



**Let's Dig Deeper**

**Survey of Bible Doctrine**

**The Holy Spirit**

**A Self-Directed Study Guide**



**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2.15)**

## How to use this study guide

Substrate academic material has been provided for you to read. Look up each of the scriptures cited in parentheses and underlined and make sure you understand why the authors have chosen those scriptures to teach the truth they apply to.

When you reach the end of each section, try to answer the questions to see how well you have understood the material and then check your answer against those provided at the end of the study in the Answers To Comprehension Questions section (pages 10-14).

If you have any trouble understanding any of the questions and answers, you are very welcome to contact me to discuss them.

Luke tells us in the Book of Acts that the Jews who were in Berea were more noble than those in Thessalonica because they *“received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* (Acts 17.11) We at Haddon Church of Christ would do well to emulate the example of the people of first century Berea. Enjoy digging a little deeper into the scriptures today. I trust you will find great blessing from the Lord in doing so.

Pastor Neil

## Substrate Study Material

The substrate academic material for this study guide has been extracted from works by the following Christian authors;

**Sid Litke** is a 1984 graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and holds a Master of Theology degree. He is currently the senior Pastor at the Open Door Bible Church in Port Washington in the State of Wisconsin (United States). He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grace University which is situated in Omaha in the Midwest state of Nebraska

**Dr Elmer Towns** is the co-founder of Liberty University, the largest private, non-profit university in the world. He is also a prominent Christian author and speaker on the principles of church growth, church leadership, Christian education, Sunday School, and prayer and fasting. He has authored over 170 books, 8 of which are listed on the Christian Booksellers Association Best Selling List. In 1995, he received the Gold Medallion Award from the Evangelical Christian Booksellers Association for Book of the Year in Biblical Study, *“The Names of the Holy Spirit.”* Most recently Towns served as Dean of the B. R. Lakin School of Religion, Dean of Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary and Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Liberty University

## Section I. The “personhood” of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a personal being just as the Father and the Son. The Spirit is not an impersonal “it” or simply an influence.

A. The Spirit has personal characteristics.

1. He has intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-11).
2. He has emotions (Eph. 4:30 – “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit”).
3. He has will (1 Cor. 12:11).

B. The Spirit acts in personal ways.

1. He teaches us (John 14:26).
2. He commands (Acts 8:29).
3. He intercedes for us in prayer (Rom. 8:26).

C. The Spirit is described in personal terms grammatically. The Greek word for Spirit (*pneuma*) is neuter in gender, yet the Bible uses masculine pronouns (“He,” “Him”) to refer to the Spirit (John 16:13-14; 15:26; 16:7-8). To be grammatically correct, personal neuter pronouns (“it”) would be expected.

### Comprehension Questions

1. What three characteristics define personhood?
2. What is the basis upon which the Holy Spirit is referred to as “it” in some versions of the scriptures?
3. A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. On what basis can we translate “it” as “He” and remain true to the Word of God as it is written in the original languages?

4. See if you can fill in the following chart. Look up each scripture and record what act of the Holy Spirit it describes

John 14.26	
John 15.26	
Romans 8.14	
I Corinthians 2.13	
John 16.13	
Genesis 6.3	
Acts 8.28	
Romans 8.26	
Acts 13.4	
Revelation 22.17	
John 16.7	
I Corinthians 12.11	

## Section II. The deity of the Holy Spirit

A. He has the names and titles of deity.

1. Yahweh – What the Lord (Yahweh) said in Is. 6:8-13 is ascribed to the Holy Spirit in Acts 28:25.
2. Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9, 14; 1 Cor. 2:11; 12:3; Eph. 4:30)

B. He possesses incommunicable attributes.

1. Self-existence (Rom. 8:2)
2. Omnipresence (Ps. 139:7 ff)

C. He performs incommunicable works (no one but God can do them).

1. Creation (Gen. 1:2)
2. Resurrection (Rom. 8:11)

D. He is equated with deity.

1. Acts 5:3, 4 – a lie to Spirit equals a lie to God
2. 2 Cor. 3:17, 18 – “The Lord is the Spirit”

## Comprehension Questions

1. What are two names of Deity that are ascribed to the Holy Spirit?

2. How is omnipresence defined in Psalm 139.7?
  
3. What was the sin committed by Ananias and Sapphira that caused God to immediately take their lives (Acts 5.3-4)

### **Section III. The Holy Spirit's role prior to the Church Age**

- A. He took part in creation (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30).
- B. He guided and protected Israel (Isaiah 63:10-14).
- C. He spoke through prophets to produce Scripture (1 Peter 1:11; 2 Peter 1:20, 21).
- D. He selectively and conditionally indwelt certain people in the Old Testament (Joseph – Gen. 41:38; Joshua – Num. 27:18; Saul – 1 Sam. 10:9,10; David – 1 Sam. 16:13 etc.). The Spirit's indwelling was specifically related to enabling someone to do a particular task. The Holy Spirit could cease to indwell a person because of their disobedience. The Spirit left Saul (1 Sam. 16:14). When David sinned he pled that the Spirit not be taken from him (Psalm 51:11).
- E. He was the empowering Agent in Christ's earthly life.
  1. He was the Agent of Christ's virgin birth (Luke 1:35).
  2. He empowered Christ's ministry (Matt. 12:28; Luke 4:1,18).
  3. He was the Agent of Christ's resurrection (Rom. 1:4; 8:11).

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. How was the Holy Spirit involved in the creation of scripture?
2. What role did the Holy Spirit play in the birth of Christ?
3. What role did the Holy Spirit play in the Old Testament in relation to the nation of Israel?
4. A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. Why was it that the Holy Spirit could and was removed from the lives of believers in the Old Testament, but is permanent in church age believers?

#### **Section IV. The Holy Spirit's role in the Church Age**

A. He is central in salvation (How people are saved).

1. He directs and enables evangelistic efforts (Philip/Ethiopian – Acts 8:26,29; Great Commission – Acts 1:8).

2. He convicts the unbeliever of sin (John 16:8-11).

3. He regenerates (saves) the person.

a. He cleanses the person from sin and gives them the new nature (Titus 3:5).

b. As He performs this spiritual “new birth,” the person enters “the kingdom of God” (=eternal life – John 3:3-7, 16).

4. He seals (eternally secures) the person. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the “seal” or guarantee that a person is saved and will remain saved (Eph. 1:13).

5. He baptizes (places) the person into the body of Christ.

a. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- It is the Spirit's work of uniting us with Christ – spiritually identifying us with Christ's death, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5).

- It is the Spirit's work of incorporating us into the universal church (=the “body of Christ” – all church age believers – 1 Cor. 12:13).

b. When is the baptism of the Spirit?

- In each believer it occurs once and for all at their conversion (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-28).

- In history it is limited to church age believers (predicted – Acts 1:5; accomplished – 1 Cor. 12:13).

- Note: Exceptions – On the Day of Pentecost when the church age began, both new and existing believers were baptized by the Spirit (Acts 1:5; 11:15,16). Also in 2 other cases in the early church it seems the Spirit was not given to believers until an apostle was present (Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-6).

B. He is central in sanctification (How saved people grow).

1. He indwells believers.

a. The Spirit indwells all believers in this age (Rom. 5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19). (unlike the Old Testament where the Spirit indwelt some)

b. The Spirit indwells believers permanently in this age (John 14:16). (unlike the Old Testament where the Spirit could depart)

c. The Spirit's indwelling is the basis for His other ministries in believer's lives. (He teaches/illuminates us about scripture – John 16:13; He aids in prayer – Rom. 8:26; He assures us of our salvation – Rom. 8:16; He enables us to grow – see “filling” below – Eph. 5:18).

2. He “fills” believers.

- The “filling of the Spirit” describes the crucial work of God enabling the believer to live a transformed life. The only way we grow spiritually is by the empowering work of God (1 Peter 1:3). It is specifically the ministry of the Holy Spirit that gives a Christian the capability of change and growth in righteousness (by the Spirit... – putting to death the deeds of the body” – Rom. 8:13; the fruit of the Spirit...” – Gal. 5:22, 23).

- Spiritual growth is an issue of control. We are either controlled by our self-centered flesh or by the Holy Spirit who indwells us (Rom. 8:4-11; Gal. 5:16, 17). Ephesians 5:18 describes this controlling/empowering ministry of Spirit as the “filling” of the Spirit. “Filling” is a metaphor (picture) of control. We can be filled/controlled by fleshly desires (like alcohol) or be filled/controlled by the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

- Although it's the Spirit's power that is at work, the believer must choose to be controlled/empowered by the Spirit. It is a command to “Be filled” and likewise to “Walk in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16). The Spirit's presence is permanent (indwelling) but we must repeatedly choose to yield to God to experience the Spirit's transforming power to change and grow us (filling). In actual experience, “walking in the Spirit” or “being filled with the Spirit” means living the Christian life (facing temptations, making decisions, etc.) with a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit. He is the one who enable us – producing godly “fruits” (Gal. 5:22, 23).

3. He gives spiritual gifts to believers.

a. Where do I find out about spiritual gifts? Four key passages describe spiritual gifts: Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10,11.

b. What are spiritual gifts?

1) Definition: Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to serve. The Greek word for spiritual gift (charisma) is a form of the word “grace.” So these special abilities are privileges. God graciously enables all believers to serve in spiritual ministry.

2) Spiritual gifts are **not** particular positions. Youth ministry leader or nursery worker are not gifts although those ministries definitely can put to use spiritual gifts such as teaching, serving, etc.

3) Spiritual gifts are **not** the same as natural talent (music ability or mechanical aptitude, etc.) although God may often give spiritual gifts that make use of natural abilities. A musician may have the gift of encouragement. An experienced school teacher may have the gift of teaching, etc.

c. How do we get spiritual gifts?

1) The Giver – The Holy Spirit in particular imparts these special abilities (1 Cor. 12:7-11). But it is also accurate to say that they are “Christ's gifts” to the church (Eph. 4:7, 8, 10).

2) The Time – We receive spiritual gifts when we trust Christ as Savior. That's when we received the Spirit; that's when we became part of the body of Christ.

3) The Recipients – Each believer has at least one but perhaps several gifts.

d. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

- 1) Spiritual gifts accomplish spiritual ministry that God desires.
- 2) Spiritual gifts equip others to minister (Eph. 4:12).
- 3) Spiritual gifts glorify God (1 Pet. 4:11).

e. What are the different spiritual gifts?

1) Some of the gifts listed seem to have been temporary, serving to establish the early church and to verify the gospel to people as Christianity began (Eph. 2:20; Heb. 2:3, 4 – See supplement “The Charismatic Question” for more detail.). The temporary sign gifts included apostleship, healing, miracle-working, tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc. Also temporary were the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and prophecy – by which God gave direct revelation to man. These gifts were needed before the New Testament was complete. They were also seemingly the gifts needed to write the New Testament.

2) Gifts that doubtless exist today include teaching, helps (serving), giving, administration (leadership), showing mercy, evangelism, pastor-teacher (shepherding) and exhortation. These gifts are crucial to the ongoing function of the church throughout this age.

f. How do we discover and use our spiritual gift(s)?

1) We should concentrate on meeting needs, not pin-pointing our gifts. Ministry experience may expose unused gifts.

2) We should allow the advice of other mature Christians to guide us into areas of service for which we are suited and away from areas for which we are not.

3) We should not use spiritual gifts as an excuse to avoid certain ministries. Christians are **universally** told to do some types of ministry (Show mercy – James 2:13; 3:17; Evangelize – Acts 1:8; Exhort one another – Heb. 3:13; 10:25; Give – 2 Cor. 8:7) which are also the **specific** spiritual gifts of some Christians (Mercy – Rom. 12:8; Evangelist – Eph. 4:11; Exhortation – Rom. 12:8; Giving – Rom. 12:8).

4) We must realize that spiritual gifts do not benefit others automatically.

- We must obediently put our gift(s) to use. No one benefits if we don't use them (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Pet. 4:10 & 11).

- We must be diligent to become effective in using our gift (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6, 7).

- We must use our gifts with proper attitudes (Rom. 12:8; 1 Pet. 4:11) and at appropriate times and places (1 Cor. 14:9-12, 22, 23, 40). Otherwise they can be worthless or even harmful to God's purposes.

### Comprehension Questions

1. How would you describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit to unbelievers in today's world?
2. What does it mean for a believer to be “sealed” by the Holy Spirit?



3. How is being filled with the Holy Spirit different from being baptised by the Holy Spirit?
4. What is the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural talent?
5. A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. How does meeting needs within the church expose spiritual gifts?

### **Section V. The Holy Spirit's role in the End Times**

#### **A. In the 7-year Tribulation Period**

1. In unbelievers – The Holy Spirit will be instrumental in the salvation of Israelites at the close of the tribulation (Zech. 12:10).
2. In believers – The Holy Spirit will provide special enablement for spiritual tasks as in Old Testament times (Acts 2:17-21).

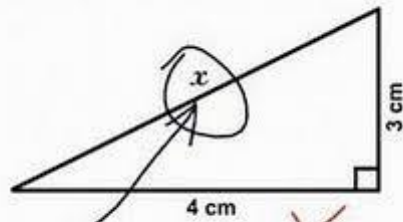
#### **B. In the Millennium**

1. In believers – The Holy Spirit will enable believing Israelites to live righteously (Ezek. 36:27).
2. In Christ – The Holy Spirit will be active in Christ's righteous rule (Isa. 11:2).

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What does Zechariah 12.10 teach us about the activity of the Holy Spirit during the final stages of the tribulation period?
2. How will the Holy Spirit be interacting with believing Israelites during the millennial reign of Christ?
3. A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. Read 2 Thessalonians 2.7. What is Paul telling us here about the sin restraining influence of the Holy Spirit in the world? You would do well to read the entire chapter to get the sense of it.

3. Find  $x$ .



Here it is ~~X~~ 0

**Answers**

**To**

**Comprehension Questions**

## Section I

Q: What three characteristics define personhood?

Ans: Intellect, emotion and will

Q: What is the basis upon which the Holy Spirit is referred to as "it" in some versions of the scriptures?

Ans: The Greek word for Spirit is pneuma and is found with neutral gender in the New Testament, making the translation a thing, an object, but not a person. In some versions the translation is the strictly correct "it"

Q: A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. On what basis can we translate "it" as "He" and remain true to the Word of God as it is written in the original languages?

Ans: The Holy Spirit is a person, evidenced by the possession of intellect, emotion and will. As a person, it is entirely reasonable to translate pneuma in the masculine and refer to the Holy Spirit as "He." This translation protocol is further validated by the fact He is co-equal with the Father and the Son in the Trinity, the Father and the Son both being referred to in the masculine gender

Q: See if you can fill in the following chart. Look up each scripture and record what act of the Holy Spirit it describes

Ans:

John 14.26	He teaches
John 15.26	He testifies
Romans 8.14	He guides
I Corinthians 2.13	He speaks
John 16.13	He enlightens
Genesis 6.3	He strives
Acts 8.28	He commands
Romans 8.26	He intercedes
Acts 13.4	He sends workers
Revelation 22.17	He calls
John 16.7	He comforts
I Corinthians 12.11	He works

## Section II

Q: What are two names of Deity that are ascribed to the Holy Spirit?

Ans: Yahweh (YHWH) and Spirit of God

Q: How is omnipresence defined in Psalm 139.7?

Ans: The Psalmist asks "*Where can I go from Your presence*" and then goes on to give the answer – nowhere. Everywhere he goes the Holy Spirit is there.

Q: What was the sin committed by Ananias and Sapphira that caused God to immediately take their lives (Acts 5.3-4)

Ans: They conspired to lie together to the Apostle Peter who was filled with the Holy Spirit, about the price of the land they sold, claiming to be giving the sale price in total while in fact withholding some for themselves

## Section III

Q: How was the Holy Spirit involved in the creation of scripture?

Ans: He spoke through the Prophets

Q: What role did the Holy Spirit play in the birth of Christ?

Ans: He was the agent of Mary's immaculate conception

Q: What role did the Holy Spirit play in the Old Testament in relation to the nation of Israel?

Ans: He guided and protected them

Q: A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. Why was it that the Holy Spirit could and was removed from the lives of believers in the Old Testament, but is permanent in church age believers?

Ans: Because before Christ's once and for all sacrifice for sin, the sin of believers was not forgiven but covered. The Holy Spirit came to empower men and women in the Old Testament but couldn't stay because of sin. Since the death of Christ, sin is completely forgiven and removed, so the Holy Spirit can stay permanently

## Section IV

Q: How would you describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit to unbelievers in today's world?

Ans: He convicts the unbeliever of sin (John 16:8-11).

Q: What does it mean for a believer to be "sealed" by the Holy Spirit?

Ans: It is a legal condition in which the Holy Spirit Himself becomes the down payment for our eternal inheritance

Q: How is being filled with the Holy Spirit different from being baptised by the Holy Spirit?

Ans: To be baptised by the Holy Spirit is to be placed into the body of Christ. Something that happens once at the point at which we surrender our lives to Christ and become converted. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is something that happens over and over again and is the result of yielding control of your life at any given moment to Him.

Q: What is the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural talent?

Ans: A true spiritual gift is something that is given to you by the Holy Spirit. There are a limited number of spiritual gifts and they are identified in the scripture in the following passages;

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; and 1 Corinthians 12:28

A natural talent on the other hand is something seen in believers and unbelievers alike and is linked to both the genetic makeup of each individual and the manner in which their respective brains function under certain conditions. Natural talent in any field is wonderful to observe, but those talents are not distributed by the Holy Spirit at salvation as are the spiritual gifts

Q: A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. How does meeting needs within the church expose spiritual gifts?

Ans: This is a question I would like you to speak to your Pastor about.

## Section V

Q: What does Zechariah 12.10 teach us about the activity of the Holy Spirit during the final stages of the tribulation period?

Ans: He will be instrumental in the salvation of Israelites at the close of the tribulation

Q: How will the Holy Spirit be interacting with believing Israelites during the millennial reign of Christ?

Ans: He will be enabling believing Israelites to live righteously

Q: A deeper thinking question if you are up for it. Read 2 Thessalonians 2.7. What is Paul telling us here about the sin restraining influence of the Holy Spirit in the world? You would do well to read the entire chapter to get the sense of it.

Ans: He is telling us that before the "Day of Christ" there will come a falling away (driven by Satan) first and this will happen as a result of the sin constraining influence of the Holy Spirit being removed from the world.