

HOLY SPIRIT THEOLOGY

(Martin Saurma-Jeltsch, Mar-2013)

What, where, when, how and why framework

What is the Holy Spirit?

- Strong's Concordance - *pneúma* – properly, *spirit (Spirit), wind, or breath*. The most frequent meaning (translation) of *pneúma* in the NT is "*spirit*" ("*Spirit*"). Only the context however determines which sense(s) is meant.
The Hebrew counterpart (*rûach*) has the same range of meaning as *pneúma*, i.e. it likewise can refer to *spirit/Spirit, wind, or breath*.
- Play on words: Jn 3:⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Who is the Spirit?

- Spirit of God
Genesis 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- Spirit of Christ
Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.
- Member of the Trinity/ triune God
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
- Person (not an "it")
John 15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

What are the characteristics of the HS?

Same characteristics as God (not surprising as the Spirit is part of God)

- Eternal
- All powerful (omnipotent)
- All knowing (omniscient)
- All present (omnipresent)
- Has a personality and values - can be grieved (emotionally hurt)
Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- Has an agenda - that we can keep in step with

Galatians 5:25

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Where is the HS?

- Lives within in our physical bodies – temple of the HS
1 Corinthians 3:16
Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

When and how do we receive the HS?

- Repent and be baptised
Acts 2:38
Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When did the Holy Spirit come?

- The HS was active in the Old Testament – the HS is not a new concept to the New Testament
Ezekiel 11:24
The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the exiles in Babylonia in the vision given by the Spirit of God. Then the vision I had seen went up from me
- The HS was promised
Ezekiel 39:29
I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the people of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord."
The more well known quotation is by Peter quoting Zechariah in Acts 2.
- After Jesus' death and resurrection
John 7:39
By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- Pentecost (50 days after Passover)
Acts 2: 2
When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

- Paraclete

John 14: 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever.

- Helper English Standard Version
- Counsellor Holman
- Advocate NIV
- Comforter American Standard Version
Counselor = parakletos

Parakletos (Greek Definition): Called along side to help, counsel, advise, and advocate. (Wikipedia) Paraclete comes from the Koine Greek word *paráklētos*, that can signify "one who consoles or comforts, one who encourages or uplifts; hence refreshes, and/or one who intercedes on our behalf as an advocate in court".

Explanation:

Parakletos is the Greek word that was used for someone who was called in to help. Much as in 2011 the Libyan rebels called in their allies - with aeroplanes - to save them from defeat. Parakletos was used for a counsellor called in to give advice. It was used for an advocate called in to speak on one's behalf - like a barrister, perhaps? Or a prisoner's friend, to speak up for someone in trouble. A parakletos might be in evidence wherever things got too much for someone and they needed help. In our day we might think of needing a car mechanic, or a plumber, or an electronics engineer who might be a parakletos for us. Someone with greater skills or knowledge to supplement our own. More than just another pair of hands.

As 'Comforter' we should think not necessarily of giving easy comfort and sympathy, but of the older sense of comfort, giving strength. It is the sort of comfort 'which keeps a man on his feet when, left to himself, he would collapse' (http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk/2011/May_Jun/Paraklet.htm)

- Not an optional extra – no Spirit, no salvation
Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.
- A seal/ deposit guaranteeing what is to come
1 John 4:13
This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.
- Spirit of adoption – gateway to intimacy with God
Romans 8:15
The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

What is the work of the HS?

- Convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgement
John 16: 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.
- Testifies about Jesus
John 15:26
"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.
- Guide and revealer of truth – completion of the gospel e.g. salvation for gentiles
John 16: 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.
- Source of "miraculous" power
1 Corinthians 2:4
My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power
- Source of spiritual power
2 Timothy 1:7
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

- Intercedes on behalf of/pray for Christians
Romans 8:26
In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.
- Helps God's people to be faithful to him
Ezekiel 36:27
And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
- Helps us to speak the good news boldly
Acts 4:31
After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
- Helps us overcome sin (put to death the misdeeds of the body)
Romans 8:13
For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.
- Gives us life
John 6:63
The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.
- Gives us freedom
2 Corinthians 3:17
Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- Spirit fills us with hope
Romans 15:13
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Spirit binds us together in unity
Ephesians 4:3
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- Spirit gives us Godly character – fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.