

In The Beginning God . . .

*An In-Depth Study of the
First Three Chapters of Genesis*

All Truth Begins Here



The Person of the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1-3

INTRO: In consideration of the truths that are contained in the first three chapters of Genesis we have thus far looked at the doctrine of the God, the Person of God the Son, the creation and nature of human beings, their creative glory and their fall, the nature of sin and temptation, the Sabbath Rest into which we were created, and more. In this lesson we want to give thought to the Person of the Holy Spirit—the third Person of the Trinity. What is His specific role in these chapters; what activity is He involved in? What can we learn about Him here in Genesis that is affirmed throughout the rest of Scripture? How does this understanding affect our lives and our practical understanding of Who God is and what it means to walk with Him on a daily basis.

As we review the text before us, we find that the activity of the Holy Spirit in creation and the early period of human history is not unlike His activity throughout the rest of the Bible, and even His particular ministry in this Church age as we continue to live out the *Acts of the Holy Spirit*.

I. His Nature as the Third Person of the Triune God

- A. Like a Dove Descending—Hovering Over the Face of the Deep
 - 1. We are first introduced to the Holy Spirit in Genesis as the Breath/Wind of God hovering over the surface of the waters of the unformed earth. Aside from the angel's report in Matthew, we are first introduced to the Holy Spirit in the Gospels as descending upon Jesus like a dove.
 - 2. This imagery is important and speaks to us of the nature of God expressed most particularly in the Person of the Holy Spirit as having certain characteristics:
 - a. He is gentle, soft, restful (Heb: hover [rachaph]—to hover, to grow soft, to relax]
 - b. He often communicates the attributes of God we frequently associate with the feminine nature: tenderness, the Comforter, gentleness, nurturing, giving birth, feeding us the milk of the Word, etc.
- B. Like the Wind—The Breath of God
 - 1. He is the wind or breath of God moving over the surface of the deep
 - 2. He is the Breath of God in the creation of man
 - 3. He is the Wind of God in the cool of the day
 - 4. He is the Wind of God in the new birth (John 3)
 - 5. He is the rushing, mighty Wind of God empowering the Church (Acts 2)
 - 6. He is like a refreshing breeze in the cool of the day, the comforting refreshment in the presence of God, the Helper in our praying, the Restorer of our soul, the Energizer of our work, the Lifegiver to our mortal bodies, the Indwelling Presence of God in our lives and the Anointing of God for our service. Life without the Holy Spirit is no life at all.

II. His Work in Creation as the Hand of God

We might well ask, “What was His work in the process of creation?” We would find that He is the Hand of God in this earth. (See Luke 11:20, “...but if I [cast out demons] by the Finger of God...”)

- A. The Holy Spirit is the “hands on” agent of the work of the Triune God in creation
- B. The Holy Spirit shaped and fashioned the man and then brought him to life...He is the Life Giver
- C. He mediated the presence of God in the cool of the day—and He comes alongside of us in our walk
- D. He was at work in the conviction of sin in the disobedience of Adam and Eve
- E. His work today is very much the same: convicting the world of sin, righteousness, & judgment; causing new birth and regeneration, anointing for service, comforting, guiding, creating: as Jesus Christ builds His Church, the Holy Spirit is His hands in construction.

NOTES

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Matthew 3:16-17 ¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

John 16:7-15 ⁷ "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. ¹⁵ "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. In what way has the Holy Spirit comforted you lately?
2. In what way has the Holy Spirit refreshed you lately in your walk with God?
3. Are you aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? In what way do you interact with Him?
4. Paul says that it is the Holy Spirit who affirms in us that we are children of God. (See Romans 8:16). Do you have this witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart affirming that you are God's child? (See also II Corinthians 13:5)
5. Given the things we have learned about the Holy Spirit in our study of Genesis, what do you expect the Holy Spirit to do in you, through you, and for you each day?
6. What does the fruit of the Holy Spirit look like in your life? Read the account and take the test: Galatians 5:22-23