

2023

*Doctrine of the Holy
Spirit*

A photograph of a concrete wall with the words "ONLY JESUS" spray-painted in red. The word "ONLY" is on the top line and "JESUS" is on the bottom line, both in a bold, sans-serif font. There are horizontal red lines above and below the words. The wall is light gray and has some dark spots and stains.

Paul Thomas

*Jesus Alone
is God
Church of
Europe*

DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. *God is a Spirit*

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). God is a Spirit, the Lord Jesus stated. This is how we should conceive of God in his original essence. The Spirit of God is everywhere – omnipresent. David famously declared, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there” (Psalm 139:7,8). Furthermore, the Spirit of God is also all-powerful, omnipotent. The Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters during the creation week (Gen 1:2). God’s Spirit also resurrected the long-dead army of Israel in the Valley of dry bones in the vision of Ezekiel. Not least, the Spirit of God inspired the prophets to prophesy.

Ezekiel 11:5 And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.

When God made Adam, he breathed into him the breath of life (Gen 2:7). “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life (Job 33:4). What the above means is that God imparted a portion of his own Spirit into humans. This does not mean that we are divine, but that we are made in the image of God. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Gen 1:27). In other words, because we are earthen vessels containing the Spirit of God, we are able to have a unique relationship with God through his Spirit. This is why we can speak of feeling his presence, joy, goodness, righteousness etc. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Gal 5:22,23). The greatest and highest form of existence in this world, is one where humans are filled with the Spirit of God. “And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD’S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!” (Num 11:29). However, God waited before sending his Holy Spirit upon all flesh because he had to first be manifested in the flesh and reveal his saving name, Jesus Christ.

Joel 2:28 *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

Joel 2:29 *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

2. Jesus is the Holy Spirit

Galatians 4:6 *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

Contrary to the doctrine of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is not another member of a so-called Trinity. God is, and has always been, indivisibly one. As Paul states in Galatians 4:6, we have received the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. Trinitarians actually believe that they receive the third member of the Trinity into their hearts – a distinct God who is not the Son or the Father. It is obvious they believe in three separate Gods, a doctrine that directly contradicts the greatest of all commands in the Bible (Deut 6:4; Mark 12:28-32). God is one which means that the Lord Jesus Christ is identical with the Holy Spirit. This is precisely what the Apostle Paul meant when he stated, “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Cor 3:17). We started this Bible study with the Scripture, “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24). The Spirit of God cannot die. Hence, when the Lord said, “... Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19), these were the words of the Spirit of God. The flesh obviously died, but the Spirit can never die. It is in this sense that the Lord had immortality- and no man could see, as the Apostle Paul declared:

1Timothy 6:16 *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

The New Testament is peppered with Scriptures underscoring the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is identical with the Holy Spirit. For instance, the Lord stated, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever” (John 14:16). Trinitarians reason that “another Comforter” is “proof” that the Holy Spirit is not Jesus. However, the next two verses demonstrate that Jesus was speaking about himself, his own Spirit. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” (John 14:17,18). Now we know who the Comforter is. The Lord said, “I will come to you” – the Comforter is none other than the Lord Jesus himself. Now that we have established the truth that the Holy

Spirit is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, we will now consider Scriptures that speak about the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

3. *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Act 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Once a person repents and is baptized in Jesus name, Peter declared that the Lord promised “ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”. The Lord eagerly desired to fill us with his Holy Spirit. “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?” (Luke 11:13). The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift ever because God himself takes up residence in us. Who wouldn’t want God dwelling in him or her? It is a gift because we can do nothing to deserve the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ Spirit enters us only because of his great love and mercy for us; we must never forget that we can do nothing to deserve his presence in us. What does one need to do to receive a gift? Just open your arms and mouth and receive it! Jesus loved Cornelius so much that he couldn’t wait for Peter to finish his preaching – he filled Cornelius and his household with the Holy Spirit.

Act 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Just as the nations of this earth have different languages, the Spirit of God has his own language. Let us remember that the Word was God. God speaks and communicates. “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries” (I Cor 14:2). Speaking in tongues is the evidence that one has received the Holy Spirit. “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied” (Acts 19:6). The languages of this earth have become corrupt and polluted, but there is a heavenly language which knows no profanities and swearing. “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent” (Zech 3:9). Speaking this language elevates the soul; it is the best way to overcome our daily struggles in this world. Do you feel depressed, fearful or hopeless? Try

speaking in tongues – it is a sure remedy that flushes out negativity and ushers in love, joy, peace etc., which are the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). Speak in tongues and edify your soul!

Finally, being filled with the Holy Spirit is a matter of spiritual life or death. We must understand there are evil spirits who desire to enter humans because they are aware God wants to dwell in us through his Holy Spirit. “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation” (Matthew 12: 43-45). King Saul was anointed with the holy oil of God and his Spirit but chose to attack the Kingdom of God and was attacked by an evil spirit. Don’t lose the anointing of the Spirit of Jesus! May the prayer of King David be our prayer!

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