

## New Testament Sermon Outline 3/12

### The Holy Spirit

#### 1. Introduction

The only true way to live the Christian life and be an effective leader is to have the same reaction to all that we do as was evident in the first-century Church. The statement "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28) should be our guide at all times. If this is our first and only reaction to every situation, then God can use us mightily in our ministry.

The first Church Council, called the Jerusalem Council, met to discuss the position of Greek believers who were not circumcised, who ate forbidden food and who came mainly from an immoral culture. The apostles and elders could have reached a sensible arrangement or compromise. They could have put up several choices and asked the whole Jerusalem Church to vote on it. Instead they allowed the Holy Spirit to bring them God's view on the matter.

There had already been supernatural revelation to Peter in the relation to eating of forbidden food and preaching to Gentiles (Acts 10:9-23). Peter was, nevertheless, later confused later and needed to be confronted by the Apostle Paul in Antioch about his unacceptable behaviour to Gentile and Greek believers (Gal 2:11-21). This in turn led to the first Jerusalem Council.

Only the Holy Spirit is able to bring guidance and blessings to bear in a believer's life because He, firstly, reveals the purposes of God into a person's life and then, secondly, empowers them to achieve what He, the Spirit has already said to them.

#### 2. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

One of the most precise statements on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit was made by Kevin J. Conner<sup>1</sup>. He stated the doctrine thus:

"The Holy Spirit is the third divine person of the eternal Godhead, co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent with the Father and the Son. It is His ministry to convict and convert

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<sup>1</sup>The Foundations of Christian Doctrine *Conner, Kevin J* p 71

man as well as to reveal the Son and the Father to the believer. Since glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit in all His glorious operations is working through all who believe on the Father through the Son. This is why the present era is known as the age of the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is first mentioned in Genesis 1:2 "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water" and finally in Revelation 22:17 where "...the Spirit and the bride say, come." We have both the commencement and the consummation of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in Scripture is an essential ingredient to the work of God among men.

Few Christians fully understand the third Person of the Trinity. In ignorance, they are unable to apply fully all that God has for them in life. Once a man or woman fully realises who and what the Holy Spirit is, then they are enabled to walk under and in the anointing of that same Spirit and do great exploits in His name.

### **3. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity**

This doctrine is of critical importance when considering the nature and property of the Holy Spirit. The Jews firmly believed in monotheism, meaning *belief in only one God*. The early apostles were careful to concentrate on the preaching of Jesus as Saviour and Lord. They were insistent that Jesus was the Son of God and that He could forgive sins. The Jews would argue strongly that only God could forgive sins. (See Mk 2:2-11). The early Church continually preached the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They laid great stress on repentance and grace and showed that Jesus was the Son of the living God (1 Tim 4:10). Never once did the Jews accuse the Christians of believing in polytheism meaning *The doctrine of the plurality of Gods*". W. H. Griffiths Thomas<sup>2</sup> says,

"In all these assertions (the Holy Spirit of God) and implications of the Godhead of Jesus Christ, it is to be noted very carefully that St Paul has not the faintest idea of contradicting his Jewish monotheism. Though he and others thus proclaimed the Godhead of Christ, it is of great moment

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<sup>2</sup>Dictionary of the Bible Ed Hastings J Contribution by WH Griffiths Thomas p 949

to remember that Christianity was never accused of polytheism. The NT doctrine of God is essentially a form on monotheism and stands no relation to polytheism."

Conner<sup>3</sup> makes an important series of statements on this subject of the deity of the Holy Spirit. He gives three statements.

#### **4. By Divine Association with the Father and the Son**

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are linked together as on the baptismal command of Jesus (Mt 28:19). This shows the Holy Spirit to be co-eternal and co-eternal in the Godhead. Each linked in the triune Name [Triune meaning three in one] (See also 2 Cor 13:14, 1 Jn 5:7-8). The teaching of Jesus clearly relates that the Holy Spirit is one with the Father and Himself (See Jn 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7-13, Acts 2:33). We see the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism (Mt 3:16-17) in the administrations of the Church (1 Cor 12:4-6), and involved in the apostolic benediction (2 Cor 13:14).

#### **5. By Divine Distinction from the Father and the Son**

The Holy Spirit, though one with the Father and the Son, is also distinguished from them. Further, each person of the Godhead is also distinguished from each other.

Where the Son is sent by the Father and the Holy Spirit:

"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me." Is 48:16

Where the Spirit descends upon the Son:

"I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit." Jn 1:33

"When all the people were baptised, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptised; and while He prayed, the heaven

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<sup>3</sup>The Foundations of Christian Doctrine *Conner Kevin J* p75

was opened. "And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."  
Lk 3:21-22

Where the Holy Spirit is partaker of the triune Name:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Mt 28:19

Where The Son prays to the Father to send the Holy Spirit as the Comforter: (Mt 28:19 see above).

The Believer has access to the Father, through the Son by the Spirit:

"For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." Eph 2:18

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son:

"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 things that I said to you." Jn 14:26 (NKJ)

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me." Jn 15:26

The Holy Spirit in the Gospels is revealed by the Lord Jesus but note should be taken that because Jesus had not yet been glorified, and was still on earth, He could not request the Holy Spirit to come to men in all His fullness.

" But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the **Holy Spirit was not yet given**, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (Jn 7:39)

He, Jesus, was the Christ of God,(meaning "anointed one") and represented all the fullness of God in His body or incarnation.

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."  
Col 2:9.