

# **BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT**

## **Lesson 21: The Holy Spirit is God**

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the first of ten lessons about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. The Bible teaches that there is only one true God and He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons of the Trinity are equally divine, possess divine attributes, and accomplish divine works.

### **MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE**

The Holy Spirit is truly God. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God. In this lesson we will explore the identity and character of the Holy Spirit as God and we will also examine His work in the inspiration of Scripture and salvation of sinners. The person and work of the Holy Spirit is often neglected and misunderstood. Just as the Father and the Son, He deserves our careful and thoughtful attention and worship.

#### **1. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:1-11)**

The Bible teaches in both Old and New Testaments that there is only one God (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:22; Jn. 17:3; 1 Tim. 2:5). God exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Trinity are the same in substance (essence) and equal in power and glory. However, they each have distinct roles and functions. The Bible reveals the Holy Spirit's deity through His identity and perfections.

##### **A. His divine identity**

It is no small matter to lie to the Holy Spirit because sin against the Holy Spirit is sin against God. After Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, the disciples began to preach about Him everywhere they went. As a result, God added thousands of disciples to the church. They formed a close-knit community of fellowship and provided for one another, even to the point of voluntarily sharing with those who had financial needs. One of those who shared his resources was Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37). A husband and wife named Ananias and Sapphira observed Barnabas giving to the church and decided to sell some land and give the proceeds to the poor. However, they only gave part of the earnings to the apostles, while appearing to give the entire proceeds of the sale. Peter confronted their hypocrisy and accused them of lying to the Holy Spirit. Even though they lied directly to Peter, ultimately they were lying to God (Acts 5:1-4). Peter refers to the Holy Spirit as God, and because Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, who is God, he fell dead on the spot. Soon after that, Sapphira repeated the same lie, and like her husband, she fell dead also. Lying to God is a serious matter. People can also sin

against God by testing the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:9), grieving Him (Eph. 4:30), quenching Him (1 Thess. 5:19), blaspheming Him (Mt. 12:31), and insulting Him (Heb. 10:29).

B. His divine perfections

The Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit is eternal, omniscient, and omnipresent, three things that only can be true of God Himself.

2. The Holy Spirit does the work of God (1 Peter 1:20-21; Titus 3:5)

A. His work in inspiration of Scripture

The Holy Spirit inspired all Scripture and has preserved it for thousands of years, making sure the church has access to it.

B. His work in salvation

God's Word teaches that only God can save sinners. The Holy Spirit saves the sinner by applying the finished work of Christ to him. The good news is that a spiritually dead, sinful person can receive the gracious gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit powerfully works through His inspired Word to enlighten our hearts, and bring us to the Savior in faith and repentance.

## MEMORY VERSES

**Acts 5:3-4** <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? <sup>4</sup> Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

**Psalms 139:7** Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

**Genesis 1:1-2** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. <sup>2</sup> And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.