

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Bible Facts about the Holy Spirit

Part I

The Identity of the Holy Spirit

(Editors note: The following weeks will advance six bulletin studies over the Holy Spirit. We shall examine the identity, work, pouring, baptism, gift, and indwelling of the Holy Spirit)

Early in the pages of God's word the plural identity of God is revealed. Moses records, "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them*" (Gen. 1:26-27). When we read "*In the beginning God...*" (Gen. 1:1) it is understood that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were present and had a part in creation (cf. Gen. 1:26; Job 26:13; Ps. 104:30; Jn. 1:1-3, 14-15, 26-30; Col. 1:13-20; Heb. 1:1-2, 10; Rev. 4:8-11)

Jesus had appeared to the eleven disciples after his resurrection and said, "*All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:" (Matt. 28:18-19). The Father, Son (i.e., Jesus), and the Holy Spirit comprise the "godhead" (Col. 2:9). The word "godhead" (Greek *theios*) is defined as "divinity" by Moulton's Analytical Greek Lexicon and "the essential and divine nature of God" by the American Heritage Dictionary pp. 565. A essential and divine characteristic of "God" is thereby the Holy Spirit.*

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Quincy Adams' visit to the doctor last week resulted in a favorable prognosis. He is feeling much better now.

Gospel Meeting Time!

We will be having a gospel meeting September 11-14th of this year. Stan Cox of the Westside Church in Fort Worth will be doing the preaching.

Please remember the following prisoners in your prayers as they study God's word:

Manuel Ruiz, Rickey West, Edward Ray Wallace, Floyd Buster, and Manuel Gonzales

Blake Robertson's Address:

Recruit Robertson, Blake A.
2nd RTBN Golf Co. Plt. 2153
35051 Midway Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92140-2141

Singing Class:

There is a weekly singing class being conducted on Sundays at 5:00 PM.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

The Holy Spirit is naturally referred to as God in the scriptures. Peter had once said to a lying Ananias, "*Why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the **Holy Spirit**... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto **God***" (Acts 5:3-4). A cross study of the synoptic accounts of the life of Christ by Matthew and Luke prove the Holy Spirit to be God too (see Matt. 12:28 and Luke 11:20). David further solidifies the deity of the Holy Spirit by revealing his omnipresence (see Ps. 139:7). Though the Holy Spirit is God he is certainly distinct and separate from the other two individuals in the godhead; i.e., Jesus and the Father. The Holy Spirit is one (Eph. 4:4).

The individuality of the Holy Spirit is depicted in his characteristics and actions. The Word of God explains that the Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3), tried (Acts 5:9), grieved (Isa. 63:1; Eph. 4:30), and resisted (Acts 7:51). The Holy Spirit has the ability to hear (Jn. 16:13) and speak (I Tim. 4:1). He comforts (Acts 9:31), brings joy to man (Acts 13:52), and helps us pray at times when we are overwhelmed (Rom. 8:26).

Though the Holy Spirit is a distinct individual in the godhead he is one with the Father and Son. The apostle Paul wrote, "*There is one body, and **one Spirit**, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **one God** and **Father** of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all*" (Eph. 4:4-5). The "oneness" of the godhead is no mystery at all. Many are confused over the idea of three equaling one and thereby exclaim, "The trinity doctrine is a deep and mysterious idea that is impossible for mortal minds to comprehend." Such a statement reveals more of a deep and mysterious ignorance of the Word of God. The Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father comprise the one *theios* in that they are one in purpose. Jesus prayed about the oneness of not only the godhead but also all believers through the sanctification of truth (see Jn. 17:17ff). The purpose of the godhead and all true Christians is that of being opposed to sin and united in truth (Eph. 4:1-4). Said unity is perfect and unsoiled by all who are likeminded with the godhead (Rom. 15:5-6; I Cor. 1:10). Part II of these articles will examine the **work of the Holy Spirit**.

The Church of Christ

Introduction:

Let's do an exercise in identification. **Using your Bible alone** I want you to construct a model of a church. What will this church be called? Who will comprise the church? What will the church look like? How will the church perform worship? When will this worship occur? What work will the church be involved in? Remember, you can only use your Bible to complete this exercise. When you are complete, compare your findings with all the "churches" in your area. Do they meet the Bible standard?

I. The Name of the Church:

- A. Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Muslim, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses etc??
- B. The Bible refers to the church as belonging to Christ and God (i.e. the church of Christ / Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16; or the church of God / I Cor. 1:2 and seven other references).

II. Who belongs to the church of Christ / God?

- A. Those "*sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints*" (I Cor. 1:2).
- B. The "sanctified" have been cleansed of sin (Eph. 5:26) by the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:13-14) through the obedient act of baptism (I Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16; 2:38).
- C. Sanctified people form a fellowship as they are added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:40ff).
- D. Said sanctified people are called "Christians" (Acts 11:26) or "saints" (I Cor. 1:2-3).
- E. The sanctified respect the authority of God (Col. 3:17).

III. What will the Church of Christ / God Look Like?

- A. The Bible tells us that the church will have sanctified members (I Cor. 1:2 etc.).
- B. The Bible tells us that the church will have qualified elders (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5ff).
- C. The Bible tells us that the church will have qualified deacons (I Tim. 3:7-13).
- D. The Bible tells us that the church will have qualified evangelists (I Cor. 9:14; II Tim. 4:5).

IV. How will the Church of Christ / God Worship?

- A. Musical instruments, theater, rock concerts, solos, super bowl, etc??
- B. The Bible tells us that the church came together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) to worship God by singing (I Cor. 14:26ff; Eph. 5:19), praying (I Ti. 2:8, 14-15), partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7ff; I Cor. 11:20ff), preaching the gospel (Acts 20:7ff), and giving of their means as they had prospered (I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6-7). Shall we differ?

V. What types of "Works" do we find the church involved in?

- A. Going over seas and helping the tsunami, typhoon, and earthquake victims that have no knowledge of God? Do we find the church supporting and building hospitals to care for the needy in the world? Do we find churches pooling their contributions into one centralized location so that they may preach on the radio, build orphans and retirement communities for the needy of the world?
- B. The Bible tells us that the church's work involves caring only for needy saints (Rom. 15:25ff), edifying its own members (Eph. 3:14-15), and teaching the lost (Eph. 4:11ff).
- C. The Bible tells us that the church is concerned with the spiritual rather than the earthly (Rom. 14:17).

Conclusion:

Did you identify the church we read of in the Bible? Have you honestly looked around this city and noticed all the man made "churches?" What church do you want to be a part of? Remember, the Bible tells us that there is only one church (Eph. 4:1ff).