

March 23rd, 2025

Title: The Holy Spirit in the Book of Ephesians

Theme: The Holy Spirit in Ephesians

Text: Ephesians Chapters 1 to 3

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the work of the Holy Spirit as revealed to us in the letter to the Ephesians, with a special focus today on chapters 1 to 3. exhortation, to teaching.”

Introduction:

As we continue our considerations of the Holy Spirit, His person and His ministries, we will take two devotionals from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

~ Most Bible scholars divide the letter to the Ephesians into two main parts: chapters 1 -3, Doctrinal; chapters 4 – 6, Practical.

~ We are introduced to Ephesus in the book of Acts: Acts 18:19, 21, 24 – 28 and Acts 19:1 – 8.

~ It may be a coincidence that Paul references the Holy Spirit 12 times in the letter to the Ephesians, 6 times in each of the Doctrinal and Practical portions of the epistle, or is there a significance to Acts 19:7, “*There were about twelve men in all.*”

1. The Holy Spirit SEALS Believers:

~ Ephesians 1:13 – 14, “*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*”

~ 2 Timothy 2:19, “*But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”*”

~ 1 Peter 1:3 – 5, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading kept in heaven for you, (5) who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

~ 1 Peter 1:16, “*since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*”

Insert

2. The Holy Spirit Gives Illumination to Believers:

~ Ephesians 1:15 – 21 Read

~ Illuminate: 1) make (something) visible or bright by shining light on it, light it up; 2) help to clarify or explain

~ vs. 17, “*may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him*”

~ vs. 18, “*that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,*”

~ vs. 19, “*and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,*”

3. The Holy Spirit Unifies Believers:

~ Ephesians 2:11 – 21 Read

~ vs. 14 gives 3 groupings of humanity; “*who has made us both one*”

~ vs. 18, “*For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.*”

~ Consider Ephesians 1:22 – 23 and Ephesians 4:3

~ Two conditions to guard against: paralyzed and spastic. Both conditions are unresponsive to the head.

4. The Holy Spirit Occupies Believers:

~ 2:22, “*In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*”

~ 1 Corinthians 3:16, “*Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?*”

~ 1 Peter 2:4 – 5, “*As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, (5) you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*”

5. The Holy Spirit Reveals ‘the mystery’ to Believers:

~ Ephesians 3:1 – 6 Read

~ vs. 4 – 5, “*When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, (5) which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.*”

~ 1 Corinthians 2:7 – 8, “*But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. (8) None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*”

Lucifer was kept in the DARK!

6. The Holy Spirit Strengthens Believers:

~ Ephesians 3:14 – 21 Read

~ vs. 3:16, “*that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*”

Conclusion:

Did you notice that all six references to the Holy Spirit in this doctrinal portion of Ephesians inform the believer of the work of the Holy Spirit in us and on our behalf! I need to be aware and consciously appropriate what the Triune God grants me through His Holy Spirit.