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Unit 3: Introduction to the Holy Spirit and Power

Ministry and Work of the Holy Spirit

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until Ye receive it from on high”
(Luke 24:49 NKJV; emphasis added)

“...but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1:8 NKJV).

(1 John 2:27 NKJV) which you received from Him abides in you...”

And do not be drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18 NKJV).

Are the last things a man says before he leaves earth deemed to be important things? YES! Look above at the last words of Jesus in the book of Luke. Jesus was going to send *the Promise* of God the Father. Jesus said to tarry in Jerusalem to receive it. Receive what? Power from on high! The gift of receiving the Holy Spirit was prophesied by Jesus before He left this earth. His last words were this command and His promise was fulfilled in Acts 2, when the mighty wind of the Holy Spirit came down on the 120 in the upper room and the church was born. People spoke in languages they had never learned; thousands were saved after anointed preaching, there were signs and wonders, healings and miracles, and later some were astonished that the *“gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also”* (Acts 10:45 NKJV).

Lesson 9 is devoted to the ministry of the Holy Spirit on the earth. The Holy Spirit is doing all the work down here—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week—yet the Holy Spirit is the most ignored Person in the church. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead. People know about God the Father and may know even more about God the Son, but often know little about God the Holy Spirit.

“...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17 NKJV; emphasis added). Some churches are being robbed of great power, signs, wonders, healings, and miracles, and they are not aware! The Holy Spirit is not welcome in some churches, and the really sad part is that the people don’t even know He is gone. The pastors and leaders have been running the church in their own strength and in the flesh for years—no presence, no power, no anointing, no demonstration of His healings. It is my life’s goal to teach people about the third Person of the Godhead. He is my very best friend. Do you know Him, personally? _____



Ministry of the Holy Spirit He Is the Third Person of the Godhead, A Divine Personality.

Read Genesis 1:26, “*Let us make man in our image*” (NASB). Now read Acts 19:2. The Holy Spirit is not some magical force. He is not an event, a presence, or just a heavenly power. The Holy Spirit is not a wind, a cloud, a vapor, a rain, a dove, or oil, although all those things have been used to represent Him. The Holy Spirit is not tongues, an experience, or an encounter. The Holy Spirit is a person: “He is a person who Himself knows the things of God and reveals them to us” (Pickett Intro). In Dr. Fuchsia Pickett’s book, *Presenting the Holy Spirit, Vol. 1*, she describes His true attributes and characteristics:

- “personality” (Intro) • “knowledge, will, and feelings” (Intro)
- “intellect, volition, and emotions” (Intro) • “gentleness and patience” (p. 8)

The Holy Spirit is the power of God on this earth. He is the Spirit of the Living God. Jesus is the spirit baptizer (Luke 3:16, Matt. 3:11, John 1:33), and the Holy Spirit is the voice of God to us. He is the helper, comforter, guide, teacher, anointer and friend. After salvation, experiencing a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit is the most important thing that can happen to a Christian. However, because all believers receive the Holy Spirit, none should think that they are some kind of super Christian because of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The goal is not divine power to use as one wants, but to be so filled with the Holy Spirit and in such good relationship with Him that the person fulfills God’s plans and purposes, and his own destiny. Believers are not empowered to look good; they are empowered for service. The Holy Spirit empowers believers, so they can help others! The Holy Spirit empowers believers to witness, teach, preach, deliver, pray, and minister the gospel through the gifts.

Dr. Fuchsia Pickett gives examples of specific ways communication with the Holy Spirit can assist believers:

1. “**VICTORY**” – “The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to live our daily lives in a way that pleases God” (p. 13).
2. “**REVELATION**” – “Revelation comes from the Holy Spirit...He makes the *logos* (the written Word) become a *rhema word* (a living word)” (p. 14). “The Holy Spirit transforms our minds to think God’s thoughts” (p. 14).
3. “**PROTECTION**” – “Holy Spirit can shield us, perhaps not from the actual attacks, but from the negative effects...through fiery trials, not as *bitter* people but as *better* people” (p. 14).
4. “**ANOINTING**” – “The anointing of the Holy Spirit for ministry comes to us through prayer and communion with Him...He enables us to exercise the gifts” (p. 14).
5. “**MOTIVATION**” – “Fellowship with the Holy Spirit develops us in the way of love, which keeps all spiritual gifts and manifestations in proper order” (p. 15).
6. “**MINISTRY**” – “Your spiritual gift will grow and develop to properly edify the Body only through prayer and meditation in the Word” (p. 15).
7. “**BOLDNESS**” – “The Holy Spirit is God’s provision to increase our boldness, inspire our obedience, and strengthen our faith” (p. 16).



The Holy Spirit is a person and can be emotionally affected by negative actions. In *Presenting the Holy Spirit, Vol. 1*, Dr. Fuchsia Pickett lists some of the Holy Spirit's responses.

The Holy Spirit can be:

Grieved (p. 23) – “grieve [offend, vex, or sadden (Amplified)] *not the Holy Spirit...*” (Eph. 4:30 NASB). Read Eph. 4:23-32.

What grieves the Holy Spirit? _____

2. “Vexed” (p. 24) – “to trouble and bring distress or agitation” (p. 24). Read Isaiah 63:10.

What vexes the Holy Spirit? _____

Are there consequences? _____

3. “Offended” (p. 25) – Read Eph. 4:1-6 “Offending one of our brothers or sisters in Christ, our spouse, or our children, hurts the heart of the Holy Spirit, for He dwells in each of them” (p. 26)

Did you realize that offending other Christians offends the Holy Spirit? _____

What does Eph. 4:1-6 say to do? _____

4. “Quenched” (p. 26) – “Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thess. 5:19 NKJV). “The word picture in the Greek for quenching the Spirit is literally ‘choking the throat of the Holy Spirit’” (p. 27)

How do individuals quench the Spirit? _____

How do churches quench the Spirit? _____

5. “Lied To” (p. 28) – Read Acts 5:1-10. “If we promise Him one thing while fully intending to do another, we are not lying to men but to God” (p. 28)

Is this serious to God? _____

6. “Defrauded” (p. 28) – Read Dan. 4:30-33 and Acts 12:23 about taking the glory.

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar? _____

What happened to Herod? _____

7. “Resisted” (p. 30) – “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you” (Acts 7:51 NKJV).

Have you resisted the Holy Spirit? _____ How? _____

8. “Blasphemed” (p. 30) – “deliberately and willfully attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil” (p. 31). Read Matthew 12:31-32.

How serious is blasphemy? _____

9. “Rejected” (p. 30) – Look for this theme throughout Isaiah and Jeremiah and give examples:

Lay ministers, have you ever rejected the Holy Spirit? _____ Explain: _____



The Spirit Baptism

There comes a time in most Christian lives when the believer wants Jesus to be even more than Savior. He wants Jesus to become Lord and Master, to totally surrender to the Lord. On the day of Spirit baptism, infilling, or sanctification, the Holy Spirit becomes more and does more. To be an effective minister of the gospel, prayer warrior, healing team member, ask Jesus for the baptism, infilling, or sanctification, in the Holy Spirit. This can be a tough world, so the believer can ask Jesus to fill him again or refresh him in the Spirit. Ask Jesus to strengthen, empower, energize, and anoint for the work of the kingdom. He will.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR:

(compiled by Carolyn D. Cecil; not an exhaustive list)

1. TEACHER
2. COMFORTER
3. STANDBY
4. GUIDE
5. FILLER
6. COUNSELOR
7. INTERCESSOR
8. REMINDER
9. RESTRAINER
10. LEADER
11. COMMISSIONER
12. UNCTION
13. COMMANDER
14. WORKER
15. INTERPRETER
16. ALL KNOWING ONE
17. ALL POWERFUL ONE
18. ALL PRESENT ONE
19. TRUTH
20. HOLINESS
21. LIFE
22. WISDOM
23. ASSURANCE
24. INDWELLER
25. INSPIRER
26. SANCTIFIER
27. PRESERVER
28. ENCOURAGER
29. FAITH BUILDER
30. EMPOWERMENT
31. REVEALER
32. VISIONARY
33. ANOINTER
34. CONVICTER
35. CONVINCER
36. GIFT
37. GIFT GIVER
38. ABILITY
39. CONTROLLER
40. VICTORY
41. PARACLETE
42. CONFIDENCE
43. ENABLER
44. HELPER
45. SEAL
46. GUARANTEE



but the character of God and His moral laws of behavior and conduct did not change on either side of the cross. Exaggerated hyper grace is polluted and distorted; it goes way beyond the Word of God. Hyper grace gives people—pastors, leadership, evangelists, and laymen—the license to sin. Setting people free from legalism, guilt, condemnation, shame does not have to distort grace!

The lie of universal reconciliation and inclusion

Universal reconciliation says everyone will go to heaven. NO! What a lie! It is true that God is “*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9), but the following are going to hell:

- Satan and demons: The Bible says they will end up in the lake of fire.
- The unsaved, sinners, seekers who never decided for Jesus.
- Good people, kindly grandparents, hard workers who denied Christ.

Jesus said there is a hell, so there is one. Jesus is the only way to heaven. No other paths work!

Universal reconciliation says God is “love,” so He would not send people to hell. God is also a God of judgment. He is a fair judge. His decision about each person’s eternity will be correct!

Jesus has given us a firm foundation, but all must take care of how they build on that foundation (1 Cor. 3:10-11). Layers of false teaching can make the structure faulty and put many people in danger of thinking that they have a license to sin. Grace started with the right idea, but hyper grace has become unbalanced, unhealthy, unbiblical, distorted, exaggerated, and harmful.

In his book, *Spiritual Avalanche*, Steve Hill tells us how to test the message (Hill p. 79):

- “Does it always tell me what my itching ears want to hear, or does it rebuke my flesh?”
- “Does it give me a way to avoid the cross, or does it call me to pick up my cross daily?”
 - “Does it allow me to cater to my sinful desires, or does it call me to die to sinful desires?”

What happens to the people when the church teaches fluff, preaches only feel-good sermons, and dilutes the gospel? What happens is confused Christians and sin. When believers say and do these things, are they loving God with all their heart, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)?

PRAYER: Father, we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ, expose where the enemy has added to grace, subtracted from grace, polluted grace, distorted grace, and perverted grace. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to the truth. Make us aware of those people who twist your Word in order to give license to sin. Wake up those who have been lulled to sleep on this subject. Ground us in the true grace. Ground us in your true Word. Gift us with the spiritual gift of discernment and distinguishing of spirits so we can teach the truth. Father, unfold the hand of Satan. Expose the lies, half-truths, wrong perceptions, wrong interpretations, all deceptions, and all the traps the enemy has set up, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Steve Hill, *Spiritual Avalanche*, (Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2013)

Notice: For more information on the problems of hyper grace see the writings of Michael Brown, Mike Bickle, Perry Stone, Sid Roth, and Steve Hill. Also see Dr. Michael Brown on Sid Roth interview on the TV program *It’s Supernatural*, 2013 (program is stored in the archives).