

Session 10: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit & The Doctrine of Angels (Chapters 24 and 25)

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Facts about the Holy Spirit:

- The primary role of the Holy Spirit is to work with us in a mystical sort of way, to become Christians and then grow as Christians.
- He commits Himself to us to help us to change.

4 Major Subdivisions of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit:

1. **Personality:** The Holy Spirit is a *personal* being, not an impersonal force. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is treated as a person and given the attributes of *personality*, such as emotions, actions, intellect, and relationships.
2. **Deity:** The Holy Spirit is *divine*, the third person of the Trinity. He possesses divine attributes, such as omnipresence and omnipotence.
3. **Salvation:** The Holy Spirit is *instrumental* in personal salvation. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to see our sinfulness and realize that we should turn from sin.
4. **Gifts:** The Holy Spirit imparts *spiritual* abilities to Christians.
***God wants each of us to minister to others. The Holy Spirit gives us a special *spiritual* gift to minister to others. It is something we enjoy doing and something at which we are effective.

Since God is working through us with this gift, the results must always be attributed to Him and not ourselves. We must not become discouraged if our results are meager and we must not become inflated if our results are abundant. For in the true exercise of spiritual gifts, it is God who produces the results, whether meager or abundant.

The Holy Spirit's Work in Salvation:

1. **Conviction:** Revealing a *need to change*.
 - The Holy Spirit convinces a person of his/her need to change some thought, attitude or action. This is sometimes accompanied by an acute sense of guilt over wrongdoing.
2. **Regeneration:** Imparting a new spirit and *eternal life* with God.
 - When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit imparts to him/her a new spirit and *eternal life* with God in heaven.

3. **Indwelling:** Living *within* a believer
 - The Holy Spirit mysteriously “takes up residence” *within* a person when the person becomes a believer, encouraging and strengthening him/her to live a proper lifestyle.
4. **Baptism:** *Placing* a believer, spiritually, in the body of Christ.
 - The “body of Christ” is a term given to the totality of all believers in Him. To *baptize* means to “place into.” Technically, to be baptized into the body of Christ means to be a member of that spiritual organism.
5. **Sealing:** *Guaranteeing* the believer’s relationship to God.
 - The Holy Spirit becomes the *guarantee* of our spiritual inheritance, to be fully realized when we die. This means once a person has been regenerated, indwelt and baptized into the body of Christ, his/her position is secure, “sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” until the day of redemption.

The Doctrine of Angels

4 Major Subdivisions of the Doctrine of Angels:

1. **Angels:** Ministering spirits *from* God.
 - God uses a numberless army of angels to help execute His will in heaven and earth, and among their duties is ministering to Christians.
 - They are personal beings, *spirits* that God created before Adam and Eve, and are not “ghosts” of people who have died.

Hebrews 1:14 (NLT)

Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

2. **Demons:** Angels who *fell*.
 - A large number of the “righteous angels” rebelled against God and now form an evil army under the command of the devil, who uses them to further his will, which is counter to the will of God.

Jude 6 (NLT)

And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.

3. **Satan:** The highest angel who *fell*.

- Satan was originally the highest angel, but because of his pride he *fell*, rebelling against God and leading many lesser angels to rebel against Him also. In doing so, he became evil and corrupt. He is a real entity who oversees the forces of darkness in the world and seeks to neutralize and overthrow the will of God.
4. **Defenses:** Using God's protection.
 - In the Bible, Satan is called the deceiver and the destroyer. Protection from Satan is available to the Christian.

Believer's Defenses

1. **Alertness:** The Christian must know Satan's intention and be alert to his advances.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

2. **Armor:** The Christian has defenses that are metaphorically called *armor*, which protects him/her from Satan's devices.
3. **Resistance:** Once the Christian is aware of Satan's intentions and is using the "spiritual armor," he/she may resist any of Satan's advances with confidence of victory.

James 4:7 (NLT)

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 4:17-31