



**Bringing
the
HOLY SPIRIT
into focus**

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Introduction:

Write down a prayer or a note, asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand more of who He is today:

3 TRUTHS

1. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.

2. The Holy Spirit is fully given once Jesus is glorified

- *John 16v7: 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 go, I will send him to you.*
- This was always the plan....
- *John 7v39: Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

3. Because 1. and 2. are true.... The Holy Spirit is the same in the Old Testament as He is in the New Testament

- God cannot change from one testament to the next - he is constant, unchanging for all time.
- BUT the completing of the new covenant through Jesus' death and resurrection and ascension, [His glorification] means that **our experience** of the Holy Spirit has completely changed!

Any thoughts or questions I want to make a note of now:

4 POINTS

1. Old Testament - pre Jesus: What is the Holy Spirit's role?

- “..the Holy Spirit's work is to complete and sustain what the Father has planned and what God the Son has begun”. W Grudem, Systematic Theology. pg635
- **Abundant Blessing** The HS will bring abundant blessings - this is predicted in OT even if not seen (Isa. 32v14-18)
 - Gives Life (Gen 1, 2, Ps 104v30, Ez 37 dry bones).
 - Gives Power for Service
 - eg Joshua, Saul and David
 - eg Skill acquisition Ex 31v3 and 35v31
 - eg of Holy Spirit being in midst of people to protect them
 - Gives Revelation
 - as in Numbers 11v25-26.
- **Removed Blessing:** But by contrast the departure of the HS removed blessing of God from a people
 - Samson - Judges 13 v25, 14 v6,19, 15 v14, then Judges 16 v20
 - Saul - Spirit (1Samuel 16 v14)
 - Israel - (Isa 63 v10)

2. Old Testament - pre Jesus: The sacrificial system

- Over to you: Look at Hebrews 9v1 mainly 6-10
 - See if you can find where it says that:
 - There was NO END to the sacrifices...
 - There was STILL SEPARATION between the people and God
 - There was NO FIX for their sin.

3. Old Testament - pre Jesus: The promised Spirit

- AN END OF THE BLOOD
- RELATIONSHIP RESTORED
- A FIX FOR OUR HEARTS
- Joel 2v 28-29
- Ezekiel 36v26-28, 37v14
- Jeremiah 31v31-34 especially v33
- Psalm 51 v16-17

*“For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise”.*

4. New Covenant - post Jesus: The given Spirit

- Over to you: Read Hebrews 10v1-23 and look out for:
 - END OF THE BLOOD: Jesus’ blood ‘once for all’.v10, v18
 - RELATIONSHIP RESTORED between us and God: v22
 - A FIX FOR OUR HEARTS: v14 and v22
- Consider:
 - What is shadow vs what is real?
 - What is Jesus doing now - what is the significance of that?
 - What is the Holy Spirit doing now - what is the significance of that?

5 APPLICATIONS

1. Whoever.... Everyone... All...

- *John 3v36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

- Have you believed in the Son?
- What does this 'whoever' truth mean for how you talk to those around you?

2. Thank the Holy Spirit for opening our eyes

- If you believe in Jesus's name - praise the HS for his work on your heart.
- Pray now for the Holy Spirit to be at work on the hearts of those we know who do not yet believe

3. Access all areas

- We can cry Abba, Father..... no separation.... Gal 4v3-7

- How does it make you feel to know you are a son of God - that he looks at you and loves you like he loves Jesus?
- What assurance/security is there in knowing we are sons of God?

4. Never alone

- Matt 28 v20: *I am with you always...*
- John 14v15-18: *I will not leave you as orphans... I will come to you*

- How is Jesus always with us? In what way does he not leave us as orphans?
- Why is the Holy Spirit the same as having Jesus with us?

5. Status in the Trinity

As we leave:

Hebrews 4:v16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

How does what I have heard today

- challenge me?
- make me feel?
- comfort me?

Have I allowed the Holy Spirit to change me?

**Have I let my heart be confronted by the Word
as I read and see Jesus in the Bible?**

Any Action steps for me to take...?

Books:

- **The Coming of the Holy Spirit, P Jensen, Matthias Media, 2022.**
- **Old Paths, JC Ryle, the Banner of Truth Trust, 2016 reprint, Chapter 10 and 11.**