that pleases Him without first being regenerated, or reborn. Let's read Jesus's words to Nicodemus in John chapter 3:1-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

8 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."

The Bible uses various ways to describe this regeneration including Spiritual Birth, Spiritual Cleansing, Spiritual Creation, and Spiritual Resurrection.

Titus 3:5-7

5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the *washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit*,

6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Because of regeneration in the sense of spiritual renewal, Christians have a new nature with new spiritual capacities that did not exist before conversion. The regenerated and renewed believer has been graced with a condition even better than what Adam originally had before the Fall into sin. Adam was innocent before the Fall, but the regenerated believer is declared righteous and justified through the Holy Spirit's re-creation and washing of sin.

It is important to note here that all three members of the Trinity are involved in the regeneration of the believer. Jesus gave these instructions for baptism saying, "...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" in recognition of the individual and combined efforts of each member of the Trinity in regeneration.

Baptism

The next step in the salvation process for the believer; after the Holy Spirit regenerates those who were previously dead in their trespasses and sins, so that they may inherit eternal life, at least six significant spiritual realities occur:

1. Christ baptizes the believer with the Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
2. The Father seals the believer with the Holy Spirit as a show of ownership and a guarantee of one's salvation (Eph. 1:13).
3. The Spirit indwells the believer (1 Cor. 3:16).

4. The Spirit fills/controls the believer (Eph. 5:18).
5. The Spirit produces spiritual fruit in the believer's life (Gal. 5:22–23).
6. The Spirit gifts the believer for service in the church (1 Cor. 12:4).

All six of these of these features occur at the same time at the moment of regeneration. We will set these aside for the next class discussion on sanctification and spiritual gifts of service.

Spirit baptism occurs when Jesus Christ, Lord of His church, from the time of Pentecost forward, places Christians into His church body by the Holy Spirit at the moment a person puts their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. In Christ doing this, Christians are immersed into and participate in the universal body of Christ by the sovereign will of our Savior.

Sealing

God's own Spirit comes to regenerate, indwell, and secure a believer's salvation at the moment we repent of sin and believe by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Spirit of promise is given by God as His guarantee of our future inheritance in glory.

We learn from Paul's writing in 2 Corinthians and Ephesians two similar concepts of "sealing" and "a pledge". Both terms were legal secular terms that Paul appropriated as spiritual word pictures to describe the salvation ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Sealing pictured the ancient practice of placing a glob of soft wax on a scroll, or other correspondence or property which was then stamped with the unique seal of the owner to unmistakably identify the owner or author.

The concept of a pledge, or guarantee, came from the financial down payment or deposit which was provided as a promise the remaining payment would be made in order to complete the business transaction.

In the context of salvation, the seal points to God's ownership of the believer who has been purchased at the tremendously high cost of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the actual seal that authenticates a Christian as a child of God. Believers are never called to seek to be sealed or work to be sealed. Scripture always assumes they are sealed by way of their salvation.

The immediate seal is current, but temporary because it is a foretelling of the ultimate final outcome that will last for eternity.

The Spirit is not only God's seal on believers but also God's guarantee that He will ultimately fulfill His promise of eternal life with a resurrected and glorified body. The Holy Spirit is God's

pledge, down payment, and deposit that certifies with assurance that God will complete the work He began in us. Thus the Spirit of God is the immediate guarantee of receiving the ultimate promise of God which is eternal life.

1 Corinthians 1:21-22 “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us in God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

And finally, Ephesians 1:13-14 “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”