

Doctrine of Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is viewed in terms of the office He holds, and the names He possesses.
 - The Holy Spirit is the Creator. “1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:1-2).
 - The Holy Spirit is the Recreator Spirit. “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:7-8).
 - The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen” (2 Cor. 13:14).
 - The Holy Spirit is the Divine Paraclet. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).
 - The Holy Spirit is the *holy* Spirit. “But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them” (Isa. 63:10).

2. To speak of the Spirit as being holy is to say that He share in the infiniteness of the Trinity for the Holy Spirit is very God of very God.
 - The Holy Spirit is omnipotent. “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).
 - The Holy Spirit is omnipresent. “Where shall I go from your Spirit? or where shall I flee from your presence?” (Psalms 139:7).
 - The Holy Spirit is omniscient. “But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:10).
 - The Holy Spirit is eternal. “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb. 9:14).
 - The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and to the Son. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom. 8:9).

3. The Holy Spirit has all the qualities of a person.
 - The Holy Spirit has intellect. “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:10).
 - The Holy Spirit has emotions. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30). The word “grieve” is *lupeo*, and means “to make sad or sorrowful, heavy of heart.
 - The Holy Spirit has a will. “Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot” (Acts 8:29).
 - The Holy Spirit has the capacity to love. “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” (Rom. 15:30).

4. Because the Holy Spirit is very God of very God, and thus a person, He can be sinned against.
 - The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed. “And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven” (Luke 12:10).
 - The Holy Spirit can be lied to. “But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own power? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied unto men, but unto God” (Acts 5:3-4).
 - The Holy Spirit can be resisted. “Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye” (Acts 7:51).
 - The Holy Spirit can be grieved. “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30).
 - The Holy Spirit can be quenched. “Quench not the Spirit” (1 Thess. 5:19).

5. Those who live in union with the Holy Spirit will be blessed.
 - The Holy Spirit will teach. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).
 - The Holy Spirit will guide a person to know the truth. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but

whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13).

- The Holy Spirit will bring conviction of sin. He convinces. “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).
 - The Holy Spirit will help the believer pray. He prays for you. “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Rom. 8:26-27).
 - The Holy Spirit will command. “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them” (Acts 13:2).
6. Those who live in union with the Spirit must also be holy. God has sent His Son for our Salvation, and now He has given His Holy Spirit for our sanctification. Our minds must be on the Spirit, and not on the flesh.
 7. Those who fail to live after the Spirit, and live only after the flesh shall die.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

8. Christians are “sons of God”, and so should live in a manner that is in keeping with that family. Christian, remember to whom you belong. Be constantly putting to death those things that are contrary to your lifestyle.
9. The question arises, “How does a person mortify the deeds of the body?”
10. Paul sets forth the resources that God gives in order to perform that which He has commanded.

Special Note.

Often Christians go to the Bible to find out what to do, and then go to the Christian bookstore to find out, how to do, what they are supposed to do. But, there is no need. God does tell Christians how to perform His will.

11. So Paul, teach me how, through the Spirit, I am able to put to death the deeds of the body that war against the soul.
12. Focus on three grand truths.

The first grand truth, is to understand that the Spirit of God begins to create in the heart of the Christian spiritual awareness, to help put to death sin in our lives.

We need to do it. The first act of creation, by the Holy Spirit in the soul of a Christian is a dawning awareness that there is a need to mortify the flesh. It is inappropriate to live in the old way. We do need to get rid of sin, immediately.

We can do it. The second act of creation, by the Holy Spirit in the soul of a Christian is a conviction that we can mortify the flesh. Not only should we put sin to death, we can do that. Though the flesh will violently resist being mortified, the victory belongs to the Lord. This is the teaching of Romans 6. The flesh is mortified by remembering our new position in Christ (v. 1-10), by counting our victory by faith as a fact (v. 11-12), and by not yielding to sin's temptations (v. 13).

We are responsible to do it. The third act of creation, by the Holy Spirit in the soul is a realization that we are responsible to do what God has commanded. While salvation and sanctification is ultimately of the Lord, there is a measure of human responsibility. There is self-sanctification. "Ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom. 8:13). Mortification of sin is not a passive work of grace, but an active wielding of the instruments of grace by faith. The ministry of the Holy Spirit does not reduce human responsibility to be obedient to the will of the Lord. Rather, the Holy Spirit energizes me to do what is right. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:12)

We want to do it. The fourth act of creation, by the Holy Spirit in the soul, is a sincere desire to do that which is pleasing to the Lord. We want to mortify the flesh. We want to stop making provisions for the flesh. We want to stop yielding our bodies to be instruments of unrighteousness. Grace changes the direction of the heart, and the desires of the heart. That is what the Spirit creates, a desire to be like Christ.

The second grand truth is to understand that it is the Spirit of God who begins to work in the heart "both to will and to do his good pleasure" (Rom. 8:13). Apart from this divine initiative, and undertaking, the flesh will reap what it sows, death. We sow a thought, we reap an action, and that action produces a character. We sow a character and that character reaps a life. We sow a life, and that life reaps a destiny. People sin and mess their lives up because they fix their eyes on the immediate rather than gaze upon their final destiny. The Holy Spirit comes to tell us to fix our attention on the eternal, not the temporal. There is a final destiny of the soul.

Sinclair Ferguson tells of a seminary professor who would begin his class on Practical Theology with an unusual assignment for the students. He would tell the students, on the first day of class, to take out a clean sheet of paper, and, for the next thirty minutes, write on it their obituary notice. The professor was not being clever. He was teaching the potential pastors to focus attention on their final destiny, and to live life in light of eternity.

The third grand truth is to understand it that it is the Spirit of God who focuses attention upon the death of Christ. Because Christ for our sins, how then, can we continue to live in sin? The Holy Spirit shines His attention on the Lord Jesus and on the fact that Christ came to die for our sins. To willfully continue to do evil negates the great work of redemption, and that is unthinkable for a Christian. The death of Christ becomes a grand reason to leave sin.

13. With three grand truths and four gospel motives embedded in the heart, Paul continues in Romans 8 to remind Christians that the Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit of God. Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. They are no longer in the flesh, but in the Spirit.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (Rom. 8:9-11)

14. Not only are Christians indwelt by the Holy Spirit, they are members of the body of Christ. For this reason Christians are to be very careful of sexual sins less they drag Christ into the brothel of immorality when immorality is committed. When a Christian goes to an inappropriate website, or visits someone for immoral purposes, they cannot leave Christ on the outside while they commit sin for they are members of His body. So they drag, as it were Christ into the brothel, to their shame. Therefore, Christian, “flee fornication!”

“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” (1 Cor. 6:15-20)

15. When this truth becomes a conscious reality, the Holy Spirit will use it to help conquer sin and flee temptation for the promise is given, that, “if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:13). May, by God’s grace we grow in the Spirit.