

Discipleship Guide
Lesson 8
The Holy Spirit

"I believe in the Holy Ghost [Spirit]. . . ."

As a result of studying this lesson, the student will:

- (1) understand more about the Trinity;
- (2) look to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

Comment

At this point in the Apostles' Creed, the writers shift their emphasis with a new paragraph or poetry stanza. After this simple "I believe in the Holy Ghost" (*Holy Ghost* being an archaic rendering of *Holy Spirit*), the writers list five more aspects of the messianic faith. It seems that the rest of the Creed declares the blessings that come from the Holy Spirit.

In the Beginning

Reading

The student should reread Genesis 1 and answer the following questions:

1. At the beginning of the creation account, in what form was God hovering over the waters?
2. When creating mankind, what pronoun did God use to refer to himself?

Comment

The Genesis account indicates that the Spirit of God participated in creation. In lesson 2 we learned that Jesus also took part (see John 1 and Colossians 1). Though *the Trinity* is not a term found in the Bible, it refers to the one God of the Jewish people, who has manifested himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three persons, yet one godhead. The Shema (*Hear oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one* [Deuteronomy 6:4]) uses an important word for God, *Echad*. There are two words for "one" in Hebrew. *Echad* relates to "unity" while *Yachid* indicates "singularity." *Echad* would indicate more of a compound than a singular. The word *echad* is used to describe couples after they have gotten married. They are "one" yet what the emphasis is on their joined-ness.

Transforming Hearts

Reading

The student should read Ezekiel 36:16-38 and answer the following questions:

3. God wants to transform our "hearts of stone." What kind of hearts does he give?

4. What does God say he will put within this new heart?

Comment

In lesson 4, we established that the Holy Spirit “came upon” the virgin Mary and as a result Jesus, the Son of God, was born.

Reading

The student should read John chapters 14 through 16. This text describes Jesus when he was within days of his death. Increasing his intensity, he teaches his disciples to prepare for the future. In this passage, the “ruler of this world” is Satan. After reading the text, answer the following questions:

5. Jesus said he would ask the Father to send someone referred to as “him.” Whom was he asking the Father to send?
6. The coming ministry of the Holy Spirit would replace whose ministry?
7. When the Holy Spirit came, he would bring what benefits?

Opinion Question:

From this passage in John 14-16, what overall picture of the Holy Spirit do you think Jesus was trying to give his disciples? What function would the Spirit have in their lives?

Comment

John 16:8-11 describes three convicting or reminding “works” of the Holy Spirit. (1) The Spirit convicts the world of sin, specifically their disbelief in Jesus. We can talk to our not-yet-believing Jewish relatives about Jesus and prove what we believe from the Bible, but it takes God by his Spirit to open their eyes. (2) The Spirit tells the world of righteousness, proved in the ascension of Jesus. (Since Jesus was righteous, “right with” God, he could go to the Father. [See John 14:30.] You and I can be righteous only because of what Jesus has done, not by *mitzvot* or by charity, but by grace.) (3) The Spirit convicts of judgment upon the world as a result of Satan’s fall from God’s grace.

After he was resurrected from the dead, Y’shua went to the room where his disciples were hiding. He gave the traditional greeting, “*Shalom aleichem.*” He then breathed on them, giving them what he had promised. He fulfilled his prophetic word, saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22).

Reading

The student should read Romans 8 and answer the following questions:

8. How do verses 9 and 10 refer to the Spirit?
9. Where does the Spirit dwell?

10. Who are the children of God?
11. To what does the Spirit bear witness with our spirit?
12. How does the Spirit help us?
13. Who intercedes (prays) for us?
14. Who or what can separate us from the love of God?

Comment

In Romans 8:9-10 the Spirit of God and the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is equated with the Spirit of Christ.

This passage also says that the Holy Spirit was involved in both the creation and in the resurrection of Y'shua. Those who believe and know this reality can call it our "re-creation" or our redemption into Y'shua.

Romans 8:23 refers to the "firstfruits of the Spirit." You might remember that John 15:1-8 described believers as being "in Christ." He is the vine and we are the fruitbearers.

Reading

The student should read Galatians 5 and answer the following questions:

15. The hope of our righteousness does not come by strict observance of the law. What does bring about our righteousness?
16. What are we to do "in the Spirit?"
17. As we walk, live and abide in the Spirit, what fruit will we bear?

Comment

As part of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit actively continues to work in our lives. He is the ever-present evidence of Immanuel (God Is with Us). The Holy Spirit is the one who brings us to the point of faith. He is the one who regenerates the believers. Then he indwells us (see Ephesians 1:13). This means that we have the sustaining ability to serve the Lord and live pure lives. We must have constant fillings of the Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 5:18). The more we allow the Holy Spirit to have of us, the more we will know of his power, victory and joy.

Opinion Question and Comment:

What is an example of walking in the Spirit? Think in personal and specific terms: *Is there someone to whom you can be more loving?* How can you be more joyful? What self-control is needed right now in your life? It's worthy of prayer and God's spiritual awakening in you. What a pleasure to know that although we are not complete yet, that he loves us and is creating his life in us even now. Concern to be more loving or more patient is evidence itself of his spirit in you.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:18

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."

