

## **Holy Spirit – A Bible Study**

### **Introduction**

My seminary time included major courses dwelling on the three persons of the Trinity; God the Father (Theology), God the Son (Christology), and God the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology). Not three gods, but three persons (personalities) in one God. It gets a little complicated. There has been considerable ink spilled on these three subjects over the centuries, as well as considerable blood. Not a subject to be taken lightly. We enter into it with fear and trembling.

What I propose to do, Lord willing, is progress towards a basic understanding of who the Holy Spirit is; His attributes, His relationship to the other two personalities, and His function within the Trinity. Given the contentious nature of the subject matter, I expect some disagreements to arise. This is understandable.

My skin is fairly thick, theologically speaking, and I'm willing to learn & grow in my understanding of God's Word. I will try to get it right the first time through. If you have a question, or if you disagree with what I have taught, bring it out for all to see! In doing so, all will benefit from the give and take of the discussion. I hope and pray that you will bear with me, try to get it right the first time through, and learn and grow, too.

Amen?

### **Structure of the Course**

I want to break this up into bite sized pieces that we can take in and digest each week. We'll begin by discussing His attributes, what it is that makes Him unique, and His relationship to the other two Persons of the Godhead. A lot of studies begin by discussing the Biblical authority for calling Him a Person of the Godhead, this seems reasonable. So this is where we will begin.

I will develop an outline overview of the material over the next couple weeks which should aid in understanding where we are going, where we have been. For now, let's leave it at that. Since this is my first time through this material I expect it to change over time. So be it, this is consistent with every other Bible Study I've developed.

### **Major Themes**

We're going to be looking in-depth at the Holy Spirit. Who He is, His attributes, His relationships both with us and with the Godhead, and His function(s). I expect to move as slowly and as methodically as we have time available.

## Course Information - 2

### Questions

You will find a set of questions included in each Bible study, usually the questions indicate the chapter in the book where the answers can be found. Students are encouraged to answer all of the questions. This will give students some practice in finding information in the Bible and some help in learning the material. Here is an example question:

1. How many of each of the *unclean* animals did Noah load up into the ark? (Gen 7)

### Memory Verses

I feel that it is important to memorize as much of the Bible as possible. So each lesson will include a set of memory verses. Maybe we will include prizes for those who memorize the most verses each week. Here is an example:

**Genesis 1:1-3** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (NASB)

### Read Your Bible

The intent of this study is to encourage each student to ***Read Your Bible!*** Most of the material in this study may be read in just a few minutes (**some will take more time, some less**). You're your time, think about what you have read, and why it was included in this study. This can be accomplished each week if you set aside just a few minutes each day.

Please remember, this study is not a substitute for a thorough reading of the Bible. ***Read your Bible!*** Your Bible contains the authoritative, inerrant, infallible and non-contradictory Word of God! Often there is no other source for this information than in your Bible!

Further, if something in this study seems wrong, then it probably is because the author made a mistake! This is another reason to read your Bible, check statements made in this study against that stated in the Bible. ***Read your Bible!***

### Mark's Notes

I have decided to add a "Cliff Notes" style section for each Bible book. In this way, even if you do not get all of the reading done you will at least have a chance to "*catch up*" with your reading. Watch out, though, I'm likely to say some really corny things in my rush to explain things quickly! ☺

### **Class Expectations**

It would be nice if everyone in the class did all of the reading and all of the homework each week. It would be nice if everyone always attended every class, and that no life problems ever got in our way. Dream on.

All that I ask is that you come to each Bible Study class with a teachable spirit. Try to do as much reading and homework as you can. While in class please be willing to listen and learn about the Bible which is God's inspired, inerrant Word!

### **Closing Prayer**

**Lord God**, we freely admit that this Bible Study is not about us, it is about You. So we ask, Lord, that You plant the seed of Your Gospel News within us that it may flourish and bloom, that others may see and wonder. We ask You, Lord, that You nurture this knowledge within us that we may grow in wisdom and maturity in Your Word. We pray that with each passing week You lessen us that You may grow, increase our knowledge that You may be glorified, fill us with Your Spirit of Truth that we may mature. We pray this in the Name of Christ Jesus, amen.