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Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

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¹ Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit significantly influences Christian life and ministry. One major influence of the Holy Spirit emerges from the controversial, unclear understanding of what the Holy Spirit is and its role in Christian life and ministry. Some Christians today marginalize the Holy Spirit as a source of strange, extraordinary manifestations or gifts (Shatzer, "Holy Spirit"), relegating His significance to mere sensationalism. Others may depersonalize the Spirit as an abstract force rather than a divine person, diminishing His role in their spiritual life. Therefore, the life and ministry of some Christians today reflect a controversial understanding of the true nature of the Holy Spirit.

Christians who understand the true nature of the Holy Spirit have different influences in their lives and ministry. ¹ The Holy Spirit is not merely a nebulous force but a divine being; he possesses the attributes of God and exhibits personal characteristics such as intelligence and will (Shatzer, "Holy Spirit"; John 14:26; Ephesians 4:30). Similarly, the Holy Spirit is not an abstract force, it is a person, ² He is God, and has the attributes of God (1 Corinthians 2:10-11). Christians who are conscious of these traits of the Holy Spirit depend more on Him as a path to building stronger relationships with God and fostering a sense of intimacy with the divine. These Christian pastors and believers believe in the role of the Spirit in perfecting the work of the Trinity, cleansing sins, preserving Christians, and drawing them closer to God.

Furthermore, the influence of the Holy Spirit in Christian life and ministry extends beyond personal transformation. Christian ministers depend on the Holy Spirit to give new life to unbelievers, empower them, and help them grow (Morgan 428). For instance, Christian preachers call upon the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Church so believers can better understand and embrace God's word. This influence is also evident in how Christians pray and believe in the

Holy Spirit to bring fruitfulness and success (Galatians 5:22-23). In Churches, ministers often highlight that the Holy Spirit teaches the disciples, inspires them with Jesus's words, and guides them into the truth (Morgan 410). By aligning with the Spirit's work, ministries flourish, bearing fruit in spiritual growth and the spread of the Gospel. Thus, embracing the Holy Spirit not only enriches individual faith in God but also empowers the collective mission of the Church.

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References

Morgan, C. W., & Peterson, R. A. (2020). *Christian Theology: The Biblical Story and Our Faith*.

B&H Publishing Group.

Shatzer, "Holy Spirit"

Ephesians 4:30

Galatians 5:22-23

John 14:26

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

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