

a study of the *Holy Spirit*

Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

The Holy Spirit is mentioned three times more in the New Testament than in the Old Testament. Every writer of the New Testament makes a reference to the Holy Spirit, and twenty-four books mention the Holy Spirit (Philemon, 2 and 3 John have no mention of Him).

The Holy Spirit is presented in the New Testament as...

- **DOVE** (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10,11; Luke 3:21,22; John 1:32-34).
- **OIL** (1 John 2:20). Oil is used in Scripture three ways—"Anointing" (Psalm 92:10; 104:15; etc.); "Light" (John 14:17; 16:13); "Healing."
- **SEAL** (Ephesians 1:13). Believers are "sealed" when they obey God's commands of immersion (Galatians 3:27).
- **EARNEST** (Ephesians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:4; Romans 2:7).
- **WATER** (John 4:10, 11; 7:37-39).

We must understand the work of the Holy Spirit in the Lord's mission (1 Corinthians 12:3).

- The Holy Spirit revealed the Lord's mission via prophets.
- The Holy Spirit impregnated Mary (Matthew 1:18-20).
- The Holy Spirit was prominent in the life of Jesus Christ (John 3:34).
- The Holy Spirit was prominent in the public ministry of Jesus.

Note: The Holy Spirit was always with Jesus on earth. In every aspect of His birth, life, and death the Holy Spirit aided our Lord.

The Holy Spirit in the gospels

- In Matthew's narrative we find more than twelve references.
- Mark is the shortest and so fewer references are found, only six.
- Luke mentions the Holy Spirit eighteen times.
- John's narrative has more about the Holy Spirit than any others.
 1. The Holy Spirit would **CONVICT** the world of sin.
 2. The Holy Spirit would **UNFOLD** the Truth to the Apostles.
 3. The Holy Spirit would **BUILD UP** the Church.

Six key verses in John that summarize the Spirit's role in the New Testament (John 14-16).

1. **John 14:16, 17** - The disciples are not told to pray for the Spirit!
2. **John 14:26** - This is not a promise made to all—only to the Apostles! We receive the benefits of this promise as we study the inspired Scripture (Ephesians 3:1-5)
3. **John 15:26, 27** - This does not refer to great, thrilling experiences that one has had. How did the Holy Spirit accomplish this? The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures so that facts are found which will support the teaching. These facts uphold the teaching of Christ.
4. **John 16:8-11** - The Holy Spirit would "convict."
5. **John 16:12-13** - The Holy Spirit will lead in a consistent pattern of God's will.
6. **John 16:14, 15** - The summary of the Holy Spirit's work—"He shall glorify Me."

The Holy Spirit's operation in the New Testament is clearly illustrated in Acts 2

- Peter and the Apostles preached (2:22-23).
- Their teaching was witnessed (supported) by the Holy Spirit (2:24-32).
- This evidence led to a conclusion that Christ was indeed exalted (2:33-35).
- This conclusion resulted in a conviction of sin, righteousness, and the judgment (2:36, 37).

This illustration helps us understand facts about how the Holy Spirit operates in the New Testament:

- Did Peter testify of Christ?
- Did Peter convict men of sin, righteousness, and judgment?
- Did Peter bring men to faith in Christ?
- Did Peter glorify Christ?

Note: The Holy Spirit enabled Peter to do these things. The Holy Spirit still works via Scripture to convict men of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Thus, the Holy Spirit works through Scripture to bring men to faith in Christ (Hebrews 3:7; 10:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:14). Without the written Word (the Bible) the Holy Spirit would be unable to do this!

Looking Ahead

Lesson 5: The Leading of the Holy Spirit

Suggested Reading: Rom. 8:14; Jn. 1:12-13;
Rom. 10:17