

The Study of the Holy Spirit

In order to study any doctrine in the Bible we must first know how to study the Bible. The Bible gives us the key to unlock how to study the Bible:

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.

When we study the Bible we begin to see that God works differently with different groups at different times. For Example:

When Israel was under the Law they had to offer sacrifices, but the Church which is Christ's body, which is under Grace does not offer sacrifices because Jesus's sacrifice was sufficient for us.

To fail to rightly divide between Law and Grace and Israel and the Church will lead to confusion and all kinds of doctrinal problems. That is why we have so many different denominations today. They don't rightly divide the word of truth.

What about the doctrine regarding the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost? While the Holy Ghost is the third person of the Trinity and can never change in his essence, he does operate differently during different dispensations.

I hope you will enjoy learning about the Holy Spirit as you study God's word rightly divided. Brother Jim

The Holy Spirit

The title of Holy Spirit appears 7 times in the Bible, four times while Israel was under the Law of Moses and three times in the Church Age epistles written by Paul.

Notice some of the differences in how the Holy Spirit operates during the two different programs:

The Holy Spirit under Israel's Prophecy Program

Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Under the dispensation of Law the Holy Spirit could be given and taken back as needed. Under the dispensation of Grace the Holy Spirit indwells the believer forever. They are eternally secure. That is one of the reasons why we call it Grace.

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Isaiah 63:11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

They all had to ask for the Holy Spirit prior to the Church Age whereas it is given to all believers freely today without asking.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Today we are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

The Holy Ghost and the Spirit

The title of Holy Ghost appears 89 times in the Bible but never in the Old Testament. The titles of the Holy Ghost, and the Spirit, appear together 5 times in the same verses and clearly prove that they are one and the same, especially in John 7:39.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit leads and guides as only a person can do. No force can lead or guide. Israel was baptized "with" the Holy Ghost by Jesus Christ. The baptism of the Holy Ghost was a gift to believers after Christ was risen from the dead.

The Holy Ghost would fill the Jewish believers and he would prompt them to speak with other tongues as he had given them to accomplish his will.

Since Paul calls the Holy Ghost the Spirit of God in 1 Corinthians 12:3 we understand that the Holy Ghost is the very same Spirit of God that took part in creation:

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Gave up the Ghost

The word ghost is used 11 times in the Old Testament and every time it is used in the exact same way, to explain what happened when a person died, they gave up the ghost.

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:17 And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.

Genesis 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 49:33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Job 3:11 Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

Job 10:18 Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me!

Job 11:20 But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.

Job 13:19 Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.

Job 14:10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

Jeremiah 15:9 She that hath borne seven languisheth: she hath given up the ghost; her sun is gone down while it was yet day: she hath been ashamed and confounded: and the residue of them will I deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith the LORD.

Lamentations 1:19 I called for my lovers, but they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls.

What does it mean to give up the ghost? Well in order for man to give up the ghost at their death they must have first received the ghost at some time.

* Notice also that to give up the ghost meant to lose your life, so we can also understand from these scriptural proof verses that life is sustained by this ghost or spirit.

When and how did mankind first receive the ghost or Holy Ghost? For that answer let's go back to Genesis 2:

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

God breathed into man to give him life and he became a living soul. When that breath is taken away life is taken away and man gives up the ghost/spirit that was breathed into him in the garden.

Are there any New Testament examples of this? There is an interesting and often overlooked verse in the gospel of John that relates to this topic:

How did the Apostles receive the Holy Ghost after Christ was risen from the dead?

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

* Be careful friends this verse may wreck your theology. The Apostles received the Holy Ghost before Pentecost! They also received it again at Pentecost, and again in the following chapter, and over and over again.

It was called being filled with the Holy Ghost and it was also called being baptized with the Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ would fill believers with his Spirit to give them boldness to witness.

Filled with the Holy Ghost

Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

What do all of these references have in common? The Holy Spirit filled each one of these people to "SPEAK" God's word.

Without the filling of the Holy Spirit they would have been limited to the knowledge that they already possessed, but with the filling of the Holy Spirit new knowledge was imparted unto them from God with which they were to educate others of God's word.

Baptized with the Holy Ghost

The phrase baptized with the Holy Ghost is mentioned three times and all of them refer to the same event at Pentecost.

The last of the three while looking back to the experience of the Jews on the day of Pentecost also speaks about Cornelius' household receiving the Holy Ghost as a sort of first fruits of the kingdom program for Gentiles who believe then.

Mark 1:8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

I am sure you noticed that I have underlined the word "with" in each verse to differentiate between being baptized with the Holy Ghost and being baptized "by" the Holy Ghost/Spirit.

They are different. All three references of being baptized "with" the Holy Ghost are all in conjunction with Israel's prophecy program.

Today a believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. This has nothing to do with water. See the next section below for more on this very important difference:

By one Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Notice the difference between our baptism into one body, and Israel's baptism with the Holy Ghost, they are different. Israel is baptized with the Holy Ghost.

That means that Jesus Christ (the baptizer) baptized Israel "WITH" the Holy Ghost, not "BY" the Holy Ghost. With and by don't mean the same thing.

To be baptized by the Holy Ghost or Spirit meant that the Holy Ghost was doing the baptism. To be baptized with the Holy Ghost meant that Jesus was doing the baptism. Just like the baptism of John the Baptist.

Those Jews were not baptized with the Spirit into John the Baptist, they were simply baptized by John the Baptist with water.

The Holy Spirit is God

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

To lie to the Holy Ghost is to lie unto God because the Holy Ghost is the third person of the Godhead or Trinity as most people call it.

The Personhood of the Holy Spirit/Ghost

The Holy Spirit can be grieved which cannot be said of an impersonal force:

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit can be vexed. An impersonal force like electricity cannot be vexed, only someone with the attributes of personhood can be vexed, The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

The Holy Ghost can be lied to. You cannot lie to a force such as electricity.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

The Work of the Holy Ghost

He is the Creator

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

He is the Comforter and Teacher

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

He is the Reprover of Sin

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

He is the Sealer

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

He seals our salvation until the day of redemption.

He is our Intercessor

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

To submit a test for grading simply copy and paste the test **along with your answers in bold font** in the body of an email and send to:

test@schoolofthebible.us

Holy Spirit Test 0.75 Credit hours

1. How many times does the title of Holy Spirit appears in the Bible?
2. How many of those times are under the law?

3. Give an old testament verse from the Psalms that proves the Holy Spirit operates differently in different dispensations:
4. Could people ask God to give them the Holy Spirit under previous dispensations? What verse supports your answer?
5. What does the Holy Spirit do with regard to our salvation in Ephesians 1:13?
6. How long does he do that for according to Ephesians 4:30?
7. What has God freely given to us today in the body of Christ according to 1 Thessalonians 4:8?
8. How many times does the title of Holy Ghost appear in the Bible?
9. How many of those times are in the old testament?
10. How many times do the titles of Holy Ghost and the Spirit, appear together in the same verse?
11. What verse in John's gospel proves the Spirit and the Holy Ghost are one and the same?
12. How many times is the word ghost is used in the old testament?
13. What does it mean to give up the ghost?
14. When and how did Adam first receive the ghost or Holy Ghost?
15. Did the eleven apostles receive the Holy Ghost prior to Pentecost according to John 20:22?
16. How many times does the phrase being filled with the Holy Ghost appear in scripture?
17. Why did the Holy Spirit fill each one of these people?
18. How many times is the phrase baptized with the Holy Ghost mentioned in the Bible?
19. What do all of them refer to?
20. How is Cornelius' household experience related to Israel's program?
21. Did John or the 12 baptize with the Holy Ghost?
22. Have we in the body of Christ been baptized "with" the Holy Ghost?
23. According to 1 Corinthians 12:13 what are we baptized into by one Spirit today?

24. According to Ephesians 2:18 what do we have access to today by one Spirit?
25. Who baptized Israel "with" the Holy Ghost?
26. Who is the baptizer today for the body of Christ?
27. What two verses in Acts chapter five prove that the Holy Ghost is God?
28. What three things can you do to the Holy Spirit/Ghost that you cannot do to an impersonal force, which are found in Ephesians 4:30, Isaiah 63:10 and Acts 5:3?
29. Name the five things listed in the study that the Holy Spirit/Ghost is called that describes His workings with man?