

LESSON ELEVEN

GOD IN EMANATION

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit is not the third person in the Godhead. God is Spirit and there is only one Spirit. (Ephesians 4:4). The title, "Holy Spirit" is used to designate another manifestation of God, another office as He works and moves in the hearts and lives of men and women.

Man possesses a spirit and by this means is able to commune with God; in like manner God communes with man by means of the Holy Spirit. In neither case does it make two persons.

At the time that this unit was written, the writer had two daughters who were at home. To them he was father and also pastor, but this did not make him two persons.

B. GOD IN EMANATION:

Scriptural References:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17).

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44).

The word "emanate" means to "flow forth from," to "proceed from." The writer must confess that he is not altogether satisfied with the use of the word here but he uses it for the lack of a better. The Holy Spirit is God flowing forth in blessing, salvation, and power. The Holy Spirit is spoken of as falling upon believers (Acts 10:44), and being poured out (Acts 2:17). Actually the Holy Spirit is everywhere already present, but these terms are used to show that the Spirit of God is moving forth into the hearts of believers.

C. THERE IS ONLY ONE SPIRIT:

Scriptural References:

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 2:4).

"There is one body, and one Spirit..." (Ephesians 4:4).

"... That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19).

"... Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

The Spirit-filled believer is filled with God, Christ and the Holy Ghost. Are there three Spirits who fill a believer's heart? Certainly not. There is only one Spirit.

We must then always keep clearly in mind that whether we are speaking of the Spirit in creation, the incarnation, or a Pentecost, we are speaking of the same Spirit. God is Spirit, and there is one God.

D. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Scriptural References:

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

"... Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

The personality of the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ dwelling within us in the power of His Resurrection life. "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

The personal pronoun "He" is used several times referring to the Holy Spirit, not as an additional "Person" in the Godhead, but as another manifestation of the One True God, "The Holy One." This is made clear in the baptismal formula: Father, Son and Holy Ghost are manifested to us in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The neuter pronoun "it" may be used when referring to the "experience" of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, or to the blessing and power of that experience, but when referring to the Holy Spirit the personal pronoun "He" should always be used.

When a believer is being baptized with the Holy Spirit, the believer is not receiving "it," but the believer is receiving "Him" into his heart, which, of course, is none other than Jesus Christ.

E. ONENESS OF THE SPIRIT WITH JESUS CHRIST:

Scriptural References:

"God is a Spirit" (John 4:24).

"Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18).

"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" (Romans 8:9).

These Scriptures make it very plain that there is a Oneness of the Holy Spirit with Jesus Christ. Let us look carefully at the statements contained in these Scriptures:

1. God is a Spirit;
2. Lord is that Spirit;
3. I will come to you;
4. Spirit of God - Spirit of Christ.

Further proof of this truth may be seen when we consider creation:

1. *"And the Spirit of God moved..." (Genesis 1:2).*
2. *"The spirit of God hath made me" (Job 33:4).*
3. *"For by him were all things created..." (Colossians 1:16).*

Are these Scriptures contradictory? NO! NEVER!

F. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TYPIFIED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

1. IN THE CLOUD:

Scriptural References:

"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire" (Exodus 13:21)

"So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God" (II Chronicles 5:14).

2. AT MOUNT CARMEL:

Scriptural Reference:

"Then the fire of the Lord fell..." (I Kings 18:38).

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament is typified on many occasions in the Old Testament. In the cloud and in the fire we can see the Holy Spirit as He ministered in the New Testament.

Elijah is the prophet of fire and his counterpart is John the Baptist. (Matthew 11:14; Matthew 17:13). *"Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist"*

G. THERE ARE MANY SYMBOLS USED IN SPEAKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. FIRE - Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:3.
2. OIL - Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 10:34.
3. WINE - Matthew 9:17; Luke 10:34
4. WATER - John 4:14; John 7:38.
5. DOVE - Matthew 3:16.
6. WIND - Acts 2:2.
7. SEAL - Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30.

These symbols describe to us characteristics and natures of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

H. THERE ARE MANY TERMS AND TITLES USED FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. HOLY SPIRIT - Luke 11:13.
2. HOLY GHOST - Matthew 3:11.
3. SPIRIT OF GRACE - Hebrews 10:29.
4. SPIRIT OF TRUTH - John 15:26; John 16:13; John 14:17.
5. SPIRIT OF LIFE - Romans 8:2.
6. SPIRIT OF PROMISE - Ephesians 1:13.
7. SPIRIT OF BURNING - Matthew 3:11-12.
8. SPIRIT OF GLORY - I Peter 4:14.
9. SPIRIT OF GOD - I Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9.
10. SPIRIT OF CHRIST - Romans 8:9.

11. SPIRIT OF WISDOM - Isaiah 11:2.
12. UNCTION - I John 2:20.
13. COMFORTER - John 14:16.

These titles all bring out certain characteristics and nature of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Comforter means "one who is called to your side as a client calls a lawyer." The same word is used in I John 2:1 - "advocate."

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS PROMISED:

1. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY:

Scriptural Reference:

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28).

Peter quotes this prophecy in the second chapter of Acts showing that the Pentecostal experience was the fulfillment of this prophecy. "Upon all flesh" has been literally fulfilled in that God has baptized with His Spirit millions of men and women of every race, color and creed.

2. PROPHESED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Scriptural Reference:

"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matthew 3:11).

It is significant that John the Baptist said, "And with fire." This was fulfilled as tongues of fire sat upon the one hundred and twenty in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost. God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29). Fire burns and consumes, purifies and purges, gives forth both light and heat, and generates energy and power. The Holy Spirit does all of this in the heart of the baptized saint.

3. PROMISED BY JESUS CHRIST:

Scriptural Reference:

"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter..." (John 14:15-26).

We should note in verse 16 the use of the word "another" and also in verse 23 the use of the word "we." The pronoun "we," of course, refers to the offices and ministries of Father and Son. The word "another" does not refer to another person or God, but to another office or ministry. The Holy Spirit was doing a new thing in coming as the Comforter to baptize believers, and abide in their hearts. This is clearly seen when we compare John the Baptist with the Spirit-filled believer. John was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15), yet the least in the Kingdom is greater than John (Matthew 11:11). Did John have a different Spirit dwelling in him? Were there two Spirits, one for John the Baptist, and one for the Church? Certainly not! The same Spirit dwelt in John the Baptist that dwells in the church but in a new office and ministry.

LESSON ELEVEN

SELF HELP TEST

Write out the Scriptures with Scriptural references to prove the following truths:

1. There is only one Spirit.
2. John the Baptist prophesied concerning the Holy Ghost.
3. There is a Oneness of the Holy Spirit with Jesus Christ.
4. The Holy Spirit was typified in the Old Testament.
5. Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
6. All men of every race may receive the Holy Spirit.