

Pneumatology & Bibliology

I. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

A. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force! He is not an it, He is a person!

John in the New Testament explicitly calls the Holy Spirit 'He', even though grammatically it would be natural to refer to the Spirit as an 'it'. John does this to emphasize the personhood of the Spirit.

John 14:26; 15:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me..."

B. He is fully Divine

The Holy Spirit is equated to God

Acts 5:3-4

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

The Holy Spirit is listed with the Father and the Son

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C. The Spirit empowers what God does

The Spirit empowered creation

Genesis 1:2

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

The Spirit empowered creative wisdom

Exodus 31:3

I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship...

Numbers 11:17

Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put Him upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear it all alone.

Prophets spoke through the Spirit

Numbers 11:29

But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!"

Joel 2:28

"It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions."

Zechariah 7:12

They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.

Acts 28:25

And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers..."

Ephesians 3:5

...which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit...

Jesus did the miracles He did in the power of the Spirit.

Luke 3:22; 4:1, 14, 18

...and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed..."

Acts 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

D. Table discussion

Why does it matter that the Spirit is a person and not a force?

II. The Spirit continues the work of Jesus and glorifies Him

Jesus went to the Father so the Spirit would come to glorify Him.

John 14:12, 16; 16:14-15

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever...

He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

The Spirit can only confess the Son.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

III. The Spirit abides in and guides all believers

God's Spirit dwells in and guides all believers.

Romans 8:5-6, 9, 14

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace...

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

IV. The Spirit is God working through us so God gets all the glory

As Christians, we have a supernatural worldview. The fact that the Spirit works in the world is one way we see God at work.

Apart from Christ we can do nothing.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

God is the one who works through us.

Philippians 2:13

...for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

The fruit of the Spirit is what results from faith when resting in Him.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Walking according to the Spirit is what allows us to fulfill the Law.

Romans 8:4

...so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

V. The Spirit is the Spirit of Truth

The Spirit of truth guides disciples into all truth.

John 16:13, 15

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The Holy Spirit teaches believers.

Luke 12:12

“...for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

VI. God’s Word is to abide in us like His Spirit

God’s anointing abides in believers and so they don’t need teachers.

1 John 2:27

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

God’s Word abides in us just like His Spirit.

1 John 2:24

As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

VII. The Interchangibility between the Spirit and the Word

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-20

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father...

VIII. Table Discussion

How does the reality that the Spirit is the Spirit of truth guard us against mysticism (mysticism here is the idea that spirituality happens without truth and reason)?

How does the reality that the Spirit is the Spirit of truth also guard against pure rationalism (rationalism here is the idea that there is nothing supernatural and change happens only through reason)?

IX. The Holy Spirit gifts all believers

Every spiritual gift comes from the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1-4, 5-8, 11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit...

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

This reminds us that all that God gives us and does through us is supernatural!

X. Inspiration and Illumination are by the Spirit

The Spirit will rest of the Messiah and lead Him in knowledge, wisdom, and the fear of God.

Isaiah 11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear...

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations."

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners...

The fact that Scripture is God-breathed implies the Spirit's involvement since breath means spirit in Hebrew (cf. Job 33:4; Ezek. 37:5; John 20:22).

2 Timothy 3:15-17

...and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Prophets prophesied filled with the Spirit.

Luke 1:67

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying...

Ephesians 3:5

...which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit...

Scriptures were written as the Spirit moved men.

2 Peter 1:21

...for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Spirit is necessary to understand spiritual truth.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 2:14-16

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The ministry of the Spirit is the ministry of the New Covenant.

2 Corinthians 3:8, 14-18

...how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?

But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

The Spirit opens our eyes so that we may know God.

Ephesians 1:17-18

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...

XI. Regeneration is by the Spirit

The Spirit is the one who gives a new heart and new life.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

The Spirit is the one who convicts the world.

John 16:8-11

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

The Spirit washes and regenerates believers.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...

The Spirit does the sanctifying work in believers.

1 Peter 1:2

...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

XII. The Authority of Scripture

There is a danger in thinking that certain parts are more literal or authoritative than others. Certainly not all Scripture is equally relevant or significant, but it is all inspired and useful. As we already discussed, we don't throw out the more difficult passages for the ones we like or understand more. We need to hold all Scripture as equally inspired and wrestle out what it means without letting our theology dictate what we want it to mean.

A. Scripture is God's Word

The Bible is frequently called God's Word, and as such, it has the authority of God Himself. What Scripture says, God says.

Romans 9:6

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel...

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23

...for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

Hebrews 11:3; 13:7

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

The Bible is actually called living and active because of how it judges hearts. It's not a dead and irrelevant book.

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Thus, Scripture is God's way of exercising and mediating His rule in and through the lives of people. What Scripture affirms as true we have an obligation to believe, what Scripture commands, we have an obligation to obey.

B. Scripture's authority is permanent

God's Word is not just authoritative to the people to whom it was originally written. Due to being God's Word, it has eternal significance and authority. It is ultimate truth and has ongoing application and relevance to all people in all time.

God's Word is never empty. He never speaks for no reason. God's Word always does what God intends for it to do. Thus His Word is always powerful and relevant.

Isaiah 55:11

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

God's Word never changes, because God never changes. His values and morals don't change, so God's Word never changes.

Psalms 119:89, 160

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

God's Law doesn't change. What's right and wrong doesn't change. Specific requirements and applications of the Law change, and indeed the Old Testament law itself isn't binding on believers as Paul says, but that doesn't mean that the principles and priorities of God change.

Matthew 5:17-19; 24:35

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

C. God’s Word is what judges all humanity

Those who don’t obey the gospel will be judged.

1 Peter 4:17

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Jesus’ words will be what judges people on the last day.

John 12:48

He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

God’s Law is what judges.

James 2:12

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

Romans 2:12

For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law...

Zechariah 5:2-4

And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I answered, “I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.” Then he said to me, “This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will be purged away according to the writing on the other side. I will make it go forth,” declares the Lord of hosts, “and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones.”

XIII. Inerrancy of Scripture

God’s Word cannot be broken.

John 10:35

If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)...

God’s Word is God-breathed and so is useful.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

God's Word is perfect, right, and never fails.

Psalm 19:7-9

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

God's Word never fails.

Romans 9:6

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel...

God's Word is tested.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

XIV. Table Discussion

How does the authority and innerrancy of Scripture encourage us to trust and obey God's Word?

XV. Previous topics from the first course

- A. **The Sufficiency of Scripture** - Exegesis drives everything
- B. **The Dual Authorship of Scripture** - God's Word was communicated using human words
- C. **The Clarity of Scripture** - Meaning is discovered through the human author's intent

XVI. Group Discussion

- What does 1 John 2:18-27 tell us about the anointing? How do John 14:17, 26; 15:7 help inform our understanding of the anointing?
- What does 1 John 2:18-27 teach us about the importance of truth abiding in us?
- How do the power of the Spirit and the Word of God work together in the lives of believers?