

## Sunday Service Sermons

**07 March 2021**

Who is the Holy Spirit

We are going to think about the Holy Spirit for a few weeks.

Today's topic is, Who is the Holy Spirit.

If you have read or seen the movie called, "The Shack" you have experienced an interesting view of God and the Holy Spirit.

The message of the book is amazing.

The portrayal of God and the Holy Spirit is interesting.

And why was Jesus missing?

In my experience Jesus is the connection between mankind and God "inspired" by the Holy Spirit.

The point of the book for me is, "bad things happen but we do not need to allow them to destroy us for God is bigger than bad things and he can turn them into good lessons".

Scripture: *Acts 19:1-6*

Focus scripture: "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus, and finding certain disciples, he said to them. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? And they said to him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit." *Acts 19:1-2*

What has your experience been concerning the Holy Spirit?

How active has He been in your life?

Can you explain Him to others?

Who He is and how He works in the lives of believers?

Many Christians are confused about the who and role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

As you are beginning to see I believe that we need Him active in our lives to be able to be God's person.

So let's take a close look at the who today.

Our text tells us that He was not a part of the conversion of the Christians at Ephesus.

They had the truth but not the complete truth and power for being a follower of Jesus Christ.

They had believed the message of John and had been baptized by him, but they were unaware of the Holy Spirit.

The great difference between the preaching of John the Baptist and the preaching of Jesus Christ is that John's preaching was a pronouncement of judgment.

The preaching of Jesus Christ was the declaration of good news.

John prepared the way for the message of Jesus.

In our Christian experience two steps need to be taken.

We are unable to live as we should.

First, we realize our inability to live as we should live.

As we are making this step, we often try to do better but inevitably fail to do so because we have only our own strength on which to draw.

Sin can be removed.

The second step is when we come to discover that only through the grace of Jesus Christ can the just desert of sin be removed.

As we take this step, we discover the joyful fact that only by the work of the Holy Spirit can we ever live as we should.

The believers at Ephesus were aware of their need to live a better life but they were not aware of the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to do so.

Their experience demonstrates the truth that without the Holy Spirit we cannot please God.

We will have an incomplete Christianity.

Even after seeing our sins and the need to repent, we cannot change apart from the Holy Spirit. Thus it is vitally important that we, like the believers at Ephesus, find the answer to the question, "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

The Holy Spirit is a person.

*John 16:13* says, "But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come."

The Holy Spirit is neither an impersonal force nor a mere influence; rather, He possesses a full and distinct personality.

A person has been defined as one who when speaking says I; when spoken to is called you; and when spoken of is called him or her.

Personal pronouns are used in relation to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has qualities of a person, such as knowledge, love, and will.

The Holy Spirit acts like a person.

He searches the deep things of God.

The Holy spirit speaks, intercedes, testifies, teaches, guides, commands and appoints.

The Holy Spirit can be treated like a person.

By this the scripture means that He can be grieved and rebelled against.

Isaiah made reference to this fact in *63:10*.

Paul also spoke of this in *Ephesians 4:30*.

*Hebrews 10:29* informs us that the Holy Spirit can be insulted.

He can be lied to *Acts 5:3*.

The Bible always pictures the Holy Spirit as a person and never as an impersonal force.

Therefore, as a person the Holy Spirit relates to us, He understands, He feels for us, and He is our divine Friend and Helper.

The Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit is none less than God himself because: He possesses divine attributes.

He is omnipresent.

*Psalms 139:7-10* points out that there is nowhere we can go to flee the Lord's presence.

Even if we were to ascend into heaven, make our bed in hell, or go to the most extreme parts of the sea, we could never go beyond God's presence.

The Holy Spirit also possesses eternity, which only God possesses.

He is called "The Eternal Spirit" in *Hebrews 9:14*.

The Holy spirit is all knowing and was described as such by Paul in *1 Corinthians 2:11* when he said, "No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

The Holy Spirit is all-powerful as seen in *Luke 1:35*.

Divine works are ascribed to the Holy spirit.

Which include creation, the giving of life and prophecy.

The Holy Spirit is made equal with God the Father and the Son.

In the Great Commission we are told to go, teach, and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Also, He is made equal with God the Father and the Son in the apostolic benediction recorded in *2 Corinthians 13:14*.

The Spirit is called God and Lord.

In *Acts 5:3-4* Simon Peter asked Ananias, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? You have not lied to men, but to God."

The Holy Spirit is God's agent on earth.

In *John 14:16-17* Jesus promised that he would pray to the heavenly Father, and that the Father would send the Holy spirit, who would abide with us forever.

The power of God may be thought of in three ways in relation to the Trinity.

It is founded in the Father, revealed through the Son, and activated by the Holy Spirit.

From the beginning of time until now, the Holy

Spirit has been God's active agent for whatever work God has to do.

The Holy Spirit is God's agent on earth in the creation of the world.

We are told in *Genesis 1:2* that the Holy Spirit brought order into the universe when he moved upon the face of the waters.

We are further told in *Job 26:13* that the Holy Spirit garnished the heavens.

*Psalms 104:30* tells us that He renews the face of the earth, and *Job 33:4* informs us that the Holy Spirit gives life to human beings.

The Holy Spirit is God's agent on earth in the ministry of Christ.

*Matthew 1:30* informs us that Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was active in the development of Christ as he grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom for the grace of God was on him.

In Christ's official consecration, at His baptism, we are told the Spirit of God descended like a dove and lighted upon him.

Following this, the Holy Spirit was active in Christ's ministry during the temptation experience in the wilderness.

Luke's account informs us in *Luke 4:18-19* that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus during his preaching and healing ministries.

Also, Paul said in *Romans 8:11* that the Holy spirit raised up Christ from the dead.

The Holy Spirit is God's agent on earth in the creation of Holy Scripture.

The Holy Spirit revealed certain truths to individuals, which they in turn recorded in sacred Scripture.

*Revelation 1:10* gives us such an illustration.

John wrote, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice."

The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures in an even more direct way.

Through revelation He gave new truth that unaided reason could not discover, but through inspiration He transmitted both old and new truths.

We are told that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. *2 Tim 3:16*

In *John 14:26* we are assured by Christ that the Holy Spirit would bring all things to our remembrance.

Surely part of the inspiration of the Scripture was the Holy Spirit bringing to the remembrance of the writers certain truths and experiences that they might be included as part of the sacred Scripture.

The Holy Spirit is God's agent on earth in the world of the church.

The Holy Spirit initially empowered the church in *Acts 1:8*.

He was involved in the expansion of the church in *Acts 2:1-4*.

And he is seen in *1 Corinthians 12:4-11* as equipping the church.

So who is the Holy Spirit?

He is a person, and thus one who cares for you.

He is deity, and thus one who can help you.

He is God's agent on earth, and thus one who can save you.

Listen to the Holy Spirit as he extends the last invitation of the Bible, "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come!, and Let him who hears say, Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."

*Rev. 22:17*

He is God's gift to you and for you, in order that you might be able to live the life God calls you to through the Son.