New Beginnings

Bible Study Class

Foundational Truth

6-Week Curriculum on the Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

Join Us in Studying the “Sanctifying Truth” of God’s Holy, Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the exciting North Jacksonville Baptist Church. We want to do all we can to enhance your walk with God. A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. We are ever becoming and never arriving in this life. The New Beginnings class will familiarize you with our church, our doctrinal beliefs, and will help you connect personally with our ministry. Through the New Beginnings class you will be inspired to move beyond where you are spiritually to greater maturity and fruitfulness.

Please make every effort to attend all the sessions. “A student learns what his teacher knows, but a disciple becomes what his master is.” The goal of the New Beginnings class is ultimately to help you become more like Jesus Christ. Come and be blessed! We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ,

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Senior Pastor

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If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me – Luke 9:23

**Witnessing to the World**
Matthew 28:18-20

**Living in the Word**
2 Timothy 2:15

**Praying in Faith**
Luke 18:1

**Fellowship**
Hebrews 10:25

**New Beginnings**
North Jacksonville Baptist Church
Lesson 4 – God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is probably the most misunderstood member of the Trinity. One reason for this misunderstanding probably results from the fact that the Holy Spirit is ascribed TOO FEW attributes by many who, using words like “IT” rather than “HE” to describe the Holy Spirit, consider Him some kind of spooky spiritual power supply or force through which God manifests His presence in the world. Another reason is that the Holy Spirit is ascribed TOO MANY attributes by others, who – at least in practice – attempt to elevate the Holy Spirit above God the Father and God the Son in Trinitarian priority. However, based on what Scripture ACTUALLY reveals about the Holy Spirit, neither of these extremes is accurate.

The Holy Spirit is not an “IT” or just some power supply or force; He is the Third Person of the Trinity, whose first appearance in Scripture can be found in Genesis 1:2. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, also introduced His disciples to the Holy Spirit, referring to Him with personal pronouns like “He” and “Him” (John 14:15-17,26, 15:26, 16:7-13). As their Comforter during His time on earth, Jesus said to His disciples, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18; see 1 John 2:1). Keeping His promise, Jesus gave / gives His disciples the Holy Spirit, whom He described as “another Comforter,” which is interpreted that the Holy Spirit is “allos” or “another” of the same kind as or equal to Jesus, and ALL OF WHOM God the Father has given to dwell with and in every believer at salvation (John 14:16-18; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Rom 8:9; Luke 11:13; see Ezek 36:27, 37:14; 1 John 3:24; 2 Cor 6:16; Gal 2:20).

In the fulfillment of this promise, Jesus Christ illustrates that the Holy Spirit is in fact the Third Person of the Trinity, for, just as true disciples of Christ are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, true disciples of Christ are also indwelt by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 14:23, Matt 28:18-20; Gal 2:20; 1 John 4:12; 2 Cor 6:16). In addition, the divinity of the Holy Spirit becomes quite obvious from His various names in Scripture, as we will see below. Yet, those mentioned above who seek to ascribe to the Holy Spirit attributes that would make Him, not just equal, but superior to God the Father and God the Son, find themselves contradicting the very statements of Christ in John Chapter 16, where He says, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when HE, the Spirit of Truth, is come, HE will guide you into all truth: for HE shall not speak of HIMSELF; but whatsoever HE shall hear, that shall HE speak: and HE will shew you things to come. HE shall glorify Me: for HE shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:12-14). In other words, the Holy Spirit is God; yet His work of guiding and prompting us to “glorify” and “testify” of Jesus Christ makes it clear that we are not to elevate the Holy Spirit above Jesus Christ (Acts 5:1-4,9; John 15:16, 16:14).

As you may have glimpsed from the statements above, we have been given the indwelling Holy Spirit such that we might walk in Him and be empowered by Him in order that – amongst other things – we: (i) shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh; and (ii) may bear much “FRUIT” by abiding in Christ and in keeping the commandments of God in complete and total fulfillment of that to which we have been called (Eph 1:15-23; Gal 5:16-26; John 14:16-17; 15:1-5). Like God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit possesses an infinite number of attributes / functions, a few of which are listed here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspired / “Move” Biblical Writers (2 Pet 1:21)</th>
<th>Provides Counsel / Guidance (John 16:13; Rom 8:14)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leads us to Salvation and Obedience (1 Cor 12:3)</td>
<td>Teaches Believers (1 John 2:27; 1 Cor 2:10-16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwells with and in Believers (John 14:17; Rom 8:9)</td>
<td>Seals and Sanctifies (Eph 1:14, 4:30; 1 Pet 1:2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leads the Church (Book of Acts)</td>
<td>Intercedes for and helps Believers pray (Rom 8:26)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides Power (Rom 8:11, 15:19; Eph 1:19-20, 3:20)</td>
<td>Gives Spiritual Gifts / Fruit (1 Cor 12:4-11; Gal 5:22-23)</td>
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Let’s Study God the Holy Spirit (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. According to the Bible, what are some of the names given to the Holy Spirit:
   a. Genesis 1:2; Romans 8:14; 2 Cor 3:3; 1 John 4:1-2
   b. Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:9-11
   d. John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13
   f. Galatians 4:6-7
   g. Ephesians 1:13

2. How does the Bible describe the GREATNESS of the Holy Spirit? (1 John 4:4):
A.C.T.S. – The Prayer Acronym  
( . . . men ought always to pray, and not to faint – Luke 18:1; see also Philippians 4:6-7 )

A – Adore / Awe of God (Matt 6:9)
B – Confess our Sins (1 John 1:9; Psa 32:5)
T – Thanksgiving (Eph 5:20; 1 Thes 5:16-18)
S – Supplication for the needs others and for our own (1 Thes 1:11-12; 1 Tim 2:1-3; 1 John 5:14-15)

* Communion with God has two parts: (i) Studying of God’s Word; and (ii) Prayer. This is why many agree with the saying, “Seven days without communion with God makes one weak” (no God, no peace; know God, know peace – Isa 26:3).

* Pray to God the Father through God the Son, asking for intercession that God’s will be done (John 16:23; Rom 8:26-27).
3. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s OMNISCIENCE? (Isa 40:13-14; 1 Cor 2:11): ________________

4. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s OMNIPRESENCE? (Psa 139:7): ________________

5. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s OMNIPOTENCE? (Job 33:4; Luke 1:35; Rom 8:11, 15:13,19): ________________

6. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s ETERNALITY? (Heb 9:14): ________________

7. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit in terms of TRUTH? (John 16:13; 1 John 5:6): ________________

8. How do the following Bible verses describe the WORK of the Holy Spirit:
   a. 2 Peter 1:20-21 ________________
   b. 1 Corinthians 12:3 ________________
   c. John 14:16-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16 ________________
   d. John 16:8-11 ________________
   e. Romans 8:9 ________________
   f. John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Luke 12:11-12; John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27 ________________
   g. John 15:26 ________________
   h. Romans 8:26-27 ________________
   i. 1 Corinthians 12:13 ________________

9. Based on the following Bible verses, what are some of the specific works of the Holy Spirit in salvation?
   a. John 16:8; 1 Cor 12:3 ________________
   b. John 6:63 (see generally Ephesians 2:1-4; John 5:26; Rom 8:2) ________________
   c. 2 Thes 2:13-14; 1 Pet 1:2 ________________
   d. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; 2 Cor 1:21-22 ________________

10. What does the Bible say of those who would be “made perfect” in the flesh? (Gal 3:1-3): ________________
The Rapture notwithstanding, “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27; see 1 Thes 4:13-18). Like taxes, death is certain; however, many still question what happens to us immediately after we die. The Bible is quite clear on what happens when death separates body and soul during what has become known as the “DISEMBODIED STATE”:

• **Believers** – Those who die in Christ, having accepted His payment for sin, can be “confident” in death, willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8). The “dismembodied state” between a true believer’s death and the “First Resurrection” is graciously and consciously spent in the presence of the Lord in Paradise, which is also called “Abraham’s Bosom” or the “third heaven” (Rev 20:5-6; Heb 11:35; Dan 12:2; John 5:29; Acts 24:15; Luke 14:14; 16:22, 23:43; 2 Cor 12:2-4; Rev 2:7).

• **Unbelievers** – Those who die without Christ, having rejected His payment for sin, will spend the time between death and the “Second or Final Resurrection” in the temporary, conscious and torturous confinement in Hell, the Realm of the Death, which is like the punishment of Jail where the convicted soul of man awaits a body, sentencing and final / eternal punishment in the Penitentiary of the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:4-15; Dan 12:2; John 5:29; Luke 14:14; Heb 11:35; Acts 24:15; 2 Pet 2:9).

Whether spent in the presence of the Lord or in Hell, the “dismembodied state” is experienced in **total consciousness** and, despite not having a physical body, one is acutely **aware of all senses**. Also, Heaven and Hell are separated by an **impassable chasm** and, therefore, these **destinations are fixed** and there is also an **apparent lack of excuses and repentance** (see Luke 16:19-31; Once there, can’t be prayed out or in).