LESSON 15
The Holy Spirit

Read: Acts 2:1-21; John 14:15-17, 26; John 16:5-15; Romans 8:1-17, 26, 27

I. The Person of the Holy Spirit

1. Q. Who is the Holy Spirit?

   A. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is eternal God, and one with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the Guide and Teacher of all God's children.

2. Q. Why did Christ send His Spirit upon His Church?

   A. To work and to dwell in the hearts of His people.

3. What were and are the works of the Holy Spirit? (Genesis 1:2b)

   (a) The Holy Spirit was active in the work of the creation of the universe.

   (b) The Holy Spirit was and is ever active in divine providential care.

   (c) The Holy Spirit applies the redemption accomplished by Christ to the hearts of lost and needy sinners.

Although the precious and majestic Person about whom we study in this lesson is everywhere about us, He is unknown to the majority of mankind. You cannot see Him with the natural eye. You cannot touch Him with your fingers, neither can you hear His voice with your ear; yet He is a real and a wonderful divine Person.

It is necessary for every sinner to know the Holy Spirit and His special grace. We need Him to work and to live in our hearts. Only by His grace can the rich salvation of Christ be applied to our personal needs.

The Holy Spirit is able to convince us of our sins, and He alone can grant us a living faith in the living Christ. In other words, the Holy Spirit unites sinners to Christ.

II. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

1. Q. On which day was the Holy Spirit given to the Church? (Acts 2:1)

   A. On the _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

2. Q. Which word means "fiftieth"?

   A. The word "p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _" means "fiftieth".

Pentecost was the climax of the Feast of Weeks (See Exodus 34:22a; Deuteronomy 16:9, 10) which began on the second day after the Passover, with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God (See Leviticus 23:10, 11, 15, 16).

3. Q. When was the Holy Spirit given to the Church?

   A. The Holy Spirit was given fifty _ _ _ _ after Jesus' resurrection.

4. Q. How many days elapsed between the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost?

   A. _ _ _ days (Compare the above with Acts 1:3).

5. What were the three signs that accompanied the descent of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:2-4)

   (a) the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty _ _ _ _

   (b) the cloven tongues like as of _ _ _ _

   (c) the disciples began to speak in _ _ _ _ _ languages

6. Q. What great blessing did Christ's followers receive? (Acts 2:4a)

   A. Christ's followers were all _ _ _ _ _ _ with the Holy Spirit.

The greatness of the day of Pentecost lies not so much in the supernatural signs – the wind, the fire, and the speaking in other languages; but the glory of this day is the Person and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The signs, however, point to the significance and value of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The audible and visible signs were definitely of a supernatural origin and proved that the great work of this special day was a work of God.

Furthermore, the signs illustrate and explain certain aspects of the nature of the invisible operations of the Spirit in the hearts of the subjects of God's grace.

III. The Divine Personality of the Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit is not just a 'power' or an 'influence', but a Person, even a divine Person.

   As a Person, what does the Holy Spirit do? *Answer with one or two words.*

   He _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Genesis 6:3;

   He l _ _ _ s, Matthew 4:1;

   He _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , John 14:26;

   He _ _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ _ , John 16:13;

   He _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Acts 13:4a;

   He makes _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Romans 8:26;

   He s _ _ _ _ _ _ s, 1 Corinthians 2:10;

   He may be g _ _ _ _ _ d, Ephesians 4:30a.

2. How many times is a personal pronoun used of the Holy Spirit in John 14:17? _ _ _ _ ;

   In John 16:13? _ _ _ _ _ .

3. Q. By what name is the Holy Spirit called in Genesis 1:2?

   A. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

4. Q. To whom did Ananias lie?

   A. The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Acts 5:3); to _ _ _ (Acts 5:4c).

5. Peter's answer implies that the Holy Spirit is _ _ _ .

6. Q. In whose name are believers to be baptized? (Matthew 28:19)

   A. In the name of the _ _ _ _ _ _ , the _ _ _ , and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

7. In 1 John 5:7 we read: "There are _ _ _ _ _ that bear record in heaven, the _ _ _ _ _ _ , the _ _ _ _ , and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ; and these _ _ _ _ _ are one."

8. The two verses above teach us that all _ _ _ _ _ Persons have a distinct personality within the Godhead.

9. What divine attributes does the Holy Spirit possess:

   (a) according to Psalm 139:7? He is omnipresent.

   This means that He is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ in all places at the same time.

   (b) according to Romans 15:19a? He is omnipotent.

   This means He has unlimited _ _ _ _ _ .

   (c) according to Hebrews 9:14? He is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

   This means that He is without beginning or end.

10. Q. Who dwells in the believer? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

    A. The _ _ _ _ _ _ of God.

11. Since the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ dwells in the believer, he is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (1 Corinthians 3:16).

IV. The Three Signs and the Work of the Holy Spirit

The signs that accompanied the outpouring of the Spirit are used in both the Old and the New Testament to illustrate and to explain the truths concerning the Holy Spirit and His saving operations. In Song of Solomon 4:16, Ezekiel 37 and John 3, the Holy Spirit is compared to the wind. This is a striking comparison.

(1) In the realm of nature, life without the wind is unthinkable. And spiritual life without the life-giving power of the Spirit is not possible. This truth may never be neglected. God's children often pray with the Psalmist, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18). If this prayer is necessary for a child of God, how much more is it needed for those who are as yet without the special grace of the Holy Spirit?

(2) The wind may be invisible, but it certainly has great power. When the Holy Spirit enters the human heart, He may not be seen either. However, He produces a powerful and gracious change with precious results.

(3) There is something of a mystery in the wind and its powerful motions. The operations of the Holy Spirit are also mysterious and sovereign. It is only by these gracious workings of the Spirit that sinners sincerely learn to humble themselves before the Lord their God. A true child of God never outgrows his need of the Holy Spirit.

(4) Fire gives light. This is especially appreciated on a dark night. The Holy Spirit kindles light in the sin-darkened heart. He makes a sinner see his own sinful darkness in such a manner that the sinner begins to long most earnestly for Christ, the Light of this dark world.

(5) Fire warms. How comfortable and pleasant is fire when weather conditions are wintry. The Holy Spirit warms cold hearts. His grace kindles sincere love in the heart for the Lord and His service. How wondrous is such grace.

(6) Fire refines and purifies. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is referred to as a Spirit of burning and of judgment, a purifier and refiner (Isaiah 4:4). The Holy Spirit's refining and purifying grace is ever an urgent need. No sincere and honest person can do without this grace.

(7) Speaking in foreign languages was a remarkable phenomenon and an amazing blessing. It witnesses to the unity and harmony that is produced by the special saving operations of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's grace causes unity. With the pride of the Tower of Babel came confusion and disharmony (see Genesis 11).

Sin and rebellion caused divisions. There was no understanding of each other. However, the Spirit of grace and of supplications takes away pride; the contrite sinner becomes humble before God and craves for the love of Christ. The Spirit unites to Christ and produces a precious harmony and friendship among the children of God.

Only they who are led by the Spirit of God are truly children of God (Romans 8:14). Without the Holy Spirit there is no union with Christ. The great question for every reader personally is, do you possess the Holy Spirit and do you know His grace? The Lord Jesus has frequently spoken about the necessity of the Holy Spirit. He taught with a holy urgency to ask for this indispensable grace.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children:
how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit
to them that ask him?"
(Luke 11:13)

Evaluator: _____