



## Lesson 4c

## The Holy Spirit

In this second supplemental lesson to Lesson 4, we will do a little more in-depth answering of these questions:

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is the Holy Spirit's work?

What tools/means does the Holy Spirit use to accomplish his work?

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

**Isaiah 63:10** Yet they rebelled and *grieved* his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

**John 15:26** When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will *testify* about me.

**John 16:13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will *guide* you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will *speak* only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

**Romans 8:26-27** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself *intercedes* for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit *intercedes* for the saints in accordance with God's will.

- 1) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what does the Holy Spirit do?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

**Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has *made* me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

**Psalms 139:7,8** *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

**Genesis 1:1-2** *In the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and *the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

**I Corinthians 6:19** Do you not know that your *body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

**Matthew 28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what do we learn about the Holy Spirit?

3) According to the underlined portion of these passages, what do we learn about the Holy Spirit?

**On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

## WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK?

Much attention is given on the pages of Scripture to the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit, however, is more like the silent partner, the man behind the curtain. However, not only do we see him at key moments, like creation, he also plays a vital role in our salvation.

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

**Romans 15:15-16** I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, *sanctified by the Holy Spirit*.

**I Corinthians 6:11** But you were washed, *you were sanctified*, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and *by the Spirit of our God*.

**II Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the *sanctifying work of the Spirit* and through belief in the truth.

**I Peter 1:1-2** To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through *the sanctifying work of the Spirit*, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

4) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what do we learn about the Holy Spirit?



Sanctify: To make holy

Broad: All the work the Holy Spirit does to bring people to faith.

Narrow: The work that the Holy Spirit does in the hearts and lives of Christians to keep us in faith, strengthen us in faith, and create in us the desire and capability to do good works.

**Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.**

**Acts 16:31** They replied, “*Believe in the Lord Jesus*, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

**Ephesians 2:1** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.

**I Corinthians 2:14** The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

5) According to the italicized portion of these passages, what is the only way to be saved?

6) According to the underlined portions of these passages, what do we learn about the natural condition of man?

**Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.**

**John 15:16** *You did not choose me, but I chose you* and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

**I Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

**II Thessalonians 2:13-14** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.<sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**I Corinthians 2:9-10** However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—<sup>10</sup>but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

7) According to the italicized portion of these passages, who does the choosing?

8) According to the underlined portion of these passages, how is it that we are able to make that confession of faith “Jesus is Lord”?

Martin Luther: “I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ or come to him. But the *Holy Spirit* has called me...”

**On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WORK?**

## **WHAT TOOLS/MEANS DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT USE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK?**

It is certainly most true that the Holy Spirit could work Harry Potter-style, wave a magic wand, and create faith in a person’s heart that way. But that is not the way he has indicated he operates. Instead, he chooses to operate through what are called the ‘Means of Grace’.

**Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.**

**Romans 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from *hearing the message*, and the message is heard through *the word of Christ*.

**II Thessalonians 2:13-14** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning *God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit* and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He called you to this *through our gospel*, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Acts 2:38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

**Matthew 26:26-28** While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

9) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what is one Means the Holy Spirit uses to bring us to faith?

10) Based on the answer to question 8, what do you think “the gift of the Holy Spirit is in Acts 2:38?

11) According to the double-underlined portion of these passages, what do we receive in the Lord’s Supper?

**On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, WHAT TOOLS/MEANS DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT USE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK?**