

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
Third Quarter 2014: *The Teachings of Jesus*
Lesson 3 “The Holy Spirit”

Read for this week’s study

John 14:16–18; 14:26; 15:26; Matthew 12:31, 32; John 16:8; John 3:5–8; Luke 11:9–13.

Memory Text

“ ‘And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever’ ” (John 14:16, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Representative of Christ
- III. The Holy Spirit Is a Person
- IV. The Holy Spirit Is Divine
- V. The Work of the Holy Spirit
- VI. Filled With the Holy Spirit
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Moderator: Jon Paulien

1. Why is the Holy Spirit the least well known of all the members of the godhead? (Sabbath Afternoon)
2. How would you describe “Comforter/Counselor” in terms of today’s language and culture? Is the concept unique to the Holy Spirit or can the same term be used for all three members of the godhead? See John 14:17 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. (Sunday’s lesson)
3. Read John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-14; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Acts 15:28; Romans 8:27; 15:30 and Ephesians 4:30. What are some of the actions described in these texts that show us that the Holy Spirit is a person? (Monday’s lesson)
4. What do the following verses tell us about the divinity of the Holy Spirit? Isaiah 46:9-10; Matthew 3:16-17; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 12:36; Luke 4:1, 14; John 14:16; 16:13. (Tuesday’s lesson)
5. What kinds of things does the Holy Spirit do in order to lead us to Christ? John 15:26; 16:8, 13. (Wednesday’s lesson)

6. What does it mean to be “born of the Spirit?” (John 3:5-8) How do you access the Holy Spirit in order to effect real life-change? (Wednesday’s lesson)
7. What does Luke 11:9-13 tell us about the way we may receive the Holy Spirit? What was the unique focus of the Holy Spirit’s work after the resurrection of Jesus? Acts 1:5-8. If someone were to ask you if you have ever been “filled” with the Spirit, what would you answer and why? (Thursday’s lesson)
8. In His dialogue with Nicodemus, Jesus compared the Spirit to the wind (John 3:8). What does that analogy tell us about anyone who has been “filled” with the Spirit? (Friday’s lesson)
9. Some believers claim that the evidence of being “filled with the Spirit” is to be able to “speak in tongues.” How should we respond to such a claim? (Friday’s lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Now, we’re all familiar with the story, with Pentecost, and then Peter to the Gentiles, and Paul’s great missionary work. What shall we pick out? There’s so many things in here. Since the Holy Spirit is mentioned, very quickly, is this the first mention of the Holy Spirit, from Pentecost on? There’s no greater mention of Him than in John. Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit at great length, and what His work would be. Is that the first mention? What’s the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the biblical record?

COMMENT: Genesis.

Genesis! Page 1, isn’t it? Right at creation He was here. How about His work to win and convert and convict, and lead us into the truth? Is that in the Old Testament anywhere? Do you think of any references to the Spirit doing this kind of work?

Well, think of all the places; innumerable places. And you remember when David confessed his sin, he said, “And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.” What had led David to repentance but the work of the Holy Spirit? So you remember all the verses we looked at on the way through, referring to the Holy Spirit. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, *The Picture of God* in all 66 – Acts, recorded April, 1982 Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/59MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/60MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

Here we have Jesus’ words, “It would be better that I go.” And yet we know that the Holy Spirit has been here all along, doing His work, which it would appear is not one whit different from the work of Christ. He’s a teacher. He said, “If I go, I will send another Counselor like Myself, another of the same kind, and He will do the very work that I have been doing. But you won’t see Him. He will quietly work behind the scenes.” {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio

series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Acts, recorded April, 1982 Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

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Is it more serious to sin against the Holy Spirit than it is against Christ?

COMMENT: We can disregard Christ and it will not cause our loss, but if we disregard the Holy Spirit it will cause our loss?

Well, do you think God has a list of sins, and the worst one, the one He just cannot tolerate, is the sin against the Holy Spirit? That would be arbitrary, if there wasn't a reason for it. Now, what would the reason be?

COMMENT: I think it's because with the Holy Spirit, He can work internally within you, to continually prompt you. But if you sin against Him, shut Him off completely, then there is no more prompting that the Holy Spirit can do to you. We won't allow Him. So the sin against Him is not really doing anything to Him, but just shutting Him off. God can talk to you all day, but if you shut Him off!

Yes, you know that Ellen White is eloquent on this subject, and has just magnificent comments. I have a whole lot in my folder here, but with the clock going around, we won't stop and read them. If the work of the Holy Spirit is to convince us of the truth, He also is the one who inspired some of our fellow believers to write out this record of the revelation of the truth about our God. If I resist the Holy Spirit, I'm resisting the truth. I'm resisting the evidence. And since the truth, the evidence, the weight of evidence, is God's only means—particularly the truth spoken in love, is God's ultimate means of persuading me. If I turn that down, there is no other way. That's all. There's nothing arbitrary about this. "If you sin against Me, I can forgive you, but if you sin against the Holy Spirit I'll never forgive you!" That's arbitrary. That's the devil's picture of God.

It's just that God's only instrument of persuasion and conviction and even healing is the truth. And if I turn the truth down, well, this is how God hardened Pharaoh's heart. He brought a revelation of Himself to Pharaoh. Pharaoh could have said yes, and been softened by the truth, and maybe gone with them to Canaan! My, that would have been an interesting scene; towing Pharaoh in his chariot across the wilderness into Canaan. But he could, if he had responded. Sure, just as Judas could have been touched. But Judas turned this down. Pharaoh turned it down. And if you keep resisting the truth, it does something to your mind, and eventually the power to think and to do is destroyed; the image of God within us. And then there's nothing more that God can do. And it's not arbitrary at all. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio

series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Acts, recorded April, 1982 Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

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It is interesting; when we get to Hebrews, Paul is going to say that the mature people are those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil. They do not depend on some inner impulse to make that discernment. Grown up people have their faculties trained by practice. He's always exhorting us to make use of the image of God within us, the power to think and to do.

To trust an inner impulse, an inner feeling—that could come from any kind of source, anything from the adversary of souls to indigestion. There are all kinds of sources: chemicals, music, or insufficient oxygen in the church, even exhaustion. There are many ways in which you can lead yourself into a feeling of ecstasy, even total isolation from others for too long a period of time. They can reproduce these now, on purpose. You can induce these experiences. Paul says, “Make sure your mind is open to the Spirit of truth. Don't think like a little child. Don't be easily swayed to and fro. Grow up and have your faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.” Remember he says, “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” Always.

And that's one thing we Adventists, I hope, have always stood for. In our religion, we crave the influence of the Holy Spirit, but He is the Spirit of truth, He does not bypass the mind or the reason. We wish to have the image of God within us to be healed and restored, the power to think and to do, and our religion is highly rational. It makes sense. It is an intelligent religion. Does that mean it's cold? No. If you're intelligent about God and the truth, it's a very warming religion, and an immensely stirring one. Doesn't Corinthians show how very stirred Paul was, and yet he would rather say five words with his intelligence than 10,000 words in a tongue. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – 1 & 2 Corinthians, recorded May, 1982 Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/63MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/64MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

So, we take grace out of a passage like this, and eventually it becomes impersonal, sort of a commodity that can be bottled and dispensed from time to time when needed. We've even done it to the Holy Spirit. We even have a hymn that says, “May Some Drops Fall on Me.” He's a person. Ellen White reminded us the Holy Spirit is as much a person as God is a person. We don't talk about drops of the Father and drops of the Son falling on us. Of course, we have the picture of the latter rain which is the basis for that. There is nothing wrong with those

illustrations if we don't stop there, and if we don't depersonalize the Holy Spirit. Is there any such thing as grace apart from a person being gracious? {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series Romans, chapter 3, recorded October, 1977, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/5MMROMANS66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/6MMROMANS66> (Part 2)

Further Study with Ellen White

When Christ ascended to the Father, He did not leave His followers without help. The Holy Spirit, as His representative, and the heavenly angels, as ministering spirits, are sent forth to aid those who against great odds are fighting the good fight of faith. Ever remember that Jesus is your helper. No one understands as well as He your peculiarities of character. He is watching over you, and if you are willing to be guided by Him, He will throw around you influences for good that will enable you to accomplish all His will for you. {MYP 17.1}

The mighty power of the Holy Spirit works an entire transformation in the character of the human agent, making him a new creature in Christ Jesus. When a man is filled with the Spirit, the more severely he is tested and tried, the more clearly he proves that he is a representative of Christ. The peace that dwells in the soul is seen on the countenance. The words and actions express the love of the Saviour. There is no striving for the highest place. Self is renounced. The name of Jesus is written on all that is said and done. {6BC 1117.17}

The Lord declares by His prophet, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. While the sinner is yet far from the Father's house, wasting his substance in a strange country, the Father's heart is yearning over him; and every longing awakened in the soul to return to God is but the tender pleading of His Spirit, wooing, entreating, drawing the wanderer to his Father's heart of love. {SC 54.1}

The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude. This is what it means to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." This is eating the Bread that comes down from heaven. {DA 391.1}

Jesus says, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me." It is the union of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of the living witness that is to warn the world. The worker for God is the agent through which the heavenly communication is given, and the Holy Spirit gives divine authority to the word of truth (RH April 4, 1893). {6BC 1053.2}

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high. {DA 669.2}

If ye, then, being human and evil, "know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Luke 11:13. The Holy Spirit, the representative of Himself, is the greatest of all gifts. All "good things" are comprised in this. The Creator Himself can give us nothing greater, nothing better. When we beseech the Lord to pity us in our distress, and to guide us by His Holy Spirit, He will never turn away our prayer. {MB 132.1}

The Holy Spirit was sent as the most priceless treasure man could receive. {ML 36.5}

The Lord Jesus acts through the Holy Spirit; for it is His representative. Through it He infuses spiritual life into the soul, quickening its energies for good, cleansing it from moral defilement, and giving it a fitness for His kingdom. Jesus has large blessings to bestow, rich gifts to distribute among men. He is the wonderful Counselor, infinite in wisdom and strength; and if we will acknowledge the power of His Spirit, and submit to be molded by it, we shall stand complete in Him. {MYP 55.3}

The manifestation of God's love, His mercy and His goodness, and the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart to enlighten and renew it, place us, through faith, in so close connection with Christ that, having a clear conception of His character, we are able to discern the masterly deceptions of Satan. {5T 744.2}

The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself. {DA 671.1}

God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, quickens all its faculties. {GW 285.3}

Christ promised that the Holy Spirit should abide with those who wrestle for victory over sin, to demonstrate the power of divine might by endowing the human agent with supernatural strength and instructing the ignorant in the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Of what avail

would it be to us that the only begotten Son of God humbled Himself, endured the temptations of the wily foe, and died, the just for the unjust, if the Spirit had not been given as a constant, working, regenerating agent, to make effectual in each individual case what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer? {GW 286.1}

It is the Spirit that causes to shine into darkened minds the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness; that makes men's hearts burn within them with an awakened realization of the truths of eternity; that presents before the mind the great standard of righteousness, and convinces of sin; that inspires faith in Him who alone can save from sin; that works to transform character by withdrawing the affections of men from those things which are temporal and perishable, and fixing them upon the eternal inheritance. The Spirit recreates, refines, and sanctifies human beings, fitting them to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. {GW 286.3}

By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received through meditating upon Him, through reading the Scriptures, or through hearing the word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God,—a patient, protracted process. {DA 172.3}

While the wind is itself invisible, it produces effects that are seen and felt. So the work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God. {DA 173.1}

Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through cooperation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence. {ML 49.4}

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. Christ said to Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." John

3:8. Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God. While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible, its effects are manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact. While we cannot do anything to change our hearts or to bring ourselves into harmony with God; while we must not trust at all to ourselves or our good works, our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they are. The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts. {SC 57.2}

The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity. Gospel religion is Christ in the life—a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works. The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a representation of the life of Christ. {COL 384.1}

The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image. The pure element of love will expand the soul, giving it a capacity for higher attainments, for increased knowledge of heavenly things, so that it will not rest short of the fullness. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." {DA 302.1}

As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. {TM 506.1}

Those who are under the influence of the Spirit of God will not be fanatical, but calm and steadfast, free from extravagance in thought, word, or deed. Amid the confusion of delusive doctrines, the Spirit of God will be a guide and a shield to those who have not resisted the evidences of truth, silencing every other voice but that which comes from Him who is the truth. {AG 219.6}

Jesus declares that the Father is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. The Holy Spirit understands man's every necessity. He will bestow upon the earnest seeker that for which he hungers and thirsts. The blessings that God has to bestow are unlimited. We cannot comprehend their height and depth and breadth. All heaven is at the command of those who, realizing their lack of wisdom, come directly to the source of wisdom. {HP 294.4}