



The Holy Spirit and Spirituality 1Q 2017 Lesson 4 The Personality of the Holy Spirit

SABBATH

Read memory text, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” John 14:26, NASB

In Acts of the Apostles it says:

To the repentant sinner, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, the **Holy Spirit reveals the Lamb of God** that taketh away the sin of the world. "He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you," Christ said. "He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 16:14; 14:26. {AA 52.3}

The Spirit is given as a regenerating agency, to make effectual the salvation wrought by the death of our Redeemer. The Spirit is constantly seeking to draw the attention of men to **the great offering** that was made on the cross of Calvary, **to unfold to the world the love of God, and to open to the convicted soul the precious things of the Scriptures.** {AA 52.4} [What is the purpose of the Spirit according to this author? To make Christ's sacrifice effectual in sinners—how? What would the Spirit need to do to make that effectual? Would unfolding to the world the love of God be part of it? Would this be something connected to the great offering? Where are the benefits of the great sacrifice to be made effectual—in God the Father or in sinners? Who needs persuading, transforming, renewing, recreating? Do you see how backward the legal model is when it has Jesus pleading His blood, sacrifice in heaven trying to make His sacrifice effectual in heaven?]

Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. "He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. **If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul.** By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein. {AA 52.5} [What is the Spirit doing? Changing the desires of the heart, renewing motives, and enlightening the mind so that we won't be confused about which is the right course of action. But this author says “By His power...” that this change is accomplished—what is the power of the Holy Spirit? The power of truth and love—not by might nor by power but...]

What do you think Christ meant when He said the Spirit will teach you “all things”?

Are there any limits upon what things the Holy Spirit will teach us? Yes! There is the knowledge of good and evil—the Holy Spirit will teach us all things that are good, but will not teach us to participate



in evil; the Spirit will enlighten us to discern evil and why it is evil and how to disengage and be free of it.

But what about other topics than religion, will the Holy Spirit teach us science?

In acquiring the wisdom of the Babylonians, Daniel and his companions were far more successful than their fellow students; but their learning did not come by chance. **They obtained their knowledge by the faithful use of their powers, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.** They placed themselves in connection with the Source of all wisdom, making the **knowledge of God the foundation of their education.** A Call To Stand Apart 55

Did the Holy Spirit help Daniel without Daniel's participation? Is there a role we have to play in obtaining knowledge and wisdom? If we make the knowledge of God the foundation of our education do we gain greater knowledge into science, when we study science, than if we do not make God the foundation?

I would suggest—only if we have the right conception of God and practice His methods in our lives. If we believe in God, but have the legal imposed law view of God, that belief will almost certainly obstruct our learning in every avenue. Such ideas as:

- We have faith we don't need evidence
- The Bible said it, I believe it that settles it
- The Bible supersedes science, so any disagreement must be a problem with science—rather than realizing that nature is God's first book—where the truth of God's character was first written, and the Bible came along quite later and rightly understood they always harmonize. So, disagreement between science and Scripture means a misunderstanding exists—and that misunderstanding may be in how we understand Scripture, not science.

But when we come to understand God is the Creator and His laws are design laws and seek to find the harmony between science and Scripture, then worshipping such a God does lead us into greater knowledge in science as well as any other field of non-evil study.

From God, the fountain of wisdom, **proceeds all the knowledge that is of value to man, all that the intellect can grasp or retain.** The fruit of the tree representing good and evil is not to be eagerly plucked because it is recommended by one who was once a bright angel in glory. He has said that if men eat thereof, they shall know good and evil; but let it alone. The true knowledge comes not from infidels or wicked men. The word of God is light and truth. **The true light shines from Jesus Christ,** who "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. **From the Holy Spirit proceeds divine knowledge.** He knows what humanity needs **to promote peace, happiness, and restfulness here in this world, and to secure eternal rest in the kingdom of God.**--Special Testimonies on Education, pages 26-31; written from Cooranbong, N.S.W., Australia, June 12, 1896.



Let me tell you what I know of this heavenly Guest. The Holy Spirit was brooding over the youth during the school hours; but **some hearts were so cold and dark** that they had no desire for the Spirit's presence, **and the light of God was withdrawn.** The heavenly **Visitant would have opened the understanding, would have given wisdom and knowledge in all lines of study that could be employed to the glory of God.** He came to convince of sin and to soften the hearts hardened by long estrangement from God. ***He came to reveal the great love wherewith God has loved these youth.*** . . . {CT 364.2}

A principle of divine origin must pervade our conduct and bind us to God. **This will not be in any way a hindrance to the study of true science.** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10); and the man who consents to be molded and fashioned after the divine similitude is the noblest work of God. **All who live in communion with the Creator will have an understanding of His design in their creation.** They will have a sense of their own accountability to God to **employ their faculties to the very best purpose. They will seek neither to glorify nor to depreciate themselves.** . . . {CT 364.3}

What prevented the Holy Spirit from enlightening these people? Their own closed hearts to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

What lines of study will the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds about? All lines of study, including science, that can be employed to God's glory.

And what will all of these lines of study ultimately reveal? The truth about God's character of love—do we see God's character of love revealed in science when science and Scripture are rightly understood?

What is required of us to be able to benefit from the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? That we accept the truth about God's character of love AND HIS DESIGN for life—which is His Law being design law. If we reject God's law as design law, and instead teach it is imposed law, we obstruct the work of the Holy Spirit and prevent the Spirit from being able to enlighten us in regard to God's truth.

So, what is the power of the Holy Spirit in regard to our salvation? It is the power of truth and love! It is not merely the power to create matter out of energy, but to transform the character of intelligent beings, while retaining their unique individuality—this is only accomplished by the gentle working of truth and love!

Some people have emailed and asked about the presence of the Holy Spirit in the past and what was Jesus talking about when He said the Spirit would come after He was gone? Wasn't the Spirit already present?

I read this in *The Desire of Ages* regarding Jesus promise of the coming of the Comforter:



Before this the Spirit had been in the world; from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men's hearts. **But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no other helper.** Not until they were deprived of His presence would they **feel their need of the Spirit**, and then He would come. {DA 669.1}

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, **Christ could not be in every place personally.** Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high. {DA 669.2}

Does this give insight as to why the Spirit was limited in times in the past? Could it have anything to do with God's character, methods and the way reality works?

Is God love? Does God win our love and trust by overwhelming displays of might and power? Then how? By gentle persuasion of love and truth—and what is required then for a person to experience the Holy Spirit in more overt ways? A desire from that person—without a desire, a willingness in the heart, the Spirit works in the background to inspire, enlighten, draw, woo, but never forces His way, and is limited by our own hearts' desires in how much we experience of Him.

SUNDAY

Read second and third paragraph, "Jesus cares for..." I found this quite interesting, has anyone heard the term allopathic medicine, which is distinct from chiropractic, osteopathic, and homeopathic medicine?

The term *allopathic* comes from two Greek words—*allos* and *pathos*. *Pathos* means suffering and put together with *logia*, from which we get logic, *pathology* means the study of suffering, or disease. *Allos* mean *another*—*pathos* means suffering or disease, so *allopathic* medicine, which is science based medicine in which I was trained, means not to bring along another disease or suffering to the patient, but to treat the disease or suffering with something that causes the *disease* to suffering, i.e. something that is directly antagonistic and destructive to the disease. So an infection is treated with an antibiotic.

Homeopathy on the other hand is based on the flawed idea of *like cures like*, meaning that what causes the disease in healthy people, will cure the disease in sick people; so giving sick people diluted forms of what is believed to have caused the disease is the approach. It has been proven repeatedly to be no better than placebo at best.

So, back to the *allos parakletos*—another helper. What is the significance of "another helper"? Does this mean separate and distinct from Jesus? What about separate and distinct from the Father? Yes, another, but along side and alike to Jesus to help heal and restore us!



How does the Holy Spirit comfort?

What do you think of this description from *The Desire of Ages*:

The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the **heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind.** By directing men to **false standards, he misshapes the character.** Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. **It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself.** {DA 671.1}

What do you understand this to mean?

How is truth comforting? What do lies do? Is the comfort that comes from the Spirit emotional only? Or is the comfort the comfort of genuine healing, transformation, health and wellness?

Can someone experience the comfort the Spirit longs to bring if they refuse truth? Why not?

What happens if they claim to believe in God and follow the rules and do the right rituals but hold to lies about God as an imposer of rules and one who is required to inflict punishment? Have any of you ever believed such things? Was there comfort in such belief or instead discomfort, anxiety, uncertainty, fear, insecurity?

What happened when you came to the truth about God and His Design law of love, knowing that deviations from God's design cause suffering and ultimately death, while God is constantly working to heal and restore? Did this truth bring comfort?

Read question at bottom of lesson, "Why is it so much more comforting to know that the Holy Spirit is a personality instead of a mere force?"

- Are these the only two options?
- Does a person have to believe in the unique personality of the Holy Spirit to benefit from the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives?
- Could a person believe the Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father rather than a unique separate personality? Does that prevent the Spirit from working in their lives?
- Could a person not believe either, in the Holy Spirit or in a force? Would the Holy Spirit still seek to work with such a person?
- How could we tell if a person was responding to the Holy Spirit even if they were ignorant of the Holy Spirit?



- Conversely, could a person believe in the unique personality of the Holy Spirit, but accept the workings of a false spirit as the Holy Spirit?
- So, does believing in the unique personality of the Holy Spirit protect one from a false spirit?
- Does not believing in the unique personality of the Holy Spirit preclude one from the benefits of the Holy Spirit?

Romans 2:12-15:

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

And what is the New Covenant—God writing His law on the heart and mind, which these people experience. And who is the member of the Godhead who does this internal transforming of the heart? The Holy Spirit—so here we have people who don't know about the Spirit, or God, but are still transformed by the Spirit.

I love this description in *The Desire of Ages*:

Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, **but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit** they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the **heathen** are those who have **cherished the spirit of kindness**; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. **Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish.** Though ignorant of the written law of God, **they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature**, and have done the things that the law required. **Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts**, and they are recognized as the children of God. {DA 638.2}

Some ask, why then do we take the gospel to the world and preach Christ if this is true?

Let me give an analogy. Penicillin is an antibiotic, discovered from mold. It is true, that sometimes, ancient cultures would treat wounds with moss or other materials that contained mold, and the molds secreted penicillin and such individuals benefited and either avoided infection or had infections resolve.



Because it is true that people can benefit from natural occurring penicillin in this way, does that mean we should not produce and distribute penicillin, and teach people of its benefits and how to apply it to those who are infected?

Just because people can find God's character revealed in nature and benefit from the working of the Holy Spirit, doesn't mean it isn't much more effective when the truth is presented in its full light.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "Can an impersonal force..." Some of these questions are quite good, like, "Can an impersonal force intercede in our behalf?"

Intercession takes intention, willfulness, understanding, which requires individuality—so this is a very good question.

But one question is not necessarily as good at making the distinction between a personality and an impersonal influence, like, "Does an impersonal influence have the ability to speak?" Just say to your iphone, "Hey Siri." And what happens?

We must put forth the best arguments. What would have happened if you had a functioning iPhone in your pocket 2000 years ago and called the Spirit Siri and in front of a group said, "Hey Siri, what will the weather be like tomorrow?"

Might some people have formed some false beliefs based on that experience?

What is better evidence that hearing a voice speaking?

Read second paragraph, "The distinctive characteristics of personality..." Is there a difference between knowledge and understanding?

- Knowledge is awareness of facts or information, whereas wisdom is the ability to understand and appreciate the significance and right application of those facts?
- Knowledge is awareness that a tomato is fruit; wisdom is knowing that tomatoes don't go in fruit salad.
- Knowledge is awareness that your parents have a rule to brush your teeth or else you will get punished; wisdom is knowing that the punishment will not come from your parents.
- Knowledge is awareness that God has rules that we must obey or else we will get punished; wisdom is knowing that the punishment does not come from God.

What about the point that only a personal being can be grieved? I think this is quite true, inanimate objects cannot be grieved. But can animals be grieved? Are animals are personal beings? Yes, why? Because the higher animals were made to have relationship with each other and mankind—grief is the experience of loss—if we lose someone we have bonded with we grieve, thus animals can grieve. But



this is a personal experience. So the Holy Spirit who grieves the loss of every person who is lost is a personal being.

And what about the capacity to choose, and the capacity to love? This is something a machine cannot do, something a non-individual can do. Gravity is a force, but it cannot grieve, it cannot love, it cannot choose. Siri is a program that also cannot grieve, love, or choose.

TUESDAY

Read first two paragraphs, “A challenge we face...” Is it hard to connect with the Holy Spirit because the Spirit remains a very amorphous physical entity?

Does anyone have an idea, a way of conceiving of the Holy Spirit that makes it easier for you to comprehend and make Him real in your life?

What about praying to the Holy Spirit? How many of you have prayed to Jesus? How many have prayed directly to the Father... “Our Father which art in heaven...” How many have prayed directly to the Spirit?

If not, why not? Can we? Should we? Or should we pray only to Jesus or the Father asking them to send the Spirit?

I have often heard people pray for Jesus or the Father to send the Spirit, do such prayers undermine our ability to experience the Holy Spirit as equal to the Father and the Son?

The middle of the lesson asks us to read two passages and replace *Holy Spirit* with the word *power* and see if it makes sense.

I know what they are trying to do, but don’t think that it works very well here because of the sentence structure.

Romans 13:15: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” NIV,

So putting in power reads “by the power of the power,” if we reversed it and replaced power with Holy Spirit it doesn’t work either—“by the Holy Spirit of the Holy Spirit.”

This is just bad English. If we instead use force instead of power, it would read “by the power of the force,” which would suggest a force accessible and powerful, like in Star Wars, and thus would give a meaning, although it would be a false meaning.

Same problem with 1Cor 2:4:



My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power...

- demonstration of “the power’s power” doesn’t work
- but neither does demonstration of “the Spirit’s Spirit”

The Apostles statement in Acts 15:28, gives intent and intelligence to the Spirit “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us.” This type of language is more convincing to me.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “In the Gospel of John...” What is the distinction they are trying to make?

- Life eternal is that they might *know*... which is not cognitive but personal, experiential, not knowing about but knowing
- Truth it about the knowledge, the experience of reality, of God’s true character and how reality works—which is more than data collection, it is wisdom of life experience with God
- Jesus is the Word that was made flesh, the way and the truth, the living light, the living embodiment of God’s character and law of love
- Thus truth is not something merely to cognitively comprehended, but something to be experienced

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “The question of the personality...” What is the argument being made? That the HS will be slighted, offended, get His feelings hurt, be cheated out of something that is rightfully His?

Is this the argument? OR is the lesson arguing that in denying the personhood of the Holy Spirit we are cheating *ourselves* of something—what?

A personal relationship with a divine being who is the one who not only connects us with the other two members of the divine trio, but is the one with whom we can have the most personal and intimate connection as we are living temples where the Spirit’s personal presence will dwell!

If we deny the personhood of the Spirit, what do we lose in that intimate relationship?

Read the second paragraph, “If we think of...” The green section states, “We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us.”

What happens if we surrender ourselves completely to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit gets to do entirely what the Spirit wants to do in us?



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal 5:22,23

The Holy Spirit heals and restores us to God's original ideal and what was that ideal, that we not only have the traits of Christlike character, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, but we also recover the ability to be *SELF-controlled*, not Spirit-controlled!

God does not want puppets controlled by the Spirit, God wants intelligent beings healed and restored to be able to love others and govern self freely in harmony with God's design.

Adam, before the fall, was self-governed and had the ability to resist evil in his own human strength, at least according to one of the founders of the SDA church:

“Because man fallen could not overcome Satan with his human strength, Christ came from the royal courts of heaven to help him with His human and divine strength combined. Christ knew that Adam in Eden with his superior advantages might have withstood the temptations of Satan and conquered him. He also knew that it was not possible for man out of Eden, separated from the light and love of God since the fall, to resist the temptations of Satan in his own strength. In order to bring hope to man, and save him from complete ruin, He humbled Himself to take man's nature, that with His divine power combined with the human He might reach man where he is. He obtained for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam that strength which it is impossible for them to gain for themselves, that in His name they might overcome the temptations of Satan.” {Confrontation 45}

God's plan is to restore us to perfection, to restore to us self-control so that we can live in harmony with God and His design for life, by the exercise of our own healed minds and wills.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1 and 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We need HELP! With what? Well, after 10 years of ministry, this website has collected a huge number of articles, blogs, videos, podcasts, and notes that need to be categorized and indexed, so YOU can easily find all that's been said on a particular topic. The problem is, we don't have hundreds of eyes and ears on staff to search, read, listen, and find all these nuggets of truth. So, Come And Reason is calling on you, our faithful supporters, to help us with this task.

What do we need from you? Easy. Whenever you come across an article, blog, video, audio, or note that talks about a specific topic (like wrath, punishment, sanctuary, temple, mind, character, sin, death, etc., etc.), simply go to About > Contact Us and send us a note telling us where you found the information (page # in a document/note, time index in a video or audio file, the exact web address where you found the material, and the TOPIC the citation is talking about). We'll take those TOPICS and arrange them into categories and build a new menu entry to index all these resources.

Thank you, all, ahead of time for your participation and help in this rather significant endeavor!

Calendar: Come and Reason now has a Calendar of Events on our Website. If you would like to know what is coming up or where Dr. J is speaking or who is teaching a particular week, check out the calendar.

January 20, 21, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at The Haven in St. Helena, California

April 27-29: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Event The Struggle Is Real at the Thomas Road Baptist Church at Liberty University at Lynchburg, VA. For more info visit <http://lynchburg.cmhcs summit.com/>

May 6, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Summit Northwest Ministries, Post Falls, Idaho: for more info visit: <http://www.summitnorthwest.org/>

June 8-10, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Event The Struggle is Real in Naperville, IL.

September 15,16 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Church in the Valley, Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada.

October 12-16, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Garden Grove SDA church in Garden Grove, CA. This will be a multi-speaker event focusing on the atonement. For more information contact:

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October 27, 28, 2017: Dr. Jennings will speaking at the Arlington SDA church in Arlington, TX. For more information contact: <http://www.arlingtonadventist.com/>