

THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Much is talked about and taught on GOD, the Father and GOD, the Son; but for some reason, GOD, the Holy Spirit is all but forgotten. In this study, we will focus on GOD, the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is God IN you!

Ezekiel 36:27

And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall heed My ordinances and do them. *Amplified Bible*

IS GOD THREE OR IS GOD ONE?

1 John 5:7-8

⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Three names are identified here. Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. Later, in John chapter 1, the apostle moves from calling Messiah 'the Word...made flesh' to 'the only begotten Son'. He said that he also bears witness that Messiah is the 'Son of GOD'. Now we see the Father, the Son, Jesus Messiah, and the Holy Spirit. These three agree as One.

THERE IS ONE GOD MANIFEST NOT JUST AS THREE NAMES OR TITLES, BUT THREE SPIRITUAL PERSONALITIES.

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!^[a]

The central word here is the word ONE, which in Hebrew is the word 'echad'. The word 'one' is found about 1360 times in the King James translation. However, 'one' is translated as 'echad' 387 times in the Torah and translated as 'one' a total of 687 times. The meaning of this single word can be 'a union, a quantity or the ordinal number one'. In our Western concept, the word 'one' means the single number one, like one tree, one apple, etc. and certainly it can mean one God. However, in places where it is used in the Old Testament, there is another application.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Adam was a man. Eve was a woman, created from his rib, and therefore they were one flesh, two people but one in emotions, will, and desires. This word 'one' is also 'echad'! This is the same word used in Deuteronomy 6:4!

Other examples are:

Genesis 11:6

And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Speaking of the multitude of people at the tower of Babel as one people.

Jeremiah 32:39

Then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them.

Indicates that the people of Israel were 'one heart' (unity).

Ezra 2:64

The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

Identifies a large multitude of people 'whole congregation together' that assembled as one in Ezra's time.

So, the understanding and broad use of this Hebrew word is the first hurdle to overcome in understanding the unity of the Godhead.

ONE IS NOT JUST ONE, BUT ONE CAN BE MORE THAN ONE BEING UNITED AS ONE.

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was[a] on the face of the deep. And the

Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Notice the tri-unity of GOD revealed in the first verses of Genesis. We see GOD as Creator. The Hebrew word GOD here is 'Elohiym'. It is a word with a plural masculine ending. To help understand this, in English we have boys' names and we have girls' names. To understand if the person is a boy or girl, pronouns are used--he or she, him or her. In Hebrew, the ending of the Hebrew words can indicate if they are feminine or masculine or singular or plural.

Elohiym is plural. Let Us make man in Our image. The 'Us' is plural, and GOD is speaking to someone other than man himself. The pronoun 'Us' continues to be used at various places where GOD is speaking:

Genesis 3:22

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—

Again, the 'Us' is another plural reference that indicated others are present with GOD. The second verse of Genesis 1, we see the Spirit of GOD moving upon the waters. The Holy Spirit is brooding over the waters as GOD prepares to bring light out of the darkness. Holy Spirit would have been at Babel, too, to confound the languages, as He was the sole source of the many languages imparted to the believers on the Day of Pentecost. The third verse of Genesis 1 is quite revealing as GOD said, 'Let there be light; and there was light'. This light was not the cosmic light of the sun, moon or stars, because they were created on the fourth day. Here the Spirit and the light are joining together on the first day of creation. Jewish oral tradition states that this 'light' was an unknown light that was connected to the glory and presence of the Almighty. Further researching the apostle John's comment in the introduction of his Gospel, the 'Word' is present at creation.

And John said in John 1:5

And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend[a] it.

What or Who is this Light?

With GOD appearing in verse one and Holy Spirit in verse two, then the Word (Messiah) is the Light in verse three. Thus, the Godhead appears in the first three passages in Genesis.

THE THREE MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD HIMSELF WERE REVEALED IN THE EARLIEST MOMENTS OF THE CREATION OF THE WORLD.

Each member of the Godhead has a specific assignment for those in covenant. GOD our Father is the Creator. GOD the Son, Jesus Messiah, is presently the High Priest or Heavenly advocate making intercession continually for men who pray and seek forgiveness and cleansing of sins. GOD the Holy Spirit is the Comforter on Earth who is working with us to strengthen our faith and our walk with GOD.

During the Old Testament we read of the activity and actions of GOD working in Israel among His covenant people.

In the New Testament Messiah is the central figure of the new covenant, establishing the Church and the manifest Kingdom of GOD on Earth. Since

Pentecost the Holy Spirit has been the power source of enabling the Church to fulfill the Great Commission of spreading the Gospel of Messiah's Kingdom to the world.

Exodus 3:2-4

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am."

An angel appeared in the flame of this bush, yet it states that GOD's voice called to Moses from the midst of the bush! Jewish tradition states that this angel is the 'redeeming angel' that GOD informed Moses would go before Israel during their journey in the wilderness. The Angel of the LORD is the second person of the triune GOD.

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If God, the Father had a favorite word, I believe it would be LOVE, for God is love. If Messiah could reveal to you His favorite word, it would be BELIEVE, because all new covenant blessings are received through faith. What would the Holy Spirit's favorite word be? It would be HOLY; because He is not just A Spirit or GOD's Spirit, but the HOLY Spirit!

Let's look deeper into the meaning of this word HOLY.

1 Peter 1:15-16

On the contrary, following the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in your entire way of life; 16 since the Tanakh says, "You are to be holy because I am holy." *The Complete Jewish Bible*

Let's look at the Jewish word and meaning for Holy:

Hagios: sacred, holy

Original Word: ἅγιος, ἴα, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective Transliteration: Hagios

Phonetic Spelling: (hag'-ee-os)

Short Definition: set apart, holy, sacred; set apart by (or for) God, holy

(40) Hágios means properly, different (unlike), other ("otherness"), holy; for the believer,

(40) Hágios means "likeness of nature with the Lord" because "different from the world."

The fundamental (core) meaning of 40 (hágios) is "different," thus a temple in the first century was hagios ("holy") because different from other buildings (Wm. Barclay).

In the NT, (40) Hágios ("holy") has the "technical" meaning "different from the world" because "like the Lord."

(40) Hágios implies something "set apart" and therefore "different [distinguished/distinct]" – i.e. "other," because special to the Lord.]

The single word holy or holiness is connected with a word found throughout both Testaments that is seldom mentioned or taught today in our American

churches. That word is SANCTIFICATION...

Let's look at the meaning of sanctification in its original Hebrew context.

The modern definition of sanctification is to be holy, pure, perfect, pious, made righteous, and walking before Him sinless. This understanding generally deals with 'self' and moral character and is derived from a Greek-Latin-English or Western understanding. While this definition seems right and natural, and fits in some contexts, it is one-dimensional and falls short of fully conveying what the word 'sanctify' is all about.

To understand any word in the New Covenant, it is best to understand how it was first used in Hebrew. The Hebrew word for 'sanctify/holy' is 'kadosh'. 'Kadosh' means 'to leave behind and separate from/unto a distinct purpose'.

Unlike the modern western understanding, to be set apart includes BOTH 'from' and 'unto,' just as a door can give you both functions. Sanctification simply means, 'to set someone or something apart for a distinct purpose'.

The Law of First Mention also backs up the meaning of sanctification. The Law of First Mention states that the first time a word is used in the Scriptures it almost always carries that same primary definition throughout the Scriptures. The first time we see 'sanctify' used in Scriptures is in relation to the seventh-day or Sabbath day. Elohim set the seventh day apart from the prior six days, making it unique and distinct from the first six days.

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. **2** And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

With this background in mind, we can understand why tools, land, animals, garments, time, and even a kiss can be 'sanctified' (set apart). A tool cannot be holy (sanctified) in and of itself, but it can be set apart for a specific use.

This definition holds true throughout Scripture. So, to be 'sanctified' does not mean to be sin-less, or the process to living sin-less. Living sin-less can only be a fruit of being set-apart unto GOD. Scripture calls believers 'set-apart--sanctified.'

Colossians 3:12-14

12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

In this usage we can see that sanctification was not the goal, but that God's chosen ones were already set apart to Him. Because God has displayed compassion to His chosen ones, we too, are to put on compassion and should forgive one another. Putting on meekness, humbleness of mind, and patience does not make one sanctified, but is how His children are expected to walk in Him.

1 Peter 2:9-12

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own [a]purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are God's people; once you were unpitied, but now you are pitied and have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges (the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature) that wage war against the soul.

12 Conduct yourselves properly (honorably, righteously) among the Gentiles, so that, although they may slander you as evildoers, [yet] they may by witnessing your good deeds [come to] glorify God in the day of inspection [[b]when God shall look upon you wanderers as a pastor or shepherd looks over his flock]. *Amplified Bible.*

There are three definite works of God's grace that the New Testament teaches us :

1. The primary work is salvation.

2. The second work of grace is called sanctification, or being set apart in holiness.
3. The third is the baptism of power or the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Certainly, salvation is the main message of the Church for the world, and it is certainly emphasized by all Bible-believing denominations. However, in the majority of the congregations the Holy Spirit's manifestations are not witnessed. And as far as sanctification is concerned, many contemporary believers know nothing of this work of grace. One reason for this is that for years the older Holiness churches were often viewed by the younger generation as being too legalistic and opinionated, with an emphasis on outward adornment for women, as the outward appearance was often equated to a person's level of sanctification. The purpose of sanctification is to separate the profane from the things dedicated to God. Sanctification rendered the person or object usable in the tabernacle or temple, the ministry and work of God.

In the Old Testament the process of sanctification involved washings and rituals. Whereas in the new covenant it is an internal purification accomplished by the cleansing of the body, soul, and spirit through the knowledge of the truth and the impartation of the Holy Spirit.

God demands a separation between the holy and the unholy; the clean and the unclean; the righteous and the unrighteous; and the sacred and the profane.

Hebrews 13:12

Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

We are sanctified by the blood of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:26

That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

We are sanctified by the Word of God.

Hebrews 10:29

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?

The act of sanctification is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore

"Come out from among them
 And be separate, says the Lord.
 Do not touch what is unclean,
 And I will receive you." [a]

At other times it is necessary to sanctify yourself by separating yourself from the unclean things.

When we sanctify ourselves, we are setting boundaries that protect us from outward forces attempting to make inward assaults.

Exodus 19:22-23

22 Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them."

23 But Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.'"

This is the principle of establishing boundaries. In this setting God was separating Moses from the common people in the camp, as Moses was

righteous and the people were very carnal.

The New Testament sets spiritual and moral bounds for believers, forbidding them from committing. Idol worship and partaking of benefits from worshipping idols. Laziness; in the form of not working and providing for your family. Slander and gossip. Thinking more highly of themselves than they ought to. Illegal sexual activity. Being greedy; which shows up as unwilling to give and share.

And encouraging them to see the good in others and bear with one another's faults. Not become a stumbling block to others, but consider their needs above your own. Be pure in your motives, words, and actions

BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY...

It's hard to see yourself as 'HOLY' because the true meaning of this word has not been understood.

It's not WHAT you DO; it's WHO you ARE. And WHO you ARE dictates WHAT you DO.

WHEN YOU BEGIN TO SEE THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE, THAT LIVING INSIDE OF YOU IS GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOUR CONDUCT WILL CHANGE.

Your motivation will change.

Your attitudes will change.

Your actions will change.

How can this be? Because your nature changed the instant you accepted Jesus Messiah. Your spirit, which had been dead, is now re-born through GOD, the Holy Spirit, that same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in you!

[All Scripture is from the New King James version unless otherwise noted]