

UNDERSTANDING LIFE'S CHALLENGES FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

Lesson 3

WHO IS THE HOLY GHOST OR HOLY SPIRIT? – He's our Comforter, our Safe Haven, the Buffer between our spirit and our flesh, our Spiritual Conscience, He's the one that keeps our relationship with God on a vertical stance. He guides us in spirit and in truth because He's the epitome of TRUTH! He's our leverage for salvation.

The Holy Ghost represents **POWER**, and that power gives us strength in exhibiting how awesome the God that lives in us, even when situations and circumstances are not good in our lives, we are reminded that the enemy is not in control, but the God we serve through the Power of the Holy Ghost has complete control.

1.) The third person or member of the Trinity or Godhead. He is God in another manifestation of the spirit.

- He's **(omnipresent)** meaning He's present everywhere at the same time (**Psalm 139:7-10**)
- He's **(omniscient)** meaning He knows all things (**1st Corinthians 2-11**)
- He's **(omnipotent)** meaning He has unlimited power and authority (**Romans 15-19**)
- He's **GOD** and because He's God and knows all things we cannot lie to Him (**Acts 5-3**)

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and the church the temple of God, we must not defile either one in any way. (1st Corinthians 3-16, 1st Corinthians 6-19)

2.) He is referred to as a person not a thing or it (**St. John 16:7-14**)

Verse 7: If Jesus had not died, our sins would yet remain, and he would not have been able to rise again and defeat death. If he had not gone back to the Father, the Holy Spirit could not have come. While he was here on earth in the form of a man, he was limited to one place at a time, but after he ascended to Heaven, it allowed Him to be present throughout the world through the Holy Spirit.

Verse 8-11: Three important tasks of the Holy Spirit are:

- Convincing the world of its sin and calling it to repentance
- Revealing the standard of God's righteousness to anyone who believes because Christ was no longer going to be physically present on earth
- Demonstrating Christ's victory over Satan

Verse 9: According to Jesus unbelief in him is sin

Verses 10-11: Christ's death on the cross made it possible for a personal relationship with God available to us. When we confess our sins, God declares us righteous and delivers us from judgement for our sins.

Verse 13: The Holy Spirit guides us to Jesus through patient practice to recognize right from wrong. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would show them things to come, what their mission was all about, the things that come against them and the outcome of their efforts. They did not understand all of this until Jesus died and the Holy Spirit revealed truths to the disciples and they wrote them down in the book called the New Testament.

3.) His characteristics are that of a person including:

(a) Intelligence (St. John 14-26) Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit would help us remember what He has been teaching us through His word. The Gospels are accurate records of what Jesus taught (**MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN**) (**1st Corinthians 2:10-14**) and did. The Holy Spirit helps us in the same way by bringing back to our remembrance what we have learned. The Holy Spirit will plant truth in our minds, convince us of God's will and remind us when we stray from it.

(b) Emotions (Isaiah 63-10, Ephesians 4-30) The Holy Spirit is the evidence that we belong to him and that the promises he made will undoubtedly keep. A validating signature on a contract, a down payment on a house, a deposit in a bank account is what the Holy Spirit is like. When we can see the presence of the Holy Spirit in someone, it shows the genuine faith we have in God, it also lets everyone know that we are his children, and it secures eternal life for us. His power works in us transforming us now and is a taste of the total change we will experience in eternity.

(c) Will (Acts 16-7, 1st Corinth. 12-11) We must understand that no matter what gifts a person has, each gift is given by the Holy Spirit. "Dividing to every man severally" means that the Holy Spirit decides which gifts each one of us should have. We are responsible for using our gifts and keeping them sharp for the glory of God. We cannot take any credit for what God has freely given to us.

In God's provisions, he allows us to develop a spirit of servitude like Jesus has. He also empowers us to praise him through the presences of the HOLY SPIRIT. Through praise and worship many strongholds are broken, situations are changed, and circumstances are turned around. The Power of Praise, Prayer and Worship are absolutely necessary to see miracles in our lives happen.

UNDERSTANDING LIFE'S CHALLENGES FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

Lesson 4

WHAT IS SALVATION? (Deliverance from the power and effects of sin, to be saved from destruction, healing, safety, soundness preservation (to keep safe, alive, and intact))

Salvation is accepting a change in our thoughts and behavior which is contrary to what we have been accustomed to thinking and doing before we said yes to God. Salvation is our saving grace. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and all must repent and be saved by His grace.

Salvation represents the power and anointing of God working within each of us as individuals who have made up our minds to forget the things of the past and look forward to the things that lie ahead and allow God's presence to make that change.

- 1.) **Psalm 25-5:** The scripture tells us that God is unlimited in all conquering and has unrestrained authority over all creation and over everyone. Therefore, He's the only source of salvation, hope and true peace. Believing in Him is the only way to forgiveness of sin.
- 2.) **Genesis 49-18:** This scripture lets us know if we are going to be strong leaders for God, we must have complete trust in Him and not ourselves based on our natural strength and abilities. Sometimes when a person is strong, attractive, wealthy, or talented it's easy to begin trusting in you, but we must remember to thank God for who we are and what we have so that trust does not become misplaced.
- 3.) **1st John 1-8:** This scripture reveals that everyone has sinned and if we say we have not or say we do not have sin in us, then, we fool ourselves. That is the trick of the enemy (Satan) to make us think that what we are doing is ok and it's not.
- 4.) **1st Timothy 1-15: (very important)** This scripture reminds us that Jesus came into this world to save sinners through salvation. This verse also tells us that there is no sin we might commit that would be beyond his saving power. Jesus came not only to show us how to live while in this world, and to become better people through our challenges, but also to offer us salvation which leads to eternal life. Have you accepted His invitation to salvation?
- 5.) **Isaiah 26-3:** This scripture assures us that since we live in this world, we will encounter trouble around us, but with God, through his salvation, we can experience his presence during times of turmoil. Stability and steadfastness in our attitudes become a part of our daily walk when we are devoted to him. The mighty power and unchanging love of God keeps us from being disturbed by the chaos surrounding us.
- 6.) **Acts 2:1-4:** These scriptures show the presence of the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It was one of three major annual feasts that the Jewish people celebrated in thanksgiving for the harvested crop. After Jesus' crucifixion at Passover, he ascended 40 days later. The Holy Spirit came 50 days after Jesus was crucified and 10 days after he had risen. A worldwide harvest of new believers came about because of Peter's speech. The

word tongues, represents speech and communication of the gospel. The phrase “Cloven Tongues” means, the fire separated and rested on each of them. Fire represents God’s purifying power and presence burning away all unseemliness and setting our hearts aflame to ignite the lives of others in a positive and holy way.

- 7.) **Luke 3-16:** John’s Baptism of water is coordinated with his message of repentance and reformation. Jesus’ baptism by fire includes the power needed to do God’s will. On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire, came upon the believer empowering them to proclaim Jesus’ resurrection, was an indication of it’s beginning. The baptism by fire also symbolizes the work of the Holy Ghost in bringing God’s judgement on those who refuse to repent.
- 8.) **Ephesians 2-8,9:** Salvation is a gift from God and the appropriate response is thank you, not that’s nice or how much do I owe you? Most of the time Christians try to earn the free gift of salvation through works to get approval from God. We must respond to salvation and even our faith with gratitude, praise, and joy, simply because they are gifts from our Heavenly Father.
- 9.) **2nd Corinthians 3-17:** This scripture makes us aware that when we come to Christ for salvation, the heavy burden we carry of trying to please him and the guilt of failing to do so is removed. As we trust him, his love for us is revealed and he accepts, forgives, and frees us to live for him. We cannot be saved by trying to keep the Old Testament laws because we become tied up in rules and ceremonies. The Holy Spirit provides freedom from sin and condemnation. **(Roman 8-1)**
- 10.) **Romans 8-9:** This scripture helps us to understand what a true Christian represents. If you have the spirit of God living in you (Holy Ghost) you are saved. If you trust Christ sincerely for your salvation and acknowledge him as your Lord and repent of all your sins, then the Holy Spirit has come into your life. You will not recognize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit based on your feelings, but because of Jesus’ promise in his word. You will believe that Jesus Christ is God’s son and eternal life comes through him. You will begin to live as Christ directs through the power of the Holy Spirit. You will have a desire to do what’s right, and when you fail, conviction from the Holy Spirit will compel you to get things right.

The Savior, Christ Jesus, saves us through salvation when we realize that we have tried everything, done everything and the situations and circumstances has not changed for the better, unfortunately they have gotten worse, and then we generally surrender our will completely to God our Creator.