

Volume I - Chapter 4

Table of

Contents

Chapter 4	Holy Spirit	
	Doctrinal Statement	65
	Introduction	66
	Lesson 1 The Fruit of the Spirit	68
	Lesson 2 Pentecost	72
	Lesson 3 Elijah's Challenge With Baal.....	75

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Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the essence, power, mind and spiritual extension of God. God begets Christians as His sons through His Spirit. It strengthens a Christian spiritually, converts his mind and serves as a down payment and guarantee of eternal life.

Introduction

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not a separate being; it has no independent existence as an individual entity or person within the God Family..

The Holy Spirit is described in the Bible as:

- “the Spirit of God,”
- “the Spirit of the Lord,”
- “the Spirit of Jesus Christ,”
- “The Spirit of truth,” and
- “comforter” or “advocate.”

God uses His Spirit to accomplish His work.

It was through His Spirit that God created the Earth (Genesis 1:2). It was through this Spirit that David received his moral strength (Psalm 51:10-13), and by it Elijah and Elisha—men with normal physical proclivities and weaknesses—were made into powerful prophets of God (II Kings 2:9, 15). Even though these men and others had access to God’s Spirit, it is also clear that they were among the relatively few who in the Old Testament era were blessed with the privilege of actually having the mind and power of God work with or dwell within them.

God is Spirit (John 4:24).

Both members of the God family (“Elohim”), Father and Son, are literally *composed* of spirit; they are wholly made of spiritual essence, in the same fashion as we are made of physical particles. Yet, God the Father and Jesus Christ are separate beings; each maintains His own distinct identity and independent existence; and each, therefore, utilizes the power of the common Holy Spirit.

God the Father was unknown in the Old Testament.

Jesus Christ was the God Who revealed Himself to the patriarchs and prophets and worked with them. He utilized His mind, His nature and His power. He was doing so through the Holy Spirit which was the projection of His own unique, perfect spiritual power. God the Father was unknown in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ came to reveal Him in the New. God the Father begot Jesus Christ; He did so through his Spirit, which is the same Spirit through which He begets spiritual children today. Indeed, God the Father has retained to Himself the unique capacity to beget new spiritual beings.

Acts 2:17-18 Peter explained on the day of Pentecost (when the Church began) that under the New Covenant the Spirit of the Father has been made available in a universal way.

Before Christ died, He promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit, which then worked with them should be given to them and should actually be in them (John 14:17). This “Comforter” should teach the disciples all things and remind them of all that Christ had said to them (John 14:26).

Important: This same Spirit which was given to the disciples on the day of Pentecost is available to all whom God calls.

God states that He gives His Holy Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

Upon true repentance granted by God and upon true belief in Jesus Christ, one may be baptized and then receive God’s Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands ceremony performed by God’s ministers (Acts 2:38; 8:12-17). God’s Holy Spirit is efficacious—it creates deep changes within the individual, actually converting or changing the type of mind that the person possesses. The Holy Spirit generates within Christians its very fruit, which “is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (Galatians 5:22-23). It encourages us through trials and empowers us to do the Work of God.

The deep mystery of the plan of God for mankind cannot be completely understood without the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:7-10).

Once a person receives the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, they must use it in order to grow in the knowledge and grace of God. God’s Spirit gives Christians the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16) to enable them to view life from a godly perspective instead of a selfish one.

“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9).

Of even greater significance is the fact that through this Spirit we are actually “begotten” as sons of God, legally adopted members of God’s family, and become members of the body of Christ—the Church (I Corinthians 12). The seed of this Holy Spirit, planted by God after baptism, grows and develops spiritually within us as we grow in obedience and submission to God’s law.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14).

The Holy Spirit is dynamic: it flows from God to and through the Christian and is expressed in his attitudes and actions.

God’s Word reveals the the Holy Spirit is an “earnest”, a formal pledge or assurance—of eternal life which God has implanted within us making us adopted sons. As long as this Spirit is living within us, we are actually sons of God and brothers of Christ.

Indeed, the presence of the Holy Spirit is the best criterion to define the true Christian: it is his only real ratification, for one cannot be a true Christian without it. As long as we nurture the Holy Spirit, and continue to renew it daily within us (II Corinthians 4:16) through prayer and diligent study of God’s Word, then this earnest of God’s Spirit is the absolute guarantee that we will be resurrected to spiritual life at Christ’s return (Ephesians 1:14).

Lesson 1

The Fruit of the Spirit

Bible Scripture
Galatians 5:22,23

Focus:

- The fruit of the Holy Spirit is made up of the nine characteristics of God as listed in Galatians 5:22, 23.

Purpose:

- To know that the fruit of the Spirit is individual virtues.
- To understand that the Holy Spirit is the essence, power and mind, and spiritual extension of God.
- To feel encouraged that God's Spirit helps us through difficult times.

Memory Verse:

- Galatians 5:22, 23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Note:

Not only have your children memorize the above verses, but also help them to explain each of the nine virtues. This lesson could take you nine days or nine weeks. Let's remember, it is important that our children understand *why* they are learning scripture. It is also crucial that they comprehend how this truth relates to them and their everyday lives.

Generate Interest

Work is what we do.

Fruit is what we produce.

Ask your child what he sees when he peels an orange? Is the orange divided up into segments? The fruit of the Spirit could be compared to an orange, in that, each segment makes up the orange. All nine virtues make up the fruit of the Holy Spirit, but the fruit is one. We do not want the fruit that sin produces, but we do want the character that the fruit of the Holy Spirit produces.

Note: The fruit is singular. It is NOT fruits.

Love

I Corinthians 13 is the love chapter.

Despite our sins, God loves us unconditionally. Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Ask the following;

- How do you show love toward your family?
- How do you show love toward your friends?

God wants the very best for us. We need to want the very best for others. We need to value, forgive and receive family and friends willingly.

Joy

James 1: 1, 2

Is joy the same as happiness? No. Happiness comes and goes. Joy on the other hand is present even during difficult times. Joy is a feeling of well-being. We have joy when we obey God, and trust in His promises. We have a clear conscience and delight in God’s truth.

Peace

Isaiah 26:3 - Keep your thoughts on God.

Peace is a state of inner tranquility. Our heart, mind and soul are at peace when we trust God, and keep our sights on God.

“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on you, Because he trusts in you.”

John 14:27 - Jesus promised peace.

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Romans 5:1 - God has forgiven us of our sins, and we now have peace.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Philippians 4: 6, 7 - Through prayer we can experience peace.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Longsuffering

2 Peter 3:9 - God's promise and patience.

Patience would be the best word to describe longsuffering. God has "patience" with sinners. He is giving us plenty of opportunities to repent.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

God will help us endure pain, trouble and wrong doing that other people bring upon us.

Kindness

Psalms 117:2 - Kindness is a characteristic of God.

Showing love and respect for others is kindness. God has been kind to us, therefore, show kindness to others.

"For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"

Goodness

Mark 10:18 - Only God is perfectly good.

Children know and understand the difference between being good and being bad. When you are good, you are doing what is right. Can we be perfectly good? No we cannot.

"So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God." Obeying God's laws is "being good".

When you share what you have with others, this is showing the character of goodness.

Faithfulness

Psalms 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

To be loyal, stable and dependable is to be faithful. We have faith that God will meet our daily needs, and He will be with us in times of trouble. We will want nothing. Why? Because God is faithful to His word. Ask your child if people can trust their word? Explain to them what that means.

God will give us the strength to serve Him. Give the following examples:

- Paul was in the ministry for many years, and he was faithful. Read II Corinthians 11:23-29.
- To the death Stephen was faithful. Acts 7.

Gentleness

Philippians 4:5 - "Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand."

Treating others with dignity is treating them with gentleness. God accepts us and others for who we are. We are of value to God. He appreciates each and everyone of us. We need to learn to appreciate others as individuals. Keep in mind the following:

- Jesus did not ignore little children.
- Jesus did not reject sinners.

Learn to appreciate others, striving to treat them as Jesus would.

Self-Control

Do you let your feelings and thoughts control your actions? Or, do you exercise control of your actions? Read I Corinthians 9:24-27. Paul learned that in order to be effective as a minister of God, he had to exercise self-control. If there are siblings, this is an excellent time to discuss positive ways to treat one another. If your children get angry easily, or have mood swings, help them to understand those feelings and pray and ask God to help them be in control.

In closing:
God's goal for us is that we
become His sons and
daughters.

Romans 8:28,29 "...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Yield yourself, and teach your children to yield to the Spirit of God. When we do, God's character of good fruit will come through and not be expressed in a sinful way.

Pray that God help you, as a parent, demonstrate to your children His fruit in your life, so that they will desire to have the same character in their lives.

Lesson 2

Pentecost

Bible Story:
Acts 1:12-14, 2

Focus:

- We are cared for by God through His Church.

Purpose:

- To know when the church began.
- To understand the importance of following church doctrine, and to practice church doctrine.

Memory Verse:

- Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Generate Interest

Talk about birthdays.

Have a calendar available, and have each of your children find their birthday and the birthday of other family members and friends. Be sure to have Pentecost marked on this calendar. Have it marked in such a way that they cannot miss it. When you come upon it in the calendar, ask your child if they know what Pentecost is, and why it is important?

Pentecost is the birthday of the church. It is important because it is when God poured out His Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is Greek for "50".

Another name for Pentecost is "Feast of Weeks". Exodus 34:22. The Jewish word "Shabuoth" means weeks. This feast takes place 50 days after events during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Synopsis

The disciples were given the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Jesus was crucified. During the seven weeks after His resurrection, Jesus was seen by the disciples and many of His followers. Jesus did ascend into heaven to sit at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19). The disciples returned to Jerusalem to wait, just as Jesus had told them to do. While they waited in the upper room, on the Day of Pentecost, they were given the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 2:1-13

Read this story to your children. They won't be frightened by thoughts of a rushing mighty wind, and the tongues of fire. Instead, emphasize the power of God. The Day of Pentecost points to Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church.

What were the signs that the Holy Spirit had come?

Turn to Acts 2:2-4, 6

- There was the sound of rushing wind.
- There were tongues of fire that appeared above each of the disciples.
- The disciples spoke in other languages.

God offers us a free gift that is far better than anything we can imagine. That is the gift of His Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:7-21

- People from other lands heard and understood God being praised in their own languages.
- There were those who made fun of the disciples, saying they were drunk.
- Peter explained that it was evident that the promise Jesus made to send the Holy Spirit was shown in their ability to speak in other languages.

Acts 2: 22-36

- Peter explained to all those gathered that it was the plan of God to have Jesus crucified, and raised from the dead.

In conclusion: Acts 2: 37-40

Peter's message was powerful.
The people who gathered
responded eagerly.

The day of Pentecost itself
looks forward to the return of
Christ and a massive pouring
out of God's Spirit.

The church is not a building or
an organization. The church is
a group of people who have
repented, had the laying on of
hands, and received the Holy
Spirit.

Leviticus 23:21

When Peter was through preaching, the people did ask what they should do. Peter told them that they should repent of their sins and be baptized. There were about three thousand people who were baptized .

Acts 2:42-46 The disciples continued meeting each day. Verse 47 - every day more people were added to the church.

Talk It Over

- Who was gathered together and prayed to God?
- When the disciples were in the upper room, what were three things that happened?
- What did Peter and the other disciples go out and do?
- After Peter's powerful message, what did the people do?
- This day called Pentecost is what?
- Why is this day important?
- Is it important that we keep Pentecost today?

Lesson 3

Elijah's Challenge With Baal

Bible Story:
I Kings 18:1-40

Focus:

- The Holy Spirit of God gave power to the prophets of the Old Testament.

Purpose:

- To know that God is a powerful God.
- To have faith that God is there for you.
- To live a life that is unashamed of our great God.

Memory Verse:

- II Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Generate Interest

When your mind is thinking on matters it should not - remember what Philippians 4:8 says.

Think on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good.

Have you ever been frightened? Did you ever wake up from a dream and something in your room scared you? Maybe you were home alone watching a movie in the dark, and you thought you heard someone in the other room? Did it frighten you? We have all been frightened at one time or another. When you are, remind yourself of what Jesus said,

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

Elijah was God's Prophet.

Many prophets in the Bible have books named after them because they wrote those books. Elijah, on the other hand, did not write any books of the Bible. However, the life and ministry of Elijah can be found in many chapters of the Bible.

King Ahab was one of the most wicked kings told about in the Old Testament.

King Ahab married Jezebel. She was a princess from Sidon. She and her people worshipped the weather and fertility gods. Baal was the name of such a god. She was a wicked queen. She convinced King Ahab and his people to accept her religion. She was instrumental in the killing of God's prophets.

Baal was the god of rain.

While you do not bow down to an idol, if you are selfish you make yourself an idol.

Idol worship

- Clothes, television, sports, famous people. In and of themselves, these things are not wrong. They can become wrong if you put them before God.

Synopsis

God sends a drought.

God was very angry with King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. God sent his prophet Elijah to warn them that there will be no rain until God permits it, through Elijah.

Elijah goes into hiding.

By the brook Cherith, Elijah went into hiding. While there, God provided for him. Ravens brought him food to eat. When the brook was dried up, God sent Elijah to Zarephath. There Elijah lived with a widow and her household. God provided for them. Their food supply never ran out. When the widow's son died, Elijah prayed and God answered his prayer and brought him back to life.

God provided for the widow and Elijah.

Widow's son dies and is brought back to life.

After three years, Elijah returned to see Ahab. The king blamed Ahab for the troubles he and his people were enduring.

Who was Obadiah?

Obadiah was a man who worked in King Ahab's household. He was a man who risked his life on a couple of occasions. He hid 100 of God's prophets in caves and fed them during a time when Queen Jezebel ordered them killed. He was also the man who arranged the meeting for Elijah with King Ahab.

I Kings 18:21

The people were “faltering,”
what does that mean?

Elijah proposes a contest.
The contest takes place on
Mount Carmel.

An important point about
this contest:
Baal was the god of rain—it
had not rained at all for over
three years.

Read:

I Kings 18: 22-40

Note:

- ✓ Our God is a powerful
God.
- ✓ Just as God was there
for Obadiah and Elijah,
He is there for you.
- ✓ Do not be ashamed that
you worship the one
and only true God.

Elijah was angry with the people for not worshipping the true God, and instead they worshiped Baal. They were a people that were compromising and being “wishy washy”.

Elijah challenged the people with a contest. Here is the challenge:

- Elijah was the one and only prophet of God.
- There were 450 prophets of Baal.
- The prophets of Baal took a bullock, cut it in pieces and lay it on wood.
- Elijah took a bullock, cut it in pieces and put it on wood.
- The prophets of Baal shall call upon their god.
- Elijah shall call upon the true God.
- The God that answers by fire is the one and only true God.

Talk It Over

Israel learned a very important lesson that day on Mount Carmel. What was that lesson? That “The Lord, He is God!” They did witness the power of God on that day. Be thankful and give God thanks for allowing you to know Him and His truth. While friends, hobbies and books are all things we enjoy, remember to put God first in your life.