



LESSON 51

Foundations Curriculum

The Character of the Holy Spirit

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Introduction

The Character of the Holy Spirit

In this fifty-first lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will speak about the character of the Holy Spirit (His attributes and distinguishing traits) and the ways He manifests Himself. From the Old Testament onward, the Holy Spirit has been present to announce the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. And throughout the life of Jesus on earth as a man, He needed the help and the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out the great work that we all know. Furthermore, unbelieving hearts are reached only by His powerful action.

Before we begin the lesson, it is worth considering the following questions:

01. Have you carefully observed the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus?
02. How does the Holy Spirit reach hearts that are converted to Christ?
03. What is the main attitude we must be watchful over in relation to the Holy Spirit?
04. How can we discern whether an apparently spiritual activity truly comes from the Holy Spirit?

These themes are important for our understanding and observation. In this lesson, we will try to condense them, because there is still much teaching to come.

1) The Holy Spirit and Jesus

01 He announced the coming of the Messiah through the prophets

The first thing that must be pointed out is that the Holy Spirit announced the coming of the Messiah through the prophets. And this happened for centuries, with the prophet Isaiah standing out among them.

02 He conceived Jesus in the womb of Mary, a young virgin

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18 (NKJV)

03 He gave Jesus of Nazareth power to carry out the mighty work that we all know

He brought about the supernatural in the ministry of Jesus, which confounded the laws of physics, chemistry, meteorology, and medicine, to name a few examples.

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

04 It was the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus on the third day

The text tells us that the Father raised the Son, but it was through the action of the Holy Spirit.

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

05 The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus as Helper, to care for the church and give it power

He came from the Father. He submitted Himself to Jesus (the Father gave Him to Jesus). This shows something spectacular about His character.

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

John 15:26 (NKJV)

06 The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus

The Holy Spirit submits Himself to the One whom He has governed and to whom He is subject.

He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

John 16:14 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit comes to earth to glorify the name of Jesus.

2) The Holy Spirit and the World

01 The natural man cannot understand the things of the Holy Spirit

The human mind is limited, and faith in Jesus is an action brought about by the Holy Spirit.

02 His revelation is foolishness to the world

There is power in the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself and to cause people's hearts to be converted to God.

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

03 He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment

Never forget this. Hold on to this hope, and proclaim the gospel to unbelievers. In order for us to understand the gospel and the will of God, we need the Holy Spirit; and for people to be converted, we need to pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal Himself to them.

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

John 16:8 (NKJV)

3) The Holy Spirit and Sin

01 He is the first target struck by the sin of the Christian

Yes, when we commit sin, the Holy Spirit is the One struck and offended.

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

Acts 5:3 (NKJV)

Notice that the text says that they lied to the Holy Spirit. Was it not to the apostles? The word "test" means the same as "put to the test." He who is Holy, Perfect, and Pure lives in us to make us holy and pure as well. Therefore, when Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles, they were, in truth, actually attempting to deceive the Holy Spirit.

Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

Acts 5:9 (NKJV)

Consider this: every lie is a lie to the Holy Spirit.

02 The Holy Spirit is grieved

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 4:29–31 (NKJV)

You have probably seen people out there who call themselves Christians, but who feel increasingly free to use foul language and to express opinions full of license, especially on social media. This is not fitting for us. Our speech should be holy.

The Holy Spirit can be quenched: “Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

03 He can be outraged

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:26–31 (NKJV)

04 Sin committed against the Holy Spirit is not forgiven

Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” and, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.” So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”— because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Mark 3:20–30 (NKJV)

Notice carefully verses 28 and 29:

Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.

Mark 3:28–29 (NKJV)

God is good and just.

4) How Can We Discern Whether It Is the Holy Spirit Who Is at Work?

To identify the action of the Holy Spirit, focus on two things:

01 The Holy Spirit manifests energy (in the form of action, testimony, perseverance, vitality)

02 The Holy Spirit is pure

Those who are being moved by Him have the fear of God. What is legitimate and pure leads people to love the lost more — to love in spirit and in truth. If this activity/manifestation promotes a people who are slanderous, divisive, quarrelsome in trying to be greater than one another, contentious, breaking fellowship, unwilling to accept correction, counsel, or teaching — there is no legitimacy of the Holy Spirit in that. We must not confuse shouting with power.

03 The Holy Spirit is humble

The Spirit who guided Jesus now exalts Him at all times. The Holy Spirit does not seek prominence for Himself. He is preparing a holy bride — not for Himself, but for Jesus. He produces a people of humble heart, not a proud one.

May the Lord help us, granting His grace and presence through the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION

In this fifty-first lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned about the character of the Holy Spirit, His manifestation, and His power throughout history. We identified how the Holy Spirit relates to Jesus, to the world, and to sin. And we saw how necessary He is for the supernatural work of the conversion of unbelievers to be accomplished. In addition, we also learned how to discern whether this or that manifestation, said to be of power, truly does come from Him.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** What, for you, is most striking in the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus?
- 02** Why does the world have difficulty understanding the gospel?
- 03** What should be our greatest care in relation to the Holy Spirit?
- 04** How can we identify whether a movement is of the Holy Spirit?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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