**The Holy Spirit – The Finger Of God**

**Fall Series Hwy 27 church, LaFayette, GA**

**October – December 2022**

**October 12 Lesson 1 – The Holy Spirit: A member of the Godhead**

The Bible is the mind of God, revealing the goodness and severity of the Lord. It begins with declaring God as the Creator and ends with the promise of seeing God face to face. Jesus said the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and Psalms declared His glory, and man finds in the new Revelation the life of Jesus, the propagation of His teachings, and the applications of God's law in the hearts of believers. God and Jesus are central characters of the Bible from Genesis to the Revelation. Lost in the shuffle of truth seekers is the other part of the divine nature known as the Holy Spirit.

Moses begins the creation story with the Spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters. The Holy Spirit continues to hover over the message of God's word throughout the Old Testament and is fully revealed in the New Testament. Denying the story of the Spirit of God neglects the greater part of the divine Revelation. A student of scripture cannot understand God the Father and Jesus the Son without knowing the one Jesus called the "Finger of God." The Holy Spirit is as much a vital part of Revelation as the Father and the Son. He has His place in the divine record to glory the Father as Jesus glorified the Father.

The Holy Spirit is not just an influence or impersonal power or emanation. He is alive and divine and powerful and full of personality. Possessing attributes of divinity, the Holy Spirit is an essential part of the salvation of man. His place in the scheme of redemption is preserved throughout scripture as the agency of the Revelation and the incarnation of God's Son on earth. Jesus and the Holy Spirit shared a special bond in their work of the earthly mission of the Christ. When the church was established, it began with the Holy Spirit. As the church spread throughout the world in the early days, the Holy Spirit was the fuel driving the engine of God's divine will. Through His special gifts given to men, the Holy Spirit affirmed and confirmed the word of God as true. The joy of the Christian was found in the gift of the Holy Spirit shared by all those who were baptized into the body of Christ. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, the divine word could not have been completed. The work of the Holy Spirit continues today. He is the way to spiritual fulfillment for those who come to the blood of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the scriptures, God the Father is always magnified as the one true God. Jesus was also God but He was not the Father. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is God but not the Father nor the Son. He has His own divine attributes that show Him to be divine but separate from the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead or the Divine Nature. Paul refers to the Godhead in his sermon to the Athenians (Acts 17:29) and in two of his epistles (Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9). The Greek words "theotes" and "theiotes" translate "Godhead" as being "deity, the state of being God; divinity; the divine nature or essence." Moses begins Genesis with God (Elohim) in the plural, yet it is used in the singular (Genesis 1:1). When God makes man in His image, He declares a plurality in the Godhead when He says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26)

There are three persons identified who possess the divine nature or deity and constitute the plurality of the Godhead. The three were present at creation (Genesis 1) and the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17). Matthew records the words of Jesus that all men should be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). On the night Jesus was betrayed, He tells the eleven the Father will send the Comforter after He (Jesus) leaves (John 14:16-18; 15:26; 17:3-5). Peter said in his sermon to the household of Cornelius that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 10:28). Paul mentions the Godhead in Romans 15:30, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 2 Corinthians 13:14, and Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6).

The relationship of the Godhead is seen when the nature of God is viewed as divine. God, the Father is divine, but He is not the Son nor the Holy Spirit. Jesus is divine, but He is not the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also divine but is not the Father nor the Son. Each one of the Godhead is divine (deity, God) but possesses personalities that distinguish them one from another. The Holy Spirit is vital to the Godhead, a divine being. Throughout Biblical history, his work is essential to God's eternal plan. Get to know the Holy Spirit.

**October 19 Lesson 2 – The personality and deity of the Holy Spirit**

To possess a personality is to have the combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individual's distinctive character. This is especially true in the quality of being a person distinct from a thing or an animal. To have a personality suggests a set of behaviors, cognitions, and emotional patterns from the nature of the individual. This is found in the myriad ways human beings differ from one another, defining who they are as individuals with specific characteristics that distinguish them. Among the earth's six billion inhabitants, six billion personalities are possessed by every man, woman, and child. Still, they share the common denominator of being created in the image of God. One humanity with unlimited personalities.

The character of the Godhead is united under the identification of being God. Yet, each person of the Divine Nature possesses individual traits identifying them as a part of the same. The Father has His identifying marks that make Him Lord God and Father, while Jesus is shown to be the only begotten Son of the Father. Completing the triad of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit, who also possesses personalities and identifying markers showing Him to be God and yet distinct in His own right. He has much the same attributes as the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit utters speech communicating the will of the Father. As a witness, He testifies as the Spirit of truth. Through the word, the Holy Spirit teaches and reminds men of the plan of the Father. Jesus said the Helper (Holy Spirit) would guide men into all truth as the Father directs him. The scriptures show the Holy Spirit guiding men in the work of the kingdom and, on occasion forbidding the plans of men to be carried out. Paul and Silas wanted to preach the gospel in Asia, but the Holy Spirit did not allow them. Paul often spoke of the Holy Spirit and, in his letter to Rome, outlined the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's people.

It is clear the Holy Spirit is a personal being who has a mind, seeking the completion of the work of God, possessing knowledge, and showing love. He is not just an entity that is abstract and mindless. The Holy Spirit is a person of the Godhead sharing in the emotional makeup of a personality. Everything about Him is divine, like the Father and the Son. Like the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit experiences men's positive or negative responses. It is possible for men to grieve the Holy Spirit and to despise Him. In the days of Jesus, the religious leaders blasphemed the Holy Spirit bringing the wrath of God upon them. Peter rebuked Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit, and Stephen charged the Jewish council with resisting the Spirit. A personal being can only experience these emotions.

The nature of the Holy Spirit is like that of the Father and the Son. When God created the heavens and the earth, the Holy Spirit was an active agent of creation. John baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove while the Father spoke His approval of His Son. The Spirit carries the identifying marks of a divine personality as one who is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. Jesus was begotten by the Holy Spirit and called the Son of God. Worshiping the Father without showing honor to the Son and the Holy Spirit is impossible. The Spirit bears witness with the spirits of those who are saved; they are the children of God. His role in salvation is secured in the ages as a vital part of the Godhead made up of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To deny the essential part of the Holy Spirit to the divine revelation of God is to deny the authenticity of the Bible. Knowing the personality of the Father can only come from the reading of the word of God. The Holy Spirit manifested the personal character of the Creator on the pages of the Bible. Without the completed revelation by the Spirit, man would not know God. Reading the Bible reveals the Godhead as complete and whole yet individual and responsive to the needs of men. Thank God for the Holy Spirit.

**October 26 Lesson 3 – The Holy Spirit and Jesus**

The story of the Holy Spirit cannot be known without understanding the relationship between the Spirit and the Son. Jesus did not consider it beneath Him to come to earth and take on the form of fleshly man. As God, He emptied Himself of the divine to share in the mortal. The transition of God to man was the work of the Holy Spirit. From the writings of Moses through all the prophets, the Spirit spoke longingly about the revelation of the life of Christ. He affirmed thousands of years before the birth of Jesus that a child would be born that would bring redemption to all men. In the Garden of Eden, the promise of the Seed was made. Abraham was promised to be the father of the faithful. The Law of Moses was given to protect and guide the seed promise through nearly fourteen hundred years of history.

When the time came for Jesus to come to earth, a maiden named Mary was chosen to be the carrier of the Divine. Matthew records that Mary was with child by the Holy Spirit. An angel told Joseph the Child conceived in his wife's womb was of the Holy Spirit. This was not the first time the Spirit and God's Son had a part in the scheme of redemption. At creation, the Holy Spirit hovered over the face of the waters, and as part of the Godhead, Jesus was the Creator and Maker of the world. Now the plan to redeem man demanded the Son to leave the glory of the Father and dwell among men. The Holy Spirit was the agency to carry out the divine plan. Mary was a virgin through whom the Spirit would conceive the seed of God's Son to be born as all men in her womb. Like all men, Jesus was born of a woman.

At the age of thirty, Jesus began His ministry. John the Baptist preceded Jesus to prepare the way for God's Son. Jesus came to John to be baptized, and rising from the waters, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon Him. The voice of the Father clearly spoke of His approval of the ministry of Jesus. The Godhead was found at the baptism of Jesus, with all three members of the Divine blessing the baptism. Later, John would declare he saw the Spirit upon Jesus, affirming He was the Son of God. When Peter preached to Cornelius and his household, he told them God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power. The ministry of Jesus was a manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus called the "Finger of God," as the Father worked through the Son. Shortly after His baptism, Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Following the temptation, Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit in power, affirming His divinity. God put the Spirit upon Jesus to manifest His glory and fulfill the prophets' words. Jesus never did any miracles before His baptism as He was endued with power from high only from the affirmation of the Father at His baptism. Casting out demons, healing the sick, changing the natural elements of the world, and raising the dead were accomplished by the power of the Spirit. Like in Creation, the Son and the Spirit worked in tandem to show the power of God to the world.

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus assured the eleven they would not be left without a Helper. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles and help them remember what He had taught them. The eleven were told to remain in Jerusalem when the power from the Father would be put upon them through the Holy Spirit. When the work of Jesus was completed on earth, the Holy Spirit began His active work of the continued revelation of God's plan to redeem men. The baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles began the establishment of the New Testament church, spreading throughout the world. Through the teaching of the gospel, the name of Jesus was preached to every soul under heaven through the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The will of the Father was accomplished through His Son, Jesus Christ, and could not have been completed without the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is incomplete without the Holy Spirit.