

# The Persons in the Godhead Part 2

## LECTURE 4

*Jesus died for us, but also rose and ascended in glory -  
to ask the Father to send the Comforter*

### Session Topics:

1. **The Son - Saviour** ..... 26  
The death, resurrection, ascension and exaltation of Christ
2. **The Holy Spirit - Comforter** ..... 28  
Old Testament role, salvation and discipleship, gifts, sins against the Holy Spirit and where the Spirit is

### Outcomes:

**After completing this session you should be able to -**

Explain the atonement of Jesus Christ and the role and purpose of the Holy Spirit as the One "just like Him".

### Objectives:

- **Indicate the significance**  
of each aspect of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and apply it to the sinner's life in general.
- **Distinguish**  
the resurrection, ascension and exaltation as important concepts, which each have a specific impact on your life.
- **Develop faith**  
when you compare your old life to your new life now that you have applied the atonement.
- **Build a relationship**  
with the Holy Spirit, your Comforter, who has come to be what Jesus was to the disciples.

# 1. The Son - our Saviour

When we look at Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we actually look at most of His WORK – what the Son of God did **on earth in the flesh**. This can be looked at under the following headings:

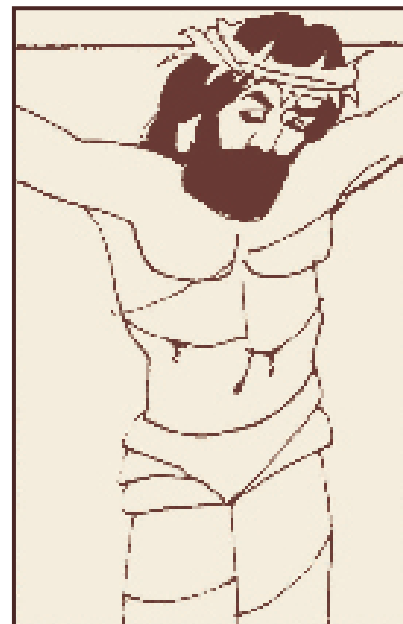
- ◆ Death
- ◆ Resurrection

It is also important for us to know about His **heavenly ministry**. We look at His:

- ◆ Ascension
- ◆ Exaltation

## 1.1 The Death of Christ

The death on the **cross** and the shedding of His **blood** is the most important event and doctrine for the **Christian Faith**.



**1Corinthians 15:3** *For I delivered to you FIRST OF ALL that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ...*

Why is it so important? It was foretold in the O.T. and is very prominent in the N.T., it is the main reason for Christ's incarnation, the backbone of the gospel message and **absolutely essential** to our Christian belief.

**Isaiah 53:10** *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; he has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.*

Let us look at a few terms we might come across regarding Jesus's work on the cross:

### ■ A vicarious work

This means that He died for the sins of others just as the priest offered a sacrifice on the altar for the sins of the Israelites and **on behalf of them**.

**Isaiah 53:5** *But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### ■ Redemption

To be delivered (set free) from some evil by the payment of a price (ransom). In this case the "some evil" is the grip of sin and the terrible consequences of the wrath of God towards unrepentant sin.

**Ephesians 1:7** *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*

**Romans 3:24** *... being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

### ■ Remission

The forgiveness of sin (lit: sending away) or to completely **wipe out** every wrong thing we have ever done from God's memory.

**Hebrews 10:17,18** *Then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.*

## ■ Justification

To be made or **declared** righteous in Jesus, that is to be ascribed the righteousness of Jesus (just as if you have never sinned).

## ■ Reconciliation

Bringing two opposed parties together. God was reconciled to man at the **cross**. The sinner is reconciled to God at **conversion**.

**2Corinthians 5:18** *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.*

(The ETC will equip you for the task of evangelism)

## ■ Propitiation

To appease or make well disposed. If the sin has been removed or covered, God's wrath against sin is satisfied.

## ■ Atonement

The act to **make at one**, to satisfy.

**1John 2:2** *And He Himself is the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

We speak of **the atonement** when we refer to Jesus' death on **the cross**, His **resurrection** and **ascension**.

# 1.2 The Resurrection of Christ

His death had to be followed by His coming to life and His return to heaven. He not only **died** for us, but also **lives** for us and **intercedes** for us.

**Romans 8:34** *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

**Romans 5:10** *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

The whole Christian faith stands or falls by the **historical fact** that Jesus Christ who died on the Cross, actually **rose again** and was, by His resurrection, **proven** to be the Son of God.

**1Cor. 15:12-21** *Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But IF there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And IF Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up – if in fact the dead do not rise. For IF the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And IF Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. IF in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.*

Jesus is risen  
- our sins are  
forgiven

The resurrection of Christ means that:

- ◆ He really was the Son of God
- ◆ The atoning death of Christ is accepted
- ◆ We have a High priest in heaven who understands us
- ◆ He was now able to send the Holy Spirit to us
- ◆ Our bodies will also be made alive
- ◆ There is life to come for us
- ◆ There will be a future judgment

(The third year student will study this in: Eschatology – End time views.)

## 1.3 The Ascension of Christ

From the Gospels, Acts and the writings of Paul and Peter, we see that the early church regarded the ascension of Christ as a historical fact. It is the dividing line between the two periods of His life:

- ◆ The Christ of human history
- ◆ The Christ of spiritual experience

During the forty days after His resurrection, He appeared and disappeared as if He was reassuring them of His continuing spiritual communion with them while they were getting used to being without continuous visual contact.

The ascension was gradual (unlike the former meetings).

**Acts 1:9** *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

From the point of view of those who watched, He was "going up" and it ended an era. From the point of view of heaven He was "taken up," and this was the moment all heaven waited for. This brings us to ...

## 1.4 The Exaltation of Christ

**Hebrews 2:9** *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

**Philippians 3:21** *... who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

**Philippians 2:9** *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.*

In the heavenly temple where He had **offered His own blood** (Heb 9:12), He now acts as our High Priest and makes **intercession** for all the saints. How reassuring to know that He knows what our problems are. But more than that, knowing the all-encompassing authority (Matthew 28:18) He has been given by the Father and the magnitude of His exalted position, we can be sure that this intercession will be effective.

We have a  
High Priest in  
heaven who  
intercedes  
for us!

## 2. The Holy Spirit - our Comforter

The Third Person of the Godhead is the Spirit of God (as He is often referred to in the O.T.) or the Holy Spirit (N.T.). It is through His work that God is **actively involved** in the life of the Christian believer and the Church as a whole.

It may seem from various Scriptures in the Bible that the role of the Spirit is one of bringing into completion or rounding off and upholding in the intended fullness. Remember that all the persons of the Godhead are in some way **involved** in every work of God, but that the **emphasis** differs between the Persons of God. When God the Father creates, He does it through the Son. When Jesus sends gifts, it is given through or by the Holy Spirit.

### ■ Old Testament role

#### ◆ Creation

The first time we read of the Spirit of God is in the account of creation and elsewhere in the upholding thereof:

**Genesis 1:2** *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

**Job 26:13** *By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.*

**Isaiah 32:15** *Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest.*

#### ♦ Prophecy and Scripture

**Ezekiel 2:2** *Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me.*

**2Peter 1:21** *... for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

**2Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

#### ♦ Skills for Tasks

**Exodus 31:3-5** *"And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship."*

#### ♦ Administration and Positions

**Genesis 41:38** *And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"*

**Numbers 11:25** *Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to [Moses], and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.*

**Deuteronomy 34:9** *Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the Spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.*

#### ♦ The Time of the Judges

**Judges 6:34** *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.*

**Judges 14:19** *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon [Samson] mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle.*

#### ♦ The Early Kings of Israel

**1Samuel 10:10**

**1Samuel 16:13**

### ■ Outpouring foretold

#### ♦ Regarding Jesus' Fullness of the Spirit

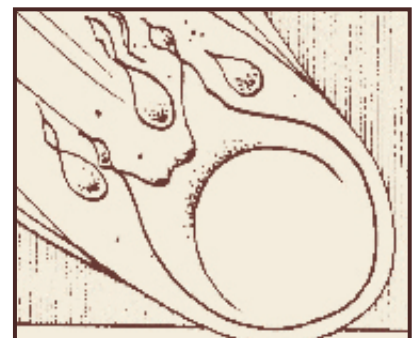
**Isaiah 11:1,2** *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

**Isaiah 61:1-3** *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

#### ♦ Regarding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

**Joel 2:28,29** *"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."*

*Let us look at the different aspects where the Holy Spirit is involved in our lives as Christians, and in the life of the Church.*



## PENTECOST

## 2.1 Salvation and Discipleship

## ■ Salvation

The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of sin and he is thereby led to repentance.

**Romans 2:4** *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

**John 16:8** *"And when He [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment ..."*

At conversion, a miraculous **transformation** of the individual takes place – he is born again of the Spirit of God and can therefore see, receive and enter the realm of God's rule – the **Kingdom of God**.

**2Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**John 3:3** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

## ■ Discipleship

There are a number of things which the Holy Spirit does in the life of the believer.

First of all, we know that He indwells the believer on a permanent basis.

**John 14:16** *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."*

The continued presence of the Holy Spirit causes the character of the believer to change, and therefore becomes more and more like Jesus. The result of what is reaped from the Holy Spirit is called the **fruit of the Holy Spirit**.

**Galatians 5:22,23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

**Galatians 4:19** *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you ...*

(The first year student will deal with the subject: "Holy Spirit – Fruit")

Other works of the Holy Spirit are:

- ◆ Guidance . . . . . John 16:13-15
- ◆ Teaching . . . . . John 14:26
- ◆ Intercession . . . . . Romans 8:26,27
- ◆ Sanctification . . . . . Romans 8:1-17
- ◆ Enabling . . . . . Zechariah 4:6

(See Holy Spirit – Anointing – DTC 2nd year)

Not by might,  
nor by power,  
but by the  
Holy Spirit

## 2.2 Gifts

We read about three kinds of gifts in the New Testament given for different purposes, whether it be to **manage** the affairs of the Church, or to **operate** and assist in the work of the Church or to **manifest** the power of the Holy Spirit.

**1Corinthians 12:4-7**

## ■ The Fivefold Ministry

Jesus gives this gift of men to the church in order to equip the believers for the work they are called to do in the church – to expand, to build up. These five (or four) are always found in the church and they serve (or administrate) the church in unity.

**Ephesians 4:11** *And he gave some, APOSTLES; and some, PROPHETS; and some, EVANGELISTS; and some,*



*PASTORS AND TEACHERS; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

(See "Analysis of Ministry" – LTC 3rd year)

## ■ The Supportive Gifts

Believers who grow in the Word eventually find themselves urged to use their God-given abilities to serve (or operate in) the church in a **supportive** role.

**Romans 12:6-8** *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if PROPHECY, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or MINISTRY, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in TEACHING; he who exhorts, in EXHORTATION; he who GIVES, with liberality; he who LEADS, with diligence; he who shows MERCY, with cheerfulness.*

(See "Supportive Gifts" – WTC 2nd year)

## ■ The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

This is the means through which the Holy Spirit manifests the power and reality of God, through the cooperation of the believer who has been empowered and therefore equipped, to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

**1Corinthians 12:4-11** *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of WISDOM through the Spirit, to another the word of KNOWLEDGE through the same Spirit, to another FAITH by the same Spirit, to another gifts of HEALINGS by the same Spirit, to another the working of MIRACLES, to another PROPHECY, to another DISCERNING of spirits, to another different kinds of TONGUES, to another the INTERPRETATION of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

(See "Holy Spirit – Gifts" – DTC 1st year)

## 2.3 Sins against the Holy Spirit

These fall in two groups: Believers and unbelievers.

### ■ Believers

#### ◆ Grieve

To act opposite to the character of the indwelling Holy Spirit as explained in Ephesians 4:29-31.

#### ◆ Quench

To put out (like a fire) the active work or ministry of the Spirit in the church or an individual – e.g. prophecy. (1 Thessalonians 5:19,20)

#### ◆ Lie

This is equivalent to lying to God since the Holy Spirit is God. (Acts 5)

### ■ Unbelievers

#### ◆ Resist

Hardening the heart to the voice of God in the life of the unbeliever to come to repentance and turn to the way of the Lord. Opposing zealously the work of God, persecuting those who speak for Him. (Acts 7:51-53)

#### ◆ Blaspheme

To show contempt or to insult the Person of God by making Him out to be Satan. To ascribe the miracle work of the Holy Spirit to be that of Satan. Also: involves direct and explicit abuse of the divine name (Ryrie). (Greek: *Blapsis* = evil, *pheme* = speech) This is mentioned by Jesus as the only

unforgivable sin. (Matthew 12: 24-37)

## 2.4 Where the Spirit is...

The time of the Old Testament days, and especially since Mount Sinai, were the era of the Father. The time of the Gospels was the era of the Son, starting from the incarnation. The era of the Spirit started at the day of Pentecost. How should one **describe** this era of God's presence in one of His persons amongst His people? If we could speak to believers in one of the other eras, what would we highlight? How would you describe **your life** since you have been saved, experiencing **life in the Spirit**? Use the following headings:

- ◆ Freedom . . . . . Romans 6:15-23, John 8:36  
and Romans 8:1-5
- ◆ Liberty . . . . . 2Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:1  
and James 1:25
- ◆ Life . . . . . 1John 5:12, John 6:63  
and 2Corinthians 3:6
- ◆ Peace . . . . . Romans 8:6, John 14:27  
and Romans 5:1
- ◆ Wisdom . . . . . 2Timothy 3:15, Colossians 4:5  
and James 1:5

What you have done now is called an **assignment**. Every subject will have a set of tasks. The first is always to **read** the lectures again. Other tasks may be to **meditate** or pray about some aspect of what you have just learned. You are often asked to **write** down your thoughts or find Scriptures and **share** with someone you can trust or who could help you.

Make sure that your leader is someone you respect and whose advice would be valuable to you. Remember also that there is safety in the multitude of counsellors (Prov 11:14). Many topics are not of a personal nature and can easily be **discussed** in a group situation. If anything is still not clear to you, do research, ask and pray.

The assignments are intended to help you experience the practical applications of the doctrines you are learning about. The Calvary Academics Training Course is a very practical course. You should have head-knowledge, but most of all, you should be able to apply this in your **Christian life**.