

The Holy Spirit

Session # 1 / Wednesday, June 20, 2007

INTRODUCTION: KNOWING THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It was Evangelist Jack Shuler who brought me to Christ and His glorious salvation; it was another Evangelist, Benny Hinn, who opened up a whole new dimension of the Holy Spirit to me. In the years I served on Benny's board, and in his meetings in which I participated in both America and Africa, I saw a dimension of the Holy Spirit's ministry I had never known before. He told me that the person who had opened his heart to the Holy Spirit was Evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman.

Hinn was 20 when he encountered the Holy Spirit in Evangelist Kuhlman's ministry in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (He was 20 years old at the time and a fairly new convert to Christ.) He wrote of this divine rendezvous in his best-selling book, "Good Morning, Holy Spirit."

The service was long, but it seemed like a fleeting moment. Never in my life had I been so moved and touched by God's power. I thought, "Please, Lord, don't ever let this meeting end."

I looked up to see Kathryn burying her head in her hands as she began to sob. She sobbed and sobbed so loudly that everything had come to a standstill. The music stopped. The usher froze in their positions. Everyone had their eyes on her. And for the life of me I had no idea why she was sobbing. I'd never seen a minister do that before. What was she crying about? (I was told later that she had never done anything like that before, and members of her staff remember it to this day.) It continued for what seemed like two minutes.

Then she thrust back her head. There she was, just a few feet in front of me. Her eyes were aflame. She was alive! In that instant she took on a boldness I had never seen in any person. She pointed her finger straight out with enormous power and emotion – even pain. If the devil himself had been there, she would have flicked him aside with just a tap. It was a moment of incredible dimension.

Still sobbing, she looked out at the audience and said with such agony, "Please!" She seemed to stretch out the word, "Plee-ease, don't grieve the Holy Spirit!" She was begging. If you can imagine a mother pleading with a killer not to shoot her baby, it was like that. She begged and pleaded. "Please," she sobbed, "don't grieve the Holy Spirit."

Even now I can see her eyes. It was if they were looking straight at me. And when she said it, you could have dropped a pin and heard it. I was afraid to breathe. I didn't

1 *move a muscle. I was holding onto the pew in front of me wondering what would*
2 *happen next. Then she said, “Don’t you understand? He’s all I’ve got!”*

3
4 *I thought, “What’s she talking about?” Then she continued her impassioned plea,*
5 *saying, “Please! Don’t wound Him! He’s all I’ve got! Don’t wound the One I love!”*

6
7 *I’ll never forget those words. I can still remember the intensity of her breathing when*
8 *she said them. In my church, the pastor talked about the Holy Spirit. But not like this.*
9 *His references had to do with the gifts or tongues or prophecy – not “He’s my closest,*
10 *most personal, most intimate, most beloved Friend.” Kathryn was telling me about a*
11 *person Who was more real than you or I. Then she pointed her long finger down at me*
12 *and said with great clarity, “He’s more real than anything in this world!”*

13
14 (Good Morning, Holy Spirit / Benny Hinn / Nelson Publishers / pages 8 and 9)
15

16 It is my prayer as your pastor that the precious Holy Spirit will become more real and
17 alive to you than ever before as we studying Him during these next Wednesday nights. I
18 will cover such areas as The Trinity, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, The Person of the Holy
19 Spirit, The Holy Spirit in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures, The Baptism in the
20 Holy Spirit, The Gifts of the Spirit, The Fruit of the Spirit, and many other considerations
21 from the Word.

22
23 This fall, November 24-26 (and longer if the Holy Spirit wishes it), we will have
24 Evangelist Tim Enloe in our pulpit for four great services of seeking the Holy Spirit and
25 all His fullness. It is my prayer that many, many people receive the Baptism in the
26 Spirit during those days. However, we need not wait until then for this to happen in our
27 lives. It can begin happening even tonight.

28 29 MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

30
31 I was born again in July of 1950. A year later, our pastor brought an evangelist to our
32 church. His name was Arthur Arnold and his ministry was all built around the Holy
33 Spirit and receiving the Baptism. One night, when he gave the altar call for people to
34 come forward to receive it, some folks responded but I did not come. I was 14 at the
35 time. Arnold looked down at me on the second or third pew and snapped, “Danny
36 Betzer, you get down here. No one needs the Baptism more than you do!” I responded
37 by going to the altar where I was immediately surrounded by friends and family who
38 prayed for me enthusiastically. It was about 9 p.m. and nothing happened. I was
39 determined not to leave that altar until I had been filled with God’s Spirit. In Acts 1,
40 Jesus commanded His followers to “...tarry until...” My family and friends had left by
41 the midnight hour, even mom and dad. My aunt and uncle lived right next door to the
42 church and I knew I could spend the night with them. By 3 that morning, with only the
43 altar still illuminated, I remained alone worshipping the Lord and seeking His touch. At
44 3 o’clock, I began to experience the reality that I was not really alone, that the Holy Spirit
45

1 had surrounded me. I found myself praising God in a language I did not know. But far
2 more dramatic and important than that, I began to receive *the power* Jesus promised
3 would attend the Spirit's baptism (Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the
4 Holy Ghost is come upon you:). I was never the same again. I received a confidence,
5 a calling, a commission that has never left me. The Old Testament prophet Zechariah
6 had the situation right when he wrote, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit
7 saith the Lord of Hosts." (Zech. 4:6) Anything I have been able to do in God's work
8 through all these years has been through the creative power of the Holy Ghost within me.
9 The Holy Spirit's baptism is needed by every follower of Jesus. This experience is just
10 as real and vital in 2007 as it was on the original Day of Pentecost. I will spend an
11 entire session on this later in our study.

12 **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD AND IS A DIVINE PERSON**

13
14
15 The heart-cry of a religious Jew is, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is ONE God!" To
16 this we say a hearty "amen." However, when hearing of the doctrine of the Trinity, we
17 evangelicals are often accused of having three gods. No - we have just ONE.
18 However, we have learned from Scripture that God has revealed Himself to us in three
19 distinctive personalities.

20
21 This is not a difficult thing to understand. Consider the nature of water (H₂O). Water
22 is a single compound yet it exists in three states – liquid, ice and vapor. It is made up of
23 hydrogen to two parts of oxygen. Yet water is - water! Or consider that breakfast
24 delight - a good egg. An egg is made up of the white, the yoke and the shell. But it's
25 still just one egg! I love the consideration of our own Federal Government. We have
26 but one (thank God for we can barely afford that!), however, the Fed is made up of three
27 units: Executive (the President); Legislative (Congress) and Judicial (the Courts).

28
29 God in His kind mercy has seen fit to reveal Himself to us in three distinct Persons:
30 Himself, Father God; Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. So the Holy Spirit IS GOD.
31 And, as such He has personality.

32 **WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "PERSONALITY?"**

33
34
35 1. The Holy Spirit has intellect. 1 Cor. 2:10

36 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things,
37 yea, the deep things of God. He is not some ethereal "force" in the atmosphere. He
38 is a real entity Who can think, reason, and converse.

39
40 2. The Holy Spirit has knowledge. 1 Cor. 2:11

41 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?
42 even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

43
44

1 3. The Holy Spirit has emotions. Ephes. 4:30

2 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of
3 redemption. That word “grieve” means to make sad or sorrowful or heavy of heart. A
4 “force” could not be grieved. Remember the words of Kathryn Kuhlman on page 1 of
5 this syllabus, “Please, don’t grieve the Holy Spirit!”
6

7 He is very easily grieved or wounded in His emotions. He is a gentleman by nature
8 and has a tender heart.

In our first year pastoring in this district, Fort Worth Pastor Des Evans was the guest speaker at the Ministers’ Institute. He was - and is - incredible. On the opening night, there was a special moving of the Holy Spirit during his preaching. It was if the sides of the church opened and the wafting breezes of the Spirit filled the building. The hundreds gathered fell on their faces before God even though there was hardly an sound. It was too holy to make sound. God’s Spirit was doing something special in us. However, being Pentecostal, the worship team felt the silence was unbearable and went to their instruments on the platform and began belting out loud and fast music, doubtless thinking they were helping. INSTANTLY, the presence of God vanished as did the speaker, Des Evans. The service quickly ended. The next night when the speaker was introduced, he walked sadly into the pulpit and said quietly and simply, “Last night, you grieved my God. Good night.” And he left the pulpit and the building. My friend, in our pursuit of the Holy Spirit it is not ONE SIZE FITS ALL. We can not be one-dimensional in our attitude toward the Spirit. We need to know when to rejoice, praise and worship, and we need to know when to be quiet. If you and I are out of line, contrary to what the Holy Spirit wants to do, He will leave.

9
10 4. The Holy Spirit has His own will and He makes decisions. Acts 16:6

11 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were
12 forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia... This passage speaks of the
13 Holy Spirit’s directing Paul and his missions team into places in Turkey they had no
14 original intention of going.
15

16 5. The Holy Spirit loves. Romans 15:30

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the
18 Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me... The Holy Spirit,
19 not a mere “force,” but a personality, has strong feelings about you personally. He loves
20 you and longs to be loved in return.
21

22 OTHER TRUTHS REGARDING THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A PERSON

23
24 1. He is the Master Teacher. John 14:26

25 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,
26

1 he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have
2 said unto you.

None of us, I suspect, learns much instantly - with a few exceptions. Learning takes time. We entered kindergarten long ago, then grade school, middle school, high school and on to college and/or post graduate work. It all took a lot of time and effort. But we want to learn all spiritual things instantly. A new convert, for instance, feels he or she is ready to pastor or teach instantly. The truth is the Holy Spirit requires the luxury of our time in order to prepare us, to teach us. Don't be discouraged in your learning. You don't learn to play the piano instantly, so don't expect to master all spiritual training instantly. Give the "Maestro," the Holy Spirit, the opportunity and time to teach you.

3

4

5 2. The Holy Spirit IS Truth and He conveys truth to us. John 15:26

6 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the
7 Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me... All truth
8 comes from God. Jesus said of Himself, "I am ... the truth" Denial of God is
9 denial of truth.

10

11 3. The Holy Spirit guides. John 16:13

12 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he
13 shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will
14 shew you things to come.

I have been to Israel several dozen times. However, with a couple of exception-days, I don't do the guiding. I could fairly well get a group through the land, but why attempt it when I have a master guide in David Assael? He is the best and he knows the land and its history in a way that I will never know. In life, we can sometimes muddle through here and there; but why do so when we have the Holy Spirit to guide us?

15

16

17 4. The Holy Spirit convines. John 16:8

18 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of
19 judgment. While preaching is an approved tactic of God in reaching the world, it still
20 requires the power of the Holy Spirit to convict, convince or reprove. The altar
21 responses to Billy Graham's messages are an able testimony to this fact.

22

23 5. Here is an astounding reality: The Holy Spirit prays for you. Romans 8:26-27

24 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray
25 for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which
26 cannot be uttered. [27] And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the
27 Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28

1 What an incredible truth! He intercedes for us ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF
2 GOD. Sometimes our praying is “according to our own will.”

3
4 6. The Holy Spirit commands! Acts 13:2

5 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas
6 and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

7
8 You and I, as followers of Christ, are under command! Revelation 4 teaches us that we
9 were created to bring God pleasure - not the other way around. The Holy Spirit directs
10 us, commands us, and expects us to respond positively to His command. His commands
11 are not suggestions!

12
13 DID THE HOLY SPIRIT ORIGINATE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2)?

14
15 No, a thousand times no. He has always been God, with God and in God. His ministry
16 has spanned all of time and eternity.

17
18 1. The Holy Spirit was present at Creation and was, in fact, the active agent. Genesis

19 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

20 Genesis 1:2

21 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
22 And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

23
24 (Note: the Hebrew word for God here is **elohiym**. The same word is used in both
25 verses 1 and 1. “In the beginning ELOHIYM created...” and “ELOHIYM moved upon
26 the face of the waters.”

27
28 2. The Holy Spirit gave us the Word of God. 2 Peter 1:20-21

29 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
30 [21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God
31 spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

32
33 3. The Holy Spirit is the One Who regenerates our hearts and lives when we accept
34 Jesus Christ into our life. As Jesus taught Nicodemus: John 3:6

35 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

36
37 Salvation is so much more than coming forward in an altar call, or even praying a sinners
38 prayer, or signing a “decision card.” Salvation occurs when the Holy Spirit places
39 within us the very life of Christ just as He placed the earthly form of Jesus in the womb
40 of Mary. Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall
41 come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that
42 holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

1 Based on this fact and scripture, you can see this pastor's concern about current trends in
2 churches to equate salvation to counseling. When Zechariah wrote, "It's not by might
3 or by power" that eternal things get done, he meant it. All the counseling in the world
4 cannot equal one hour in the presence of the Holy Spirit and His life-changing power.
5 This does not eliminate the need for pastors or spiritual help. It does, however, make
6 very clear that the agency in salvation is the Holy Spirit - not Dr. So-and-so.

7 8 JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT 9

10 Our Lord Jesus, in His earthly ministry, was always dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

11
12 1. At the outset of His brief, but history-making, ministry, Jesus was baptized in the
13 River Jordan by John the Baptist. Matthew records it:

14
15 Matthew 3:13-17

16 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. [14] But
17 John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? [15]
18 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to
19 fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. [16] And Jesus, when he was baptized,
20 went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he
21 saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17] And lo a voice
22 from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

23
24 Here again we see a remarkable reference to the entire Trinity of God: Jesus, the Son,
25 being baptized in the Jordan; the Holy Spirit descending upon Him; and the voice of
26 God from Heaven vindicating the experience.

27
28 NOTE: Matthew records that the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus like a dove. He
29 did not intimate that the Holy Spirit WAS a dove or even LOOKED like a dove; only that
30 when He descended upon Jesus, He descended LIKE a dove.

31
32 We have the same kind of descriptive passage in Acts 2:2: And suddenly there came a
33 sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they
34 were sitting. Luke never said the Holy Spirit came in the form of a wind; He wrote
35 clearly that His sudden appearance SOUNDED like a rushing mighty wind. We have
36 experienced that sound in hurricanes here. I experienced a horrible tornado one night in
37 West Bend, Wisconsin.

38
39 I only bring up these two cases because early students of scripture read such passages and
40 attempt to make theology of them, i.e.: 1) The Holy Spirit is a dove or 2) the
41 appearance of the Holy Spirit in any Pentecostal service will be noisy and sudden - the
42 wind, if you will. These things CAN happen, but it's not always the case.

In a subsequent study, we will spend a great deal of time on this subject of the Holy Spirit working in and through Jesus.

THE DIFFERENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT MADE IN ANCIENT EPHEBUS

The 19th chapter of Acts tells the amazing story of Paul's ministry in this huge (for that day) city. About a quarter of a million people lived there in an area given over to the worship of a god named Diana (Artemis), the Roman goddess of the moon. Diana was a multi-breasted, sensuous goddess, a combination of the Greek virgin goddess, the lewd Ashtoreth. For the Ephesians, Diana was the great Asiatic nursing mother of gods, men, animals and plants and was the patroness of the sexual instinct. Her temple in Ephesus was one of the ancient seven wonders of the world. Today, only one pillar of that massive structure still exists. There was a huge industry among the silversmiths of Ephesus of making shrines and idols to the goddess, a business Paul would shatter when the Holy Spirit hit the city. When Paul arrived in the city, he found only 12 followers of Christ who had been baptized in water but had never heard about the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-12

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, [2] He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. [3] And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. [4] Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. [5] When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. [7] And all the men were about twelve. [8] And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. [9] But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. [10] And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. [11] And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: [12] So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

This is what caused the huge riot in the Ephesus stadium, 25,000 Ephesians crying out to their goddess and trying to get at Paul. What was the difference in the ministry of the 12 original followers of Christ and the ministry of Paul? The power of the Holy Spirit!

I am going to close this first study on the Holy Spirit with a video I shot in Ephesus just last week. Remember, the stories in the Bible took place with real people in real places. The Holy Spirit Who anointed and used Paul is the same Holy Spirit we know today.