



The Holy Spirit

Introduction

Matthew 28:19—Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 13:14—May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

These passages speak of the Holy Spirit as true God equal to the Father and the Son, as we already learned this year in lesson 3 on the Trinity. Today we will learn some more about the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. You have given us your Word for our learning. May we so hear it, read, learn, and take it to heart, that we come to better know you, your love and your will for us. Amen.

Lesson Aim: What's the "Holy Spirit"?

Part One

Read John 15:26-27.

As we've already learned, the Holy Spirit is God. The Bible says so. The Holy Spirit existed as God from eternity, yet in these two verses from John 15 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will come to people on earth in a new way. In the Nicene Creed we confess that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. While the word proceeds ("goes out from") is not used here in regard to the Son, the idea is present. Jesus himself will send the Holy Spirit.

- 1) In these verses, what does Jesus promise will happen after he disappears back into heaven?
- 2) How is the Holy Spirit described in verse 26?
- 3) The Christian disciples' testimony will be the same as that of the Holy Spirit. What is the Holy Spirit's testimony?

The Holy Spirit never contradicts his Bible message.

Read Acts 1:4-9.

- 4) The coming of the Holy Spirit was such a special blessing that Jesus did not want his disciples to miss out on it. Why was the Holy Spirit a gift worth waiting for?
- 5) This account takes place weeks after Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but the disciples were still concerned about things of this world that are not for them to know. Instead, what does Jesus point the disciple's attention to?
- 6) What was the last thing Jesus encouraged his disciples to do before he ascended into heaven?

7) God doesn't only encourage believers to be his witnesses, he also enables them. How does God enable believers to be his witnesses?

KEY POINT 1 - The Holy Spirit is God because the Bible says so and Jesus promised it.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

With the following passages, indicate whether they describe the Holy Spirit's role in our

A) Creation, B) Redemption, or C) Guiding us in our lives as believers.

- 1) Genesis 1:1-2
- 2) Job 33:4
- 3) Matthew 1:18
- 4) Matthew 4:1
- 5) Matthew 10:20
- 6) Mark 12:36
- 7) Luke 12:12
- 8) John 3:5
- 9) John 14:15-27
- 10) John 16:13-14
- 11) Acts 2:1-21
- 12) Acts 10:44
- 13) Romans 5:5
- 14) Romans 8:26-27
- 15) 1 Corinthians 3:16
- 16) 1 Corinthians 6:11
- 17) 1 Corinthians 12:3
- 18) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
- 19) Titus 3:5
- 20) 2 Peter 1:21

KEY POINT 2 - As true God, the Holy Spirit's divine works include acts that are completed and acts that are ongoing in the world and in me.

What I've learned so far:



Part Three

Study pages 183-194 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

- 1) What is the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Why do we believe that the Holy Spirit is God?

Helpful Passages

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit lives in us by faith.

- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 2 Timothy 1:14

Do these three previous passages about the Holy Spirit teach law or gospel?

These passages describe the Holy Spirit as God:

- 2 Corinthians 3:17
- Matthew 3:16-17
- Psalms 139:7-8
- Psalms 51:11

These passages equate the Holy Spirit with God:

- Matthew 28:19
- Acts 5:3-4
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- 2 Corinthians 13:14

Main point — We know that the Holy Spirit is true God with the Father and the Son because he is called God, he has divine characteristics, and he does things only God can do.

Final considerations:

Complete the sentence.

1) The Holy _____ is the third _____ of the triune _____ .

Multiple Choice

2) In the Third Article we learn about God ____ .

- A. the Father
- B. the Son
- C. the Holy Spirit

3) In the Third Article we learn that ____ .

- A. God promised and sent the Holy Spirit, who gives salvation to us through faith and keeps us unto everlasting life.
- B. coming to faith in Christ and remaining in the true faith is something which every Christian must work out on their own.
- C. becoming a Christian and remaining in the Christian faith is dependent on our home environment and how active we are in church activities.

4) In the Third Article we learn that the Holy Spirit ____ .

- A. is God.
- B. has always existed.
- C. lives in us by faith.
- D. is a simple concept easy for us to understand in great detail.

True or False

- 5) ___ The Holy Spirit is a mysterious spirit.
- 6) ___ The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son in power and knowledge.
- 7) ___ The Holy Spirit is a good influence on the world.
- 8) ___ The Holy Spirit is without body or personality.
- 9) ___ The Holy Spirit is always invisible.
- 10) ___ The Holy Spirit lives in all people.

Keep working on your personal confession of faith creed.

What I've learned:



Commit to Memory:

- The Third Article with Luther's explanation.
 - Titus 3:5