Encounters- The Holy Spirit- Bible study



The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and can also be referred to as:

• The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9, 1 Peter 1:11)

• The Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4)

• The Spirit of Our God (1 Corinthians 6:11)

The Trinity is one God in three persons, just as we have one

Universe in three spatial dimensions, or as water is ice,water

and steam.

1. The Holy Spirit is personal – that is He has “personality” and is not just an impersonal divine force. The Scriptures always refer to the Holy Spirit as “he” even though in Greek “spirit” should be neuter gender i.e. John 16: 13-14; 15:26, 16:7,8

2. The Holy Spirit is intelligent ( 1 Corinthians 2:10-11), has feelings (Ephesians 4:30) and will (1

Corinthians 12:11).

3. The Holy Spirit teaches (John 14:26), guides (Romans 8:14), commissions (Acts 13:4) commands men (Acts 8:29), restrains men (Genesis 6:3), intercedes (Romans 8:26) and speaks (John 15:26, 2 Peter 1:21)

4. The Holy Spirit can be obeyed (Acts 10;19-21), lied to (Acts 5:3) resisted (Acts 7:51), reverenced (Psalm 51:11), blasphemed (Matthew 12:11), grieved (Ephesians 4;30) and outraged (Hebrews 10:29) See also John 14:25.

**The Deity Of The Spirit**

5. The Holy Spirit is given names which are only appropriate to God (1 Corinthians 6;11, Romans 8:9, 15; 1 Peter 1:11) and is even called Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17,18)

6. He is equally associated with other Persons of the Trinity (Matthew 28;19, Acts 5:3-4, 2 Corinthians.13:14)

7. The Holy Spirit possesses divine attributes – Omniscience (1Corinthians 2:10-11), Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7), Omnipotence (Genesis 1:2) , Truth (1 John 5:6), Holiness (Romans 1:4), Life (Romans 8:2,11) and Wisdom (Isaiah 40:13)

8. In Matthew 3:13-17, all Three Persons of the Trinity are seen at Jesus’ baptism.

9. The Spirit comes forth from God - (John 15:26, Galatians 4:6, John 16:7) and is poured out on believers by Jesus Christ who is at God's right hand. (Acts 2:33, 10:45)

**The Spirit In The Believer**

The Holy Spirit takes up residence “**in”** the life of the Christian and does

inward works producing wisdom and various fruits of the Spirit for personal

inward transformation in grace. Read and comment on the following Bible passages.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** *(19) Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.*

**John 14:16-17** *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. (17) He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you.*

****Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness,*

*goodness, faithfulness, (23) meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.*

**1 John 3:24** *The one who keeps His commands remains in Him, and He in him. And the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit He has given us.*

**1 John 4:4** *You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

**Ephesians 1:17-19** *I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. (18) I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, (19) and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength.*

**Romans 8:5-6** *For those whose lives are according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those whose lives are according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. (6) For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace.*

**Romans 8:9-11***You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (10) Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you*

***John 16:7-15*** *(Jesus said) 7Nevertheless, 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. 8And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

*12“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* (In connection with this passage, see John 14:25)

**Questions:**

1. Is it “ok” to pray to the Holy Spirit? “Dear Holy Spirit…”
2. In the Lutheran faith- which Person of the Trinity do we most feature? Is this correct?
3. In the Lutheran faith, we attribute the conversion of the sinner wholly to the Holy Spirit’s work. See Luther’s explanation to the 3rd Article of the Creed. Discuss this.
4. We think of the Holy Spirit as doing the work of sanctification. What is sanctification?
5. Luther often noted that in our sinful nature, we are “blind, dead, and enemies” of God. This is a negative message in today’s culture. For God’s truth, see 1 Cor. 2:14, Eph. 2:1, and Rom. 8:7. How should we present the obduracy of the sinful nature today?