

# **Godhead Class**

## **November/December 2018**

### **November 25: Who is the Holy Spirit?**

Our first study demonstrated that the term “God” can be accurately used with reference to three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this lesson, we will examine the third person in the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.

Our first explicit reference to the Holy Spirit is in Genesis 1.2 where the Holy Spirit is “moving” (hovering/brooding)<sup>1</sup> over the surface of the waters. Prior to that, the Holy Spirit is implicitly referenced in Genesis 1.1 in the term “God” which translated the plural Hebrew noun *Elohim*.

It is Luke who makes the simplest case for understanding the Holy Spirit as a member of the Godhead. In Acts 5.3f, Luke records Peter’s response to the selfish sin of Ananias. In the midst of rebuking Ananias, Peter accuses Ananias of lying “to the Holy Spirit,” and finishes his rebuke by noting, “You have not lied to men but to God.” Luke clearly draws a line of connection between the Holy Spirit and divinity.

There are other places in Scripture where the Holy Spirit, either explicitly or implicitly, is presented to us as being divine. The words of God are the words the Holy Spirit inspired (2 Timothy 3.16; 2 Peter 1.21). John teaches that to be born of God is to be born of the Spirit (1 John 5.4; John 3.5). Beyond these points, Paul’s repeated inclusion of the Holy Spirit alongside the other members of the Godhead reveals the divine nature of the Holy Spirit.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary — Genesis 1.2

<sup>2</sup> Romans 15.30; 2 Corinthians 13.14; Titus 3.4-6

While understanding everything about the Holy Spirit is impossible, there are some things that we can, and must, know! As a member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is a person.<sup>3</sup> The Holy Spirit is not a force or an abstract concept. In fact, Scripture presents a well-rounded picture of the personhood of the Holy Spirit – He can be grieved (Ephesians 4.30); He searches and reveals (1 Corinthians 2.10); He teaches and reminds (John 14.26); He has a will (Acts 15.28); He can be insulted (Hebrews 10.29). Indeed, the Holy Spirit is a divine person.

The role of the Holy Spirit today is not the same role He occupied in the past. The promise of the Holy Spirit to teach, remind, and guide into all truth was made to the apostles, not to every Christian.<sup>4</sup> The Holy Spirit is no longer performing miracles for two reasons: the gift of the Holy Spirit was passed on through the apostles' hands (Acts 8.18f) and the time for miracles has ceased with the coming of God's full revelation (1 Corinthians 13.8-10). The Holy Spirit does exercise His influence on us today through the word which He inspired (John 3.5; Ephesians 5.18; 2 Peter 1.21; Galatians 5.22ff).

- 1) What are some names for the Holy Spirit in John 14-16? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) Why is the term "Holy Spirit" an accurate name for the third person of the Godhead? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Why is it incorrect to see the Holy Spirit as a force, not a person? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4) Comparing Ephesians 5.18-19 and Colossians 3.16-17, how are we filled with the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>3</sup> Lesson #2 "Who is the Father?"

<sup>4</sup> John 14.26; 16.13; John 13.2,28 + Matthew 26.20ff