

Huddle

*The Third Person - Who?
October 27, 2013*

What was your earliest exposure to the Holy Spirit?

Last week, Pastor Phil talked about the Presence of the Holy Spirit and how important His Presence is in our lives. This week, he turns our attention to who the Holy Spirit is and why we must have a relationship with Him.

John 14:15-26 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He** may abide with you forever — 17 the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but **you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you**. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ... 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him**. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the **Father's** who sent Me. 25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the **Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you**. NKJV

So, who is the Holy Spirit? A.W. Tozer said "Spell this out in capital letters: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON." Jesus constantly and consistently refers to the Holy Spirit as "He".

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send **Him** to you. 8 And when **He** has come, **He** will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. NKJV

John 16:13 However, when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He** will guide you into all truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own authority, but whatever **He** hears **He** will speak; and **He** will tell you things to come. 14 **He** will glorify Me, for **He** will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that **He** will take of Mine and declare it to you. NKJV

The Bible teaches the Holy Spirit is God. (Acts 5:3,4). The Holy Spirit is not a power, a force, or an energy; He is a person. As a person, He has feelings (Ephesians 4:30), a mind of infinite knowledge (Romans 8:26, 27) and a will. He speaks to us. (Acts 13:2; John 16:13).

How could you do more to recognize the Holy Spirit as a person who desires to speak with you?

The Holy Spirit has all the qualities of a person. He has a mind (knowledge), emotions (feelings), and will (choices / plans). He has come as your personal Helper, always sharing what the Father is thinking and Jesus is saying.

Describe a time when you have reaped one of these benefits of having a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

In a February 2010 study, the Barna Research Group found younger generation of Christians who "have been filled with the Holy Spirit" and God had given them at least one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as tongues, prophecy, or healing, were more open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The study also found 68% of Mosaics (ages 18-25) believe the Third Person of the Trinity (the Holy Spirit) is just "a symbol of God's power or presence, but is not a living entity. In addition, only 38% of Mosaics stated they "consistently allow their lives to be guided by the Holy Spirit".

Mosaic and Buster Christians, who are 18-44, are more likely to believe "the charismatic gifts, such as tongues and healing, are active and valid today" but they are also more likely to believe the Holy Spirit is merely symbolic.

What is your response to this research and why?

Let's Get Real!

Pastor Phil gave us a simple picture of the Tri-Unity of God. The Trinity is not three Gods in one, remember scripture states the Lord is one God.

In the Old Testament there are plural names for God and plural pronouns. The names Elohim and Adonai are plurals but when Elohim is used of the True God, it is a singular form of the verb.

Genesis 1:15 "...Let US make man in OUR image.."

Isaiah 6:8 "Whom shall I send and who will go for US?"

Matt 3:16 When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a **voice** came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." NKJV

The Holy Spirit is both the only God and a distinctive Person. One God in three persons is the mystery of the divine Trinity.

What has most helped you to understand this mystery?

When it comes to creation, Wayne Benson says the Father thought it, the Son spoke it, and the Spirit did it. The Holy Spirit brings us to the Father. God does not send us to fight alone. The Holy Spirit is to comfort, to teach, and to aid.

Walk it Out

How do you want your relationship with the person, Holy Spirit, to improve?