

The Holy Spirit
Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Lesson #3 for April 15, 2006

Scriptures: Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Matthew 1:18-20; 3:16,17; Luke 1:35; John 3:3-8,34; Romans 8:11; Hebrews 9:14.

1. **In this series of lessons about the Holy Spirit what would you like to know most about or from the Holy Spirit? After the departure of Jesus his disciples came together in the upper room and prepared themselves with the help of the Holy Spirit for the Holy Spirit to be poured upon them. Thus the stage was set for the outpouring of the early rain. What conditions need to be met for the outpouring of the latter rain? What do we need to do to get ready? Why has the Holy Spirit had to wait almost 2000 years for the latter rain?**
2. This lesson focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus here on this earth. How would you describe the relationship between the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus during the time Jesus lived here on this earth?
3. **How do you understand the role of the Father and the Holy Spirit in the birth of Jesus? Is it possible to give some kind of scientific explanation for what happened there? (Luke 1:37; Hebrews 11:6) Is this one area where there's very little evidence and we just have to take a leap of faith? How many things do you believe for which you have very little evidence? Is this just "believin' what you know ain't so!"**
4. The virgin birth, and the Holy Spirit's impregnation of Mary prior to that, is one of the most controversial doctrines of the Christian church. Why is this such an issue? Do you have any questions or doubts about the virgin birth?
5. **The aim and goal of this lesson is to show how intimately the Holy Spirit guided every detail of Christ's life and how we potentially could be guided in the same way if we were as fully submitted to the Holy Spirit's guidance as Jesus was!**
6. How fully was the life of Christ guided by the Holy Spirit? Was Jesus only a submissive robot? "Jesus set aside His divine powers completely to take on humanity. Not one miracle that He performed or one temptation that He overcame was done with His own power. All that Jesus did, said, and taught came directly from the Holy Spirit. Jesus' divinity never ceased, but He chose to be exactly like us—in our need to rely completely on the Holy Spirit—to fulfill His mission. He became the perfect human tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit. We, too, can be used by the Holy Spirit as efficiently as Jesus if we learn to fully submit to His leading and to His voice." (*Adult Teacher's Sabbath School Study Guide*, p. 19)
7. In what ways was the power of the Spirit manifested in the earthly life of Jesus? He was given daily, even hourly, direction concerning what he should do and how to do it; He was given information about people's thoughts and activities beyond His human capacity; He was given the strength and energy and endurance to perform miracles and minister to thousands on a daily basis; He was given clarity of mind to comprehend, teach, and apply Scripture where appropriate. Could these manifestations of the work of the Holy Spirit also appear in our lives today? What would this require of us? (See Isaiah 11:1,2; 50:4-10; 59: 19-21; 61:1,2; John 9:4).
8. *Teachers Bible Study Guide* page 35: "Jesus performed His miracles strictly through the power of the Holy Spirit. Presumably, we have access to the same power, but we rarely, if ever, perform such miracles, or see them performed by others. Was Jesus different in this sense? If so, how? Did He have an advantage in being God, or was He closer to God's ideal

for humanity—an ideal that is at least theoretically attainable for us?”

9. Do you believe that your life could be guided minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, and day-by-day, as was the life of Christ, by the Holy Spirit? How would you know if the Holy Spirit was actually guiding you? What keeps Him from doing this? Would God be willing to use one or more of us today to manifest His works in our world?
10. “All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life. **The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence.**” {DA 827.3}
11. Did Jesus speak to/pray to the Holy Spirit? Were His conversations with the Father and the Holy Spirit prayers? At what age did He begin to understand that He had this kind of relationship with His heavenly partners? Who taught Him this?
12. We clearly understand that Jesus did not need to be baptized to wash away His sins. Nevertheless He traveled a long distance by foot to undergo baptism by John. Why did He do this? What role did the Father and the Holy Spirit play in events associated with the baptism? Why was the special manifestation of the Dove and the voice necessary? Who was that manifestation for the benefit of? Did Jesus need it to confirm His belief that He was the son of God? Did John need it to confirm his conviction that this was the Messiah? Did Jesus need this manifestation to prepare Him for his 40 days in the wilderness? **Was Jesus changed by this experience? Did He “receive” the Holy Spirit on this occasion?** Certainly Jesus was already very familiar with communication between Himself and the Father and the Holy Spirit. He did not need to travel to the Jordan to learn something new about Father or Spirit. This would suggest that the manifestation was somehow for our benefit. What should we learn from this experience?
13. Read Luke 3:21,22. What do these verses say to us? Our *Teacher’s Study Guide* suggests that three things were revealed by that experience:
 - 1) it validated Christ’s call as the Messiah.
 - 2) it demonstrated the fact that Christ had set aside His divine power and was depending completely and entirely on the other two persons of the Godhead for the conduct of His mission. He retained no advantage that we cannot possess through the same dependence on God that He exercised. (See John 5:19, 30; 8:28; 15:4, 5; Philippians 4:13). This shows that the mission to save us was not just involving Jesus but also the Father and the Holy Spirit.
 - 3) the power needed to save you and me must be more than just human power. All the omnipotent power of the Trinity must be involved. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 8:1-30; Ephesians 4:23, 24).
14. **Read Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; and Luke 4:1. Did the Holy Spirit actually lead Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil? How do you understand these words? Is this a contradiction with His prayer that He gave us “lead us not into temptation”?** (Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4)
15. How do you understand John 3:34? “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the spirit by measure unto him.” (KJV) “The one whom God has sent speaks God’s words, because God gives him the fullness of his Spirit.” (GNB).

16. Acts 1:1,2 says that Jesus through the power of the Spirit “gave commandments unto the disciples”. What does this mean to you?
17. What was the main reason why Jesus came to this earth? Read John 4:34, 6:38, 8:29.
 “Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God. In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, “I have manifested thy name.” “I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 20, 1890 (2ST 351:2:0-3:1); compare ST December 4, 1893; *Manuscript Releases*, vol 18, 359; RH August 14, 1900; YI November 21, 1883
18. Could we as individuals or even as a group of God’s people have the Holy Spirit operating in our lives in this way? If this was the mission of Jesus, what is our mission?
19. **Was Jesus’s main work “to seek and save the lost” or “to manifest the truth about God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Himself”?**
20. In your personal opinion why was it necessary for Jesus to set aside His divinity during His time here on this earth? Why couldn’t He have just used His own divinity to perform miracles, to preach, etc.?
21. How much did the disciples know about the Holy Spirit during the time Jesus was still alive? Did they understand their need for a relationship with this third person of the Godhead?
22. Read Luke 4:18,19. Compare Isaiah 60 1:1, 2. What do you think Jesus wanted to say to His former friends and family members that day in Nazareth? What did they hear? Why did they become upset?
23. Read Acts 10:38; Hebrews 9:14. “Through the eternal Spirit He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will purify our consciences from useless rituals, so that we may serve the living God.” (GNB) What do these words mean to you?
24. Another of the enormous miracles to mark Jesus’ time here on earth was His resurrection from the dead. Who was responsible for this resurrection? Read Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:17-20; John 10:17,18. Is there some sense in which all members of the Godhead cooperated in this effort? See also 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 1:4; 8:11.
25. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to your Christian belief? What does that resurrection say to you personally? Is it important to recognize the work of all three members of the Godhead in the resurrection?

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EGW Comments

“This world is a vast lazar house, but Christ came to heal the sick, to proclaim deliverance to the captives of Satan. He was in Himself health and strength. He imparted His life to the sick, the afflicted, those possessed of demons. He turned away none who came to receive His healing power. He knew that those who petitioned Him for help had brought disease upon themselves, yet He did not refuse to heal them. And when virtue from Christ entered into these poor souls they were convicted of sin, and many were healed of their spiritual disease as well as of their physical maladies. **The gospel still possesses the same power, and why should we not today witness the same results?**” {CH 30.1; DA 823.3}

“When He went forth to contribute to the support of the family by His daily toil He possessed the same power as when on the shores of Galilee He fed five thousand hungry souls with five loaves and two fishes. But He did not employ His divine power to lessen His burdens [277] lighten His toil. He had taken upon Himself the form of humanity, with all its attendant ills, and He did not flinch from its severest trials. He lived in a peasant’s home; He was clothed with coarse garments; He mingled with the lowly; He toiled daily with patient hands. His example shows us that it is man’s duty to be industrious and that labor is honorable.” {CT 276.4}

Christ has bidden us, through the prophet, “Deal thy bread to the hungry,” and “satisfy the afflicted soul;” “when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him,” and “bring the poor that are cast out to thy house.” Isa. 58:7-10. He has bidden us, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15. But how often our hearts sink, and faith fails us, as we see how great is the need, and how small the means in our hands. Like Andrew looking upon the five barley loaves and the two little fishes, we exclaim, “What are they among so many?” Often we hesitate, unwilling to give all that we have, fearing to spend and to be spent for others. But Jesus has bidden us, “Give ye them to eat.” **His command is a promise; and behind it is the same power that fed the multitude beside the sea.**” {DA 369.2}