The Holy Spirit

There is a great deal of confusion about the Holy Spirit. Many cults deny He is a Person and that He is God, saying the Holy Spirit is just a “force” or “influence.” On the other hand, the Christian Movement, which has absolutely swept today’s religious world, places extreme emphasis on the Holy Spirit – teaching such things as “ecstatic utterances,” “healings,” and “exorcism.”

As with all these studies, our aim is to look beyond what men say and see what the Bible teaches!

Study Outline

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What has the Holy Spirit done in times past?
3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit today?
4. What does the Holy Spirit do when we are saved?
5. What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and me?
6. What about “Speaking In Tongues” and “Divine Healers?”
1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. Look up Acts 5:3, 4  

\[ \text{But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?} \]  

\[ \text{While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.} \]

In verse 3, Ananias is said to have lied to the Holy Spirit, but in verse 4 he is said to have lied to God. The conclusion we can draw is that the Holy Spirit is God.

B. Look up I John 5:7  

\[ \text{For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.} \]

This verse tells us that the Holy Ghost is one with both the FATHER and the WORD (Jesus, God the Son).

C. Look up Matthew 28:19  

\[ \text{Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:} \]

Notice the word “Name” is singular, which again shows the Holy Spirit to be God – the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

D. Look up John 14:16, 17  

\[ \text{And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;} \]  

\[ \text{Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.} \]
John 14:26  26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

How many personal pronouns (He, Him, Himself) that apply to the Holy Spirit do you count in these scriptures? = 6

E. Look up John 16: 7, 8  7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

John 16:13, 14  13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Can you draw a conclusion that the Holy Spirit (The Spirit of God) is a person... not just an impersonal force?

F. List three (3) ways the Holy Spirit may be affected as a Person:

You can lie to Him - Look up Acts 5:3  3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

You can resist Him - Look up Acts 7:51  51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.
You can grieve Him - Look up Ephesians 4:30 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

2. What has the Holy Spirit done in times past?

A. Look up Genesis 1:2 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Job 33:4 4 The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. (spoken by Elihu ?) The Holy Spirit was active in the formation of the Earth and all things.

B. Look up II Peter 1:21 (starting with verse 20) 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is the author of prophecy!

C. Look up Luke 1:35 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. The Holy Spirit was part of the miracle of the birth of Jesus.
D. Look up Romans 1:4  
And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Romans 8:11 (starting with verse 10)  
And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit today?

A. Look up John 15:26 (starting with verse 25)  
But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus Christ.

B. Read John 16: 8-11 (and more)  
And when he is come, he will reprove (convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. (The Holy Spirit will convict men of: sin, righteousness, and judgement.) I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

C. When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the Holy Spirit who does the work of regeneration (we are “born again”):

i. Look up Titus 3:5 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

ii. Look up John 3:5 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

iii. Look up John 6:63 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth (make alive); the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.
4. What does the Holy Spirit do when we are saved?

A. Look up Romans 8:9 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. **He comes and DWELLS in you.**

B. Look up John 14:23 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we** will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **God will live in the heart of every believer.**

C. Look up I Corinthians 6:19 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **Our fleshly body will become a temple for the Holy Ghost.**

D. Look up to see that every Christian is Sealed with the Holy Spirit.

i. Ephesians 1:13 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

ii. Ephesians 4:30 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
E. Look up John 16:17 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **The Holy Spirit is our Comforter.**

F. Look up Romans 8:26 – 27 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. **The Spirit makes intercession for us.**

5. **What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and me?**

A. He is always dwelling in us: II Timothy 1:14 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

B. He enables us to know the things of God’s Word, for He is our teacher. Look-up: I Corinthians 2:12-14 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for
they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**C.** A Christian can grieve the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 4:30  

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.  
31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:  
32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Sins that grieve the Holy Spirit:** bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking and malice.  
**Godly attributes:** kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.  
This is the opposite of what the “world” believes is strength!

**D.** A Christian can quench the Holy Spirit: Look-up: I Thessalonians 5:19 [reading from verse 14]  

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.  
15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.  
16 Rejoice evermore.  
17 Pray without ceasing.  
18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
19 **Quench not the Spirit.**  
20 Despise not prophesyings.  
21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.  
22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.  
23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit
and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

E. The Holy Spirit is our power. Acts 1:18 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

F. In Ephesians 5:18, Christians are commanded to be filled with the Spirit: 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; The “be not drunk with wine” insinuates a Christian is be under the influence of the Holy Spirit (in lieu of wine).

The work of the Holy Spirit in me is to produce the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. This is what the “world” believes is weak and boring!

The “secret” to allowing the Spirit to do this work in your life unhindered is found in John 15:4-8: 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast
them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

G. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers: I Corinthians 12:4-11: 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

i. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift (verses 7, 11)

ii. These gifts are not for personal use (I Corinthians 14:12 12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.)

iii. Some of the gifts are temporary, and ceased when the written New Testament was completed. These gifts (tongues, interpretations, miracles,
healing, prophecy, knowledge, and discernment) were given as **signs** to the nation of Israel:

a. Mark 16:17,18  
17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;  
18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.  
19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

b. I Corinthians 1:22  
22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

c. I Corinthians 14:21,22  
21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.  
22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. (and much more!...)

d. Hebrews 2: 3, 4  
3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;  
4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

These temporary gifts ceased in 70 AD when Israel was dispersed among nations. The Bible says they (the gifts) would vanish when “that which is
perfect (the completed Word of God) is come" I Corinthians 13:8-10. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

iv. Romans 12:6-8 lists the Holy Spirit’s permanent spiritual gifts:

… Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Permanent gifts: The motivation and ability to:**

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<tr>
<th>a. Prophesy – declare God’s truth.</th>
<th>b. Giving – be a channel for God-given assets of the Word of the Lord</th>
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<td>c. Ministry – serve others in practical ways</td>
<td>d. Ruling – lead others in accomplishing the work of God</td>
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<td>e. Teaching present the Word of God clearly and accurately</td>
<td>f. Mercy – identify with and share in the suffering and joys of others as a comforter</td>
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<td>g. Exhorting – encourage others through the application of Truth</td>
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6. What about “Speaking In Tongues” and “Divine Healers?”

The Charismatic Movement is a modern phenomenon which had its beginning in the USA just before the turn of the century. In the last 60 years, it has snowballed in to the most active movement within Christendom. One of the main reasons for this is because spiritual “deadness” of most mainline denominational churches – and the apparent “aliveness” of the Charismatics.

Don’t be fooled!! – II Corinthians 11:13-15 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. The test of whether someone is right or wrong is not determined by how it feels or by who’s doing it, but by “What saith the Lord?” – Isaiah 8:20

A. The Bible defines “tongues” as known, understandable foreign languages. Look-up Acts 2:4-11 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man
in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

The Charismatics do not practice this. They speak in a babbling gibberish – which at the least is a psychologically induced, ecstatic aberration that comes about when the conscience mind loses control and the subconscious takes over.

B. In the Bible, the miraculous gift of being able to speak in an unknown foreign language was a sign to unbelieving Jews:

- I Corinthians 1:22 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
- I Corinthians 14:21, 22 21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

- Isaiah 28:11 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

In each recorded case in the New Testament where the miracle of tongues occurred (only 3) – Jews and at least one apostle, were present:

- Acts 2:5 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.
• Acts 10:45-46 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

• Acts 19:6 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

C. The Bible says “tongues shall cease” and goes on to say when they would cease.

• I Corinthians 13:8-10 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Charismatics argue “that which is perfect” refers to Christ and that tongues will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. But Joel 2:28-31 indicates an outpouring of the Holy Spirit associated with gifts after the rapture. Joel 2:28-31 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.
Also, “That which is perfect refers to the “more sure” Word of God, which
replaced the gift of prophecy – II Peter 1:19-21 19 We have also a more sure
word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that
shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private
interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but
holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

D. The gift of tongues was still operative today, which is not, the Bible
would place certain restrictions on its use:

I Corinthians 14:27 - 28 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by
two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 28 But if
there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to
himself, and to God.

• No more than three people to speak in a foreign tongue during
any meeting.

• Each speaker must follow after the other has finished (not all at
once).

• One person is to interpret.

• If there is no interpreter is available, then no one should speak
in another language.
• The Holy Spirit NEVER takes anyone out of control. I Corinthians 14:32  
32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

• Women are not to speak (in tongues or otherwise).

I Corinthians 14:34  
34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.

The modern Charismatic movement is dominated by women.

E. The Charismatic Movement is dangerous because it elevates “experiences” above the Word of God. Remember, the devil can give you any experience you desire. The Christian must walk by the Word of God:

• II Corinthians 5:7  
7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

• Romans 10:17  
17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

F. The truly spiritual person will acknowledge the supremacy of the Written Word over any religious experience: I Corinthians 14:37  
37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.
G. Many Charismatic groups say or imply, you are not saved unless you have spoken in tongues. They claim to have the “full” Gospel. But, the real full Gospel is given in I Corinthians 15: 1, 3, 4  

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 

Those that add something to this are in fact preaching another gospel: Galatians 1:6-9  

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 

9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. 

Remember Colossians 2:10  

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
H. By focusing so much on these alleged gifts, the Charismatic movement elevates the Holy Spirit above the Son of God. The Spirit is God. He is equal to the Father and the Son in every way – but he is the shy Member of the Godhead. He does not speak about Himself, but always of Christ:

- John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

- John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

I. The miraculous gift of healing was also a “sign gift” to Israel.

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

J. Healings were overshadowed by Gospel preaching and conversions:

K. Healings were sometimes done on unsaved people: II Corinthians
12:7-9 and I Timothy 5:23

L. Today we are instructed to pray for God's healing mercies, but not to seek or expect a miraculous, instantaneous healing.

James 5:14-15 14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
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