

# Holy Spirit – Lesson 2

## The Holy Spirit in Jesus' Ministry



### • THE SPIRIT PROVIDES JESUS' PRIMARY IDENTITY – SON OF GOD

*In what ways is the Holy Spirit active in establishing Jesus' core identity as "Son of God" as Jesus came to earth?*

*How does the Holy Spirit establish our core identity as disciples of Jesus?*

**Luke 1:35** <sup>35</sup> *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

1. The Holy Spirit will "Overshadow" Mary.
2. The Holy Spirit is Associated with Power.
3. The Child will be Holy,
4. The Child is Literally the Son of God.

• **Jesus' identity is confirmed in a dream to Joseph.** *Matthew 1:20*

• **It is also confirmed when God speaks when Jesus is baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.**

- **Luke 3:21-22** <sup>21</sup> *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*
- The Holy Spirit is clearly the basis of Jesus' core identity on earth.
- Like Jesus, our primary identity as children of God, comes through being born by the Holy Spirit.

### • THE SPIRIT IS THE SOURCE OF JESUS' POWER

*What does Jesus' statement in John 5:19 that "the Son can do nothing by himself, "indicate" about His relationship with the Father?*

**John 5:19** <sup>19</sup> *Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."*

*What does this verse mean? Is Jesus really claiming that he can't do anything by himself? Why not? He's the Son of God for crying out loud!*

• **Paul explains it this way:** *Philippians 2:6-7* *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

• Jesus voluntarily submitted to the leadership of the Father.

• **"The Son can do nothing by himself"** indicates how dependent Jesus is upon the Father, especially during his time as a human being.

**Therefore, Jesus on earth as a human didn't operate on his own inherent will as power!**

*How do we explain Jesus' ability to do miracles?*

**OPTION #1** – Jesus does miracles by virtue of being divine. He's the Son of God. He is all powerful.

**OPTION #2** – Jesus does miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- If option #1 is true and Jesus does miracles by virtue of being God, then there is no one like Jesus and he can't serve as an example for us humans today.
- If option #1 is true and Jesus does miracles by virtue of being God, then He would be unable to train his disciples to do as he did in ministry since His actions would be possible only due to His divinity and we aren't God.

- If option #2 is true then in his humanness, Jesus performs miracles in the same way that he teaches his disciples to do them – by direction from and dependence upon the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Look at **John 5:19** again <sup>19</sup> *Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.* – Option 2 is more consistent with John 5:19

**If we accept that Jesus’ miracles resulted (at least in part) from him being a human which is full of faith and in tune with his Father’s will and timing, the Jesus becomes our example of a Spirit-Filled Man, from whom we can learn how to operate in the Spirit!**

**John 3:34** <sup>34</sup> *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God<sup>[a]</sup> gives the Spirit without limit.*

- Jesus operated by the power of the Holy Spirit and John the Baptist says God give Jesus the spirit “Without Limit”.

*If God provides the Holy Spirit to Jesus without limit, does Jesus put limits on his follower’s access to the Spirit of God?*

### **JESUS MINISTERS IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT**

- Luke’s gospel, in particular, emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ ministry. **(Turn to Luke chapter 3)**

**Luke 3:22** <sup>22</sup> *and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

**Luke 4:1** *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*

**Luke 4:14** <sup>14</sup> *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

Jesus quoting Isaiah 61:1-2 - **Luke 4:18-19** <sup>18</sup> *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

**Luke 10:21** <sup>21</sup> *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

- **Main Point:** Jesus clearly ministers through the power of the Spirit – in the same way we are to minister. Jesus is our example of how we are to minister.

### **• THE HOLY SPIRIT’S POWER TO HEAL & TEACH**

**Luke 5:17** <sup>17</sup> *One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.*

**Matthew 12:28** <sup>28</sup> *But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

**Acts 1:1-2** *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.*

- Jesus’ power to minister is dependent on the Holy Spirit that is on Him and in Him because he laid aside his heavenly glory and prerogatives to operate on earth as a man. In doing so, he shows us how to minister by that same power, The Holy Spirit.

### **• THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CHRIST’S FOLLOWERS**

- **The promise of the Holy Spirit for the disciples means that Jesus will pass on the Holy Spirit to believers after He returns to the Father. This promise is in all four gospels.**

**Mark 1:8** <sup>8</sup> *I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

\*Majority of Material taken from “Disciple’s Guide to the Holy Spirit” by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson.

**Luke 3:16** <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**John 1:33** <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

- Understand that baptize “to immerse or dip under” is a metaphone describing immersion into a liquid but other metaphors are used for receiving the promised Holy Spirit.

**Luke 24:49** <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

**Acts 1:4-5** <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

**Acts 1:8** <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 11:13** <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- Then Jesus is teaching at the feast of Tabernacles and says . . . **(John 7:38-39)** <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>39</sup> 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.
- Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as “Counselor” or “Advocate”.

What is an Advocate or Counselor?

How does this bring up images of courts and attorneys?

**John 14:6-7** <sup>6</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>7</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

**John 14:26** <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

**John 15:26** <sup>26</sup> “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.

- One last kinda strange verse.

**John 20:19-23** <sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

- It seems to be a demonstration of what will happen in a few days. It doesn’t say in this passage that the Holy Spirit comes on them at that moment, but it will at Pentecost a few days later.

## CLOSING

- Let’s review the verbs used to describe the sending of the Holy Spirit.
  - Baptize, Give, Receive, Send, Come Upon, Clothed

Who sends the Holy Spirit? The Father or Jesus? Does it matter?

- **John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth.*
- **John 15:26** <sup>26</sup> *“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.*
- **John 14:26** *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

*“When we try to minister in our own power without complete reliance on God for the results, we get thoroughly predictable, low-power results that reflect our own competence. Only when we listened for what the Spirit says, and then do what he is showing us - even when it doesn’t make rational sense - will we see supernatural results.” - Ralph Wilson*

**HOMEWORK-** Pray about your family and friends and situations in your life. Ask God to give you direction and power. If God shows you to do something different than your normal practice, obey him fully, expecting God to show up with his power. Then report what happens when you return next week.