

God the Holy Spirit

by Robert Hall

PART ONE: Terms Used for the Holy Spirit

- A. Spirit of God (Matthew 3:16) = Spirit (Mark 1:10) = Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22). By comparing the accounts of Jesus' baptism in each of the gospels, we see that each of these terms are used for the Holy Spirit.
- B. In Romans 8:9 the terms "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ" are used interchangeably to mean the same.
- C. The terms "Holy Spirit" in Acts 16:6 and "Spirit of Jesus" are used interchangeably To mean the same.

PART TWO: The Holy Spirit is a Person

- A. The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of personality. These are as follows:

#	Scripture reference	Personality attribute
1.	Ephesians 4:30	Feeling or emotion
2.	1 Corinthians 2:11	Intellect or thought
3.	1 Corinthians 12:11	Will or ability to choose

- B. The Holy Spirit does the actions of a being with personality:

#	Scripture reference	Personality actions
1.	John 14:26	Teaches
2.	John 15:26	Testifies
3.	Romans 8:14	Guides
4.	John 16:8,9	Convinces or convicts of sin
5.	Genesis 6:3	Restrains evil
6.	Acts 8:29	Commands
7.	Acts 13:2	Calls for service
8.	Acts 13:4	Sends forth people to Christian service
9.	Romans 8:26	Intercedes

- C. The Holy Spirit has certain abilities of personality:

#	Scripture reference	Personality abilities
1.	Acts 10:19-21	Can be obeyed
2.	Acts 5:3	Can be lied to
3.	Acts 7:51	Can be resisted
4.	Hebrews 10:29	Can be insulted

- D. Unusual grammar is used in relation to the Holy Spirit showing Him to be a person
1. The Greek word translated “Spirit” is neuter and by rules of Greek grammar requires a neuter pronoun.
 2. However the masculine pronoun is used in several verses such as: John 15:26; 16:7, 8, 13, 14; Ephesians 1:14.
- E. The word “name” in Matthew 28:19 shows Him to be a person.

PART THREE: The Holy Spirit is God

- A. Verses which show or imply that the Holy Spirit is God.

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	2 Corinthians 3:17,18	The Lord is said to be the Spirit
2.	Romans 11:34 cp. Isaiah 40:13	The same person who is called “the Lord” in the New Testament is called the “Spirit of the LORD” in the Old Testament
3.	Acts 5:3,4	Lying to the Holy Spirit is the same as lying to God showing He is God.
4.	Matthew 12:31,32 cp. Acts 26:11 cp. 1 Timothy 1:13	Because Paul had blasphemed Christ, He had blasphemed God. If to blaspheme the Holy Spirit is worse than to blaspheme Christ, then He has to be God.
5.	Matthew 28:19	The Holy Spirit is mentioned co-equally with the Father and the Son which shows He is God.
6.	2 Corinthians 13:14	Again the Holy Spirit is mentioned co-equally with the Father and the Son in Paul’s benediction.

B. The Holy Spirit is Jehovah. In the Old Testament the word LORD in all capital letters or GOD in all capital letters shows the word it translates is Jehovah.

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	1 Samuel 16:13,14 cp. 18:12	In 16:14 the leaving of the Holy Spirit from Saul is called the departure of Jehovah in 18:12. In 16:13 the Holy Spirit is said to come upon David but is called Jehovah in 18:12.
2.	John 7:38,39 cp. Jeremiah 17:13	The Holy Spirit is referred to as the source of living water for God's people but in Jeremiah 17:13 Jehovah is said to be the source of living water for His people
3.	Acts 28:25-27 cp. Isaiah 6:1-10	The source of this quote of Isaiah, the prophet, is said to be the Holy Spirit in Acts and in Isaiah, it is said to be Jehovah.
4.	Hebrews 10:15-17 cp. Jeremiah 31:31-34	The source of this quote of Jeremiah, the prophet, is said to be the Holy Spirit in Hebrews; and in Jeremiah, it is said to be Jehovah.
5.	Psalms 139:1,7	Both the Holy Spirit and Jehovah are said to be present everywhere.

C. The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of God

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	1 Corinthians 2:10,11	All-knowing
2.	Psalms 139:7	Present everywhere
3.	Luke 1:35	All-powerful
4.	1 John 5:6	All-trueful
5.	Hebrews 9:14	Eternal

**PART FOUR: The Holy Spirit's Distinct Ministry Prior to Pentecost in Acts
Chapter 2**

Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching
A.	Genesis 41:38; Numbers 27:17,18; Daniel 4:8; 5:11-14; 1 Peter 1:11	The Holy Spirit did not indwell all believers only some to provide discretion, wisdom, ability for leadership plus revealing and explaining God's word
B.	Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 14:6; 15:14; 1 Samuel 10:9,10; 16:13; Numbers 11:17,25	The Holy Spirit came "upon" believers to enable them to prophesy and to administer, to strengthen them and to signify God's approval.
C.	Exodus 31:3; 35:31; Luke 1:41,67; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5	The Holy Spirit filled believers to give them knowledge, wisdom, understanding and skill and to lead them to praise God, but He did not baptize them
D.	Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30; Job 33:4	He was active in creation

E. Other Ministries of the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost:

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	Genesis 6:3	Restraining sin
2.	Judges 13:25	Guiding or moving believers
3.	Nehemiah 9:20	Teaching believers
4.	John 3:5,6	Imparting spiritual life or the new birth

F. Sins against the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost were:

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	Isaiah 63:10	Grieving Him
2.	Acts 7:51	Resisting Him
3.	Matthew 12:31,32; Mark 3:29,30	Blaspheming Him. <i>Note this did not become a sin until Jesus was on earth as a man.</i>

G. Limitations on the ministry of the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost:

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	Ezekiel 39:29	Not all believers had the Holy Spirit
2.	Luke 11:13	The believer could request the Holy Spirit by prayer – at least during Jesus' earthly ministry.
3.	John 14:16; 1 Samuel 10:10,11 cp. 16:14 and Psalm 51:11	He was "with" some believers but not in them, but not permanently as He could leave.
4.	John 7:37-39 cp. 16:7	He was not given to all believers until Jesus was glorified, i.e. ascended.

PART FIVE: The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures

Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching
A.	2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 22:42,43; Acts 1:15,16; 28:25; 2 Samuel 23:2; Micah 3:5-8; Ezekiel 2:2	Guided or moved the writers of scripture.
B.	John 14:26; 16:12-15	Jesus promised the Apostles that the Holy Spirit would help them remember what He had said and guide them into all truth, making the Holy Spirit the real author of the New Testament.
C.	1 Corinthians 2:10	The Holy Spirit is also the revealer of Bible truth.
D.	John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:12	The Holy Spirit helps believers understand God's word.

PART SIX: The Holy Spirit is clearly connected with Christ's Earthly Ministry

Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching
A.	Luke 1:35	His conception
B.	John 1:32	Came upon Christ at His baptism
C.	Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18	Anointed or set apart Christ to preach the gospel. Acts 10:37 suggests this anointing may have taken place at His baptism.
D.	Luke 4:1	Filled and led Christ
E.	Luke 4:14	He was under the power of the Holy Spirit
F.	John 3:34	The Holy Spirit was given to Christ without limit.
G.	Matthew 12:28	Empowered Christ to cast out demons
H.	Luke 10:21	Enabled Christ to rejoice.
I.	Hebrews 9:14	Involved in Christ's death.
J.	Romans 1:4; 8:11	Involved in Christ's resurrection

PART SEVEN: The Holy Spirit aids believers' attempts to share the gospel

Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching	
A.	John 16:8-11	He convicts or convinces the lost of their need of Christ.	
B.	Acts 1:8	He empowers the believer to witness.	
C.	Acts 4:31	He fills the believer to give Him boldness to witness.	
D.	Acts 8:29; 16:6,7	He opens and closes witnessing opportunities.	
E.	Acts 13:1-4	He calls and sends people to the mission field through the local church.	
F.	Ephesians 6:17; Hebrew 4:12	He used God's work to penetrate the whole being of people	
G.	How do I know the Holy Spirit is working to open the heart of a lost person to the gospel? As you share the plan of salvation, you will receive verbal responses which indicate the person wants to hear more or does not want to hear more?		
	#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
	1.	Acts 2:37,38	The question of the people in v. 37 showed Peter that the Holy Spirit had prepared their heart.
	2.	Acts 8:26-39	The requests for guidance in vv. 31, 34 and the request for baptism in v. 36 showed Phillip that the Holy Spirit had prepared the Ethiopian's heart.
	3.	Acts 16:29-31	The Philippian jailor's question and body language showed Paul and Silas that the Holy Spirit had prepared his heart.

PART EIGHT: In the present age the Holy Spirit does the following for all believers the moment that they trust Christ as Savior

A. Ministries the Holy Spirit does for the individual believer:

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	John 3:3-7; 6:63; Titus 3:5	Gives spiritual life or regeneration to the believer which makes him a part of the family of God..
2.	1 Corinthians 12:12,13; Ephesians 1:22,23	Baptizes him into the spiritual body of Christ which is the true church. See special study on "Holy Spirit Baptism" for more detail.
3.	Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 3:26 cp. 4:6	Indwells the physical body of the believer making it a temple.
4.	Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30	Seals him as God's mark of ownership for the time when Christ returns.
5.	1 Corinthians 6:11	Justifies and positionally sanctifies him.
6.	1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7	Gives at least one spiritual gift.
7.	John 14:16; Ephesians 4:30	Never leaves the believer
8.	Ephesians 2:18	Gives access to the Father through Christ

B. Ministries the Holy Spirit does for believers, collectively or as a group.

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	1 Corinthians 3:16	He indwells the local church making it a temple of God. This refers to the believers as a group not the building.
2.	Ephesians 2:21,22	He indwells the true church consisting of all believers as a group.

PART NINE: The Holy Spirit's ministries during the present age in the believer's life following salvation:

A. Some basic ministries of the Holy Spirit in our lives

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	John 15:26; 16:14	The Holy Spirit works in the believer to glorify and testify of Christ not Himself.
2.	John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:12	Teaching the believer and helping him to understand God's word.
3.	Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18	Guiding or leading the believer
4.	Romans 8:16	Assuring the believer that he is a child of God.
5.	Romans 8:26,27	Praying or interceding for the believer when he does not know what to pray for.
6.	2 Corinthians 3:18	To progressively sanctify the believer to make him more like Christ.

B. Galatians 5:16 - The believer is commanded to walk or live by the Holy Spirit, i.e. to live under His control and enablement so that a Christlike character called "the fruit of the Spirit is produced (Galatians 5:22,23).

- Meaning of walking or living by the Spirit:

#	Scripture Reference	Teaching
1.	Galatians 5:25	Our spiritual life was imparted by the Holy Spirit, so we are to walk or keep in step with Him on an ongoing basis.
2.	Galatians 3:1-5	We began our spiritual life by hearing God's word and trusting Christ. As a result we received the Holy Spirit. We are to continue our spiritual life by hearing God's word and trusting Christ so the Holy Spirit can work in us.
3.	Colossians 2:6 cp. Galatians 2:20	This makes it clear that just as we received Christ by faith, so we are to walk or live our lives by faith in Christ.

C. Ephesians 5:18 - The believer is commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is used in contrast with being drunk with wine. the idea appears to be that of control.

1. The results of the filling of the Holy Spirit:

Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching
a.	Ephesians 5:19	Outward expression of praise and inward worship.
b.	Ephesians 5:20	Being thankful for all things - good or bad.
c.	Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9	By submitting to other believers who are in authority over us or who are under our authority.
(1)	Ephesians 5:22,24,33	Wives are to submit to and respect their husbands.
(2)	Ephesians 5:25,28,29,33	Husbands are to love their wives in the same self-sacrificing way that Christ loved the church and as their own bodies and to provide for her and treat her with tenderness and concern
(3)	Ephesians 6:1-3	Children are to obey and honor their parents
(4)	Ephesians 6:4	Parents are not to provoke their children to anger but to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
(5)	Ephesians 6:5-8	In the workplace subordinates are to obey their bosses with an eagerness to please and sincere hearts, not just when they are watching but from a whole heart just as though Christ were their boss.
(6)	Ephesians 6:9	In the workplace bosses need to show those same characteristics as required of their subordinates and to avoid being threatening or intimidating since Christ is the real boss.
Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching
d.	Acts 2:4,11	Speaking of God's wonders in other languages.
e.	Acts 4:8-12	Speaking the gospel
f.	Acts 4:31	Speaking God's word with boldness
g.	Acts 6:3	Qualification for service as a deacon
h.	Acts 7:55	Enabled testimony of seeing heaven opened, God's glory and Christ at His right hand.
i.	Acts 9:17-20	Enabled Paul to testify of Christ
j.	Acts 11:23,24	Encourage believers and evangelize lost.
k.	Acts 13:9 cp. 13:7,8,9-12	To refute occult worker's efforts to hinder the gospel.

2. How the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit

Ltr.	Scripture Reference	Teaching
a.	Romans 12:1,2	Surrendered life
b.	1 John 1:9	No unconfessed sin
c.	Galatians 5:16,25 cp. 2:20; 3:1-3; Colossians 2:6	Walking or living our life by the Holy Spirit which is to trust Christ for the power and direction to live the Christian life.

3. Contrasts of the filling of the Holy Spirit with the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Ltr.	Holy Spirit Baptism	Holy Spirit Filling
a.	Happens once 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5 – occurs only once at a point of time – Greek aorist verb tense.	Happens repeatedly Ephesians 5:18 – Greek verb tense is present tense command which tells the believer to keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit
b.	Not commanded to seek it.	Commanded to be filled
c.	True of all believers 1 Corinthians 12:13	Not true of all believers
d.	Cannot be undone No scriptural passage telling us of someone being upbaptized by the Spirit	Can be undone Peter was filled with the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and was later filled again in Acts 4:8
e.	Received by initial faith in Christ at salvation 1 Corinthians 12:13 cp. Colossians 2:12	Received by yieldedness and ongoing faith in Christ See Part Nine, item C, number 2
f.	Did not occur before Pentecost Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5	Did occur before Pentecost Exodus 31:3; 35:31; Luke 1:41,67
g.	Places the believer in Christ and His spiritual body 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26,27	Empowers the believer for service, sharing the gospel and godly living See Part Nine, item C, number 1

PART TEN: Sins against the Holy Spirit

A. Sins by believers against the Holy Spirit

#	Scripture References	Teaching
1.	1 Thessalonians 5:19	Quenching the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our own lives or in the lives of other believers
2.	Ephesians 4:30	Grieving the Holy Spirit by sin in our own lives
3.	Acts 5:3	Lying to the Holy Spirit by lying to other believers.
4.	Hebrews 10:29	Insulting the Holy Spirit by regressing to pre-salvation attitudes and actions in trying to relate to God.

B. Sins by unbelievers against the Holy Spirit

#	Scripture References	Teaching
1.	Acts 7:51	Resisting the Holy Spirit
2.	Matthew 12:31,32 cp. Mark 3:28-30 cp. Matthew 12:24-30	Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This sin is defined by the presence of both of these points:
a.	This sin is committed by those who saw Jesus' miracles and claims or who sincerely studied them in scripture.	
b.	They sincerely persist in believing and saying that Satan empowered Jesus' miracles instead of the Holy Spirit.	

PART ELEVEN: The Holy Spirit and Future Things

Ltr.	Scripture References	Teaching
A.	2 Thessalonians 2:6,7	When church age believers are raptured, the Holy Spirit's ministry which began in a special way at Pentecost will become like His ministry prior to Pentecost.
B.	Zechariah 12:10; Joel 2:28-32; Ezekiel 39:29	The Holy Spirit will be poured out on the whole house of Israel at the end of the future 7 year tribulation when Jesus Christ returns to earth to reign as king.
C.	Jeremiah 31:33; Isaiah 11:2,3	During Jesus' 1000 year kingdom, the Holy Spirit will be in God's people and upon Jesus the King.

PART TWELVE: Problem Passages on the Holy Spirit

- A. There are passages where the Holy Spirit is received after salvation rather than at the time of salvation. In all of these cases there are some definite elements that appear to be present: These include the presence of at least one Apostle, the laying on of hands and the people who receive the Holy Spirit are Jewish or part Jewish.

#	Scripture References	Presence of Apostles	Laying on of hands by Apostles	Jewish or part Jewish People	Teaching
1.	Acts 8:12-18	vv.17,18 Peter and John	vv. 17,18 yes by Peter and John	v. 14 people of Samaria were part Jewish	Although Phillip had the hands of the Apostles laid on him in Acts 6:5,6, he had to wait until Peter and John came for them to lay on hands and impart the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans
2.	Acts 19:1-7	vv. 1,2 Paul	v. 6 yes by Paul	Probably	These men were probably Jews because Acts 13:24 tells us John's preaching was directed to Israel. Also Acts 19:8 speaks of a synagogue at Ephesus.
3.	2 Timothy 1:6,7	vv. 6,7 Paul	vv. 6,7 yes by Paul	Acts 16:1 yes part Jewish	Timothy was given the Holy Spirit who gives us love, power and a sound mind.
4.	Acts 2:38	Acts 1:13,14; 2:1- all of the Apostles	It is not stated one way or another	Jewish audience	Acts 2:5,39 tells us that the audience were all Jews

Special Note: In the case of Cornelius and his household, who were Gentiles, the Holy Spirit was given at the time of faith in Christ (Acts 10:44-48; 11:14-18). Since 1 Corinthians 12:13 shows that all believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit, it is logical to conclude that this occurs at salvation. Since Romans 8:9 shows that anyone who does not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not a true believer, then we know that the Holy Spirit must be given at the moment of trusting Christ (Galatians 3:26;4:6). Given the fact that the spiritual gift of Apostle was either primarily or exclusively foundational (Ephesians 2:20), this argues for the passages in the table above being foundational and transitional.

B. Acts 5:32 – What type of obedience is needed to receive the Holy Spirit?

Special Note: The obedience discussed here is not day-by-day obedience but is obedience to the message in Acts 5:31 which was to repent, i.e. change their minds and trust Christ for salvation. Acts 6:7 also suggests that this obedience is to the faith of the gospel. Romans 10:16 which is correctly translated by the K.J.V. and N.K.J.V. as “obeyed the gospel” shows that this obedience is to believe” our report” or “our message.” Peter is the primary spokesman in Acts 5:29-32 and uses the term “obey” or “obedience” as meaning the same as obeying the gospel, i.e. to place one’s faith in Christ. The table below shows how many times Peter does this throughout the book of 1 Peter.

#	Scripture References	Teaching
1.	1 Peter 1:2	The Holy Spirit sets the believer apart prior to salvation so that he can obey, i.e. place his faith in Christ and be sprinkled with Christ’s blood.
2.	1 Peter 1:22	Believers have purified or cleansed themselves by obeying the truth for a sincere love of fellow-believers. This obedience is placing their faith in Christ and results in love for fellow-believers (cp. 1 John 3:14). 1 Peter 1:23 shows this is the obedience of faith that brings initial salvation.
3.	1 Peter 2:7,8	The disobedience to the word in v. 8 is applied to those who do not believe in Christ for salvation
4.	1 Peter 3:1,2	Those who do not obey the word are obviously those who have not trusted Christ. The N.I.V. went ahead and just translated it as “not believe” for meaning rather than word equivalence.
5.	1 Peter 4:17,18	The household or family of God and the righteous are contrasted with those who “do not obey the gospel” which obviously means to not believe the gospel.

C. John 20:22 – To understand this verse and this scene, one must understand the Holy Spirit’s ministry prior to Pentecost and during Christ’s earthly ministry.

#	Scripture References	Teaching
1.	1 Samuel 16:13,14; Psalm 51:11	During the Old Testament times prior to Christ’s earthly ministry, the Holy Spirit could and did leave believers.
2.	Luke 11:13	During Christ’s earthly ministry but prior to Pentecost in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit could be requested by prayer.
3.	John 14:16,17	Evidently the disciples had taken Jesus at His word in Luke 11:13 because the Holy Spirit was said to be “with them” at this point during Christ’s earthly ministry. John 14:16,17 makes it clear that the Holy Spirit staying forever would not be true until Jesus asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit which would not be until Jesus had gone away, i.e. ascended. Then He would give Him at Pentecost.
4.	John 20:22	Jesus breathed on His disciples and told them to receive the Holy Spirit. This statement shows that He must have departed in keeping with item 1 above when the disciples deserted Jesus. By doing this, Jesus was showing that He had forgiven them and restored them for their desertion of Him on the night before His crucifixion.
5.	Acts 1:5; John 14;16,17; 16:7	It is clear that the disciples were still to receive the Holy Spirit in a way that they had not done up to the time just before He ascended into heaven. This, of course, referred to His baptizing work and His permanent indwelling of each believer

D. The anointing of the Holy Spirit

#	Scripture References	Teaching
1.	2 Corinthians 1:21,22	The anointing of the Holy Spirit is associated with the sealing of the Holy Spirit.
2.	Ephesians 1:13,14	The sealing of the Holy Spirit takes place at the moment we trust Christ. Therefore, since the two ministries of the Spirit are associated, they appear to occur at the same time.
3.	1 John 2:20	Those who have this anointing are obviously believers since they are in contrast to those in 2:19 who had proven not to be believers.
4.	2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:27	The aorist tense is used for the verbs “anointed” and “received” and shows that the giving of the anointing is a one-time act and not a repeated act.
5.	1 John 2:27	The present tense of the word “abides” or “remains” shows that the Holy Spirit in His anointing continues to be with the believer.
6.	1 Corinthians 6:11	Because the anointing was used throughout scripture to set apart people for special service, this would appear to refer to the positional sanctification that each believer experiences at the moment he trusts Christ for salvation.