

The pastoral-only, celebrity model of ministry is a broken-model and will not equip and empower the sons of God to engage the anti-Christ spirit sweeping our nation. If we don't break out of this blessing-only, entertain-me-only model of ministry, the next generation will enter a great depression of spiritual darkness and will lose many of our current religious freedoms. One day it may be illegal to write articles like this one, preach against sin like homosexuality, pray for people on the streets, lay hands on the sick, or even gather together to worship without a city permit... Do I believe Christianity can be destroyed? Never, but it can be hindered.

Jonas Clark

WHY STUDY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

LESSON NINE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

The Holy Bible starts out, "*In the beginning, God...*" God took the form of 3 persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and this can readily be proved by scripture. The emphasis in this lesson is on the Holy Spirit, who is a person, and who was from the beginning and who is equal with God the Father and God the Son.

I think it is very important, as we study the Holy Spirit, that we remember that He is always referred to in the Word of God in the masculine gender, not female as portrayed in a very popular best-selling book (The Shack) of a few years back, and even more importantly to me, that the Holy Spirit is a person with personality, not an *it*, and not a ghost, as we discussed last month, in the sense of a spook or residence of a haunted house.

Like all of us, He has a definite personality that can readily be seen from studying His attributes in the Word of God. I am going to list a few:

1. **He speaks:** Acts 2:28-27: *So, when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers saying, 'Go to this people and say: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand; and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'"* Has He spoken to you? Have you ever heard the audible voice of God? He has spoken to me many, many times, but I have never heard the audible voice of God, although I know people who I believe legitimately have heard the audible voice of God. One man, a homosexual drug addict in prison, heard the audible voice of God, and it so changed his life that he forsook all his sin and lived free of drugs and sexual sin until he unexpectedly passed away and went to be with Jesus.
2. **He teaches:** John 14:26: ***But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*** I rejoice so much that the Holy Spirit teaches us and reveals to us TRUTH.
3. **He strives with sinners:** Genesis 6:3: *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."* I believe that this is referring to the Spirit of God striving with men to bring them to God, most of whom would not turn for their wickedness. This is clear in the day of Noah, who preached

for 120 years before the flood, and yet, in spite of the longsuffering of God, the people would not come to God. Only 8 souls got on the ark and were saved.

There is a great danger when the Holy Spirit strives with us, and we don't turn. There is an even greater danger when He no longer strives with us and gives us up to reprobate mind because we refuse to retain God in our knowledge and instead prefer to do those things which are ungodly and unrighteous (Romans 1:28).

4. **He comforts:** Acts 9:31: *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.* Many years ago in California, a group of 26 elementary school children and their bus driver were kidnapped and taken to a truck body buried on a quarry site 200 miles away. They were able finally to escape and were returned to their parents. The best way I can explain the comfort of the Holy Spirit is by comparing it to those mothers who loved on and held their children when they were returned and continued to give them emotional support in the years to come as they tried to overcome the trauma of this event.
5. **He helps with our weaknesses:** Romans 8:26: *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
6. **He grieves:** Ephesians 4:30: *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* I am so thankful for the Blood of Jesus, which according to the original language in 1st John 1:7, continually cleanses us from all unrighteous. I am thankful for this cleansing for many reasons, but substantially because I know I have often grieved the Holy Spirit, and when I do, I can feel it deep in my bones. He is so tender and so loving and so caring about His relationship with you. Not many people get this, but Kathryn Kuhlman did, and she constantly spoke in a love language to the Holy Spirit as she ministered. The results: She was perhaps the most prolific healing evangelist of modern times.
7. **He is resisted.** Acts 7:51: *You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.* I submit to you that those who resist entering into the Baptism in the Holy Spirit are resisting the Holy Spirit. This Baptism is done by Jesus Himself, but He looks for those who are willing to lay everything down and who really want this. It is a dying to self, which often is very painful, and a willingness to put Him on the throne of your life. The Baptism gives you the power to overcome. Things are not going to be easy or perfect, and we are reminded that all those who live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (2nd Timothy 3:12), and you will go through trials and tribulations because we live in a fallen world. But the Baptism will give you the power to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8), and no matter what happens, He will never, no never, no never leave or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). It is all in the Word. Don't listen to men. Search the Scriptures!