

*"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wonderous works." Psalm 26:7*

The Church Guide is a media ministry reaching out to One Million of our neighbors who do not know Christ and do not attend church of any kind. We are called to fulfill the Great Commission and that begins right here in our back yard. We also strive to inspire, lift up, encourage and help equip our brothers and sisters in Christ in order that they might be all that God has called them to be. For those in need, we want them to know that they are not alone and strive to provide a listing of Christian outreach ministries who desire to be of assistance.

It's so important that Jesus be in all aspects of our life ... not only in our churches, but also in our schools, in our work, in all of our daily thoughts and actions. Our goal is to provide you with current and vital information of Christian interest. By doing so, we hope to better enable you to select and support your "home of worship," and to find trustworthy ministers in the marketplace to patronize and conduct your business. We also present extra-ordinary schools that can provide the proper educational challenges for your children and yourself.

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## “... We Have Not Even Heard Whether There is a Holy Spirit”

**Publisher's Commentary by Ray Boetcher**

*It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."~ Acts 19:1-2 (NASB)*

Like these disciples, there are so many people today who do not truly know the Holy Spirit.

God, the Holy Spirit is one-third of the Holy Trinity.

There is God the Father — We know about Him.

God the Son — We probably know even more about Him.

But God, the Holy Spirit? Like those disciples, we may not know that much about Him.

We know God the Father as El Shaddai, the Alpha and Omega, Adonai, Yahweh, Jehovah Rapha, the Lord that heals, Elohim, I AM, and so much more. Of course these are but a few names that we have come to know God, our Father.

And we know God the Son, as Jesus, Immanuel, the Lamb of God, the Good Shepherd, the Head of the Church, Messiah, King of Kings, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Word ... and so much more.

But what do we know of God, the Holy Spirit?

In the Trinity, God the Father is the source of all things. He is the creator. It is His will that is to be done.

God the Son, Jesus, is the Channel through which all things are done through the Father. Jesus said, "not my will, but the Will of the Father." All things flow from the Father's Will, and Jesus is the channel by which God's blessing flow.

But it is God, the Holy Spirit who acts as the Agent of God Almighty, who carries out the directives of the Father. God the Father is the Chairman of the Board, and the Holy Spirit is the Chief Operating Officer. It is He who gets the Father's Will done. He is the Agent of Power. He is the executor.

The Holy Spirit isn't some mystical form of universal energy. He is not a thing. He is not an invisible force like in the movie, Star Wars ... "may the force be with you."

He's a person.

Jesus makes that known in John 16:13 when He was speaking to His disciples. He elaborated further on the "comforter" that was to come (John 14:16) ... "But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come."

Did you see that? Jesus said "when He comes," "He will guide you," "He will not speak," "He will tell you." Jesus says over and over, He ... the Holy Spirit.

Since the Holy Spirit is a person, you can have a personal relationship with Him. And since He is God, His power is God's power. Therefore, when speaking to and relating to the Holy Spirit, you are coming into personal contact with God of the universe.

Maybe part of our problem is we can vision God the Father sitting on a throne. We can vision God the Son sitting on a throne to the right of the Father. But do we vision God the Holy Spirit sitting on a throne?

If not, where is God the Holy Spirit?

Ezekiel 36, verses 26-27 makes it perfectly clear, God the Holy Spirit lives within you ...

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." (NASB)

It is also confirmed in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ... "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." And in Romans 8:11 it states ... "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

That should be comforting, to know that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead, dwells within you. God the Holy Spirit loves you so much, He's turned you into His temple and lives inside you.

And what do you have to do to receive this comforter ... believe that God the Father loves you so much, that He sent God the Son to die for your sins, and believe that God the Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead.

"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:13-14 (NASB)

Once you surrender your life to Jesus, God seals every believer ... thus assuring their salvation. Alleluia!!!

God the Holy Spirit becomes the divine stamp upon us. We are branded and marked as God's. He owns us, He has authority over us, He protects us, He provides for us, He cares for us. Our salvation is signed, sealed and delivered because we have the Seal of God, the seal of the Holy Spirit upon us. Glory!!!

We are now set free! The Holy Spirit sets us free. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (the Holy Spirit) has made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2) We are free of the law. The Holy Spirit has opened the door to salvation. And once we are believers, the Holy Spirit will never leave us. We are no longer orphans in this wicked world.

As God's children you are entitled to your inheritance. Receiving the Holy Spirit is the first of those promises you receive when you surrender your life to Jesus. You are also entitled to His spiritual gifts and spiritual fruits.

God the Holy Spirit disperses spiritual gifts as He wills:

"For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of

tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (NASB)

And to assure our comfort, the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of a godly life in us ... "but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23.

Isn't that what you live for, isn't that why you strive to get into His presence ... for His love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness ...?

God the Holy Spirit helps us in every aspect of our lives. When we are weak, the Spirit makes us strong. When we don't know how to pray as we should, the Holy Spirit Himself speaks to God for us. He begs God for us, speaking to Him with feelings too deep for words. Isn't that amazing. We can find that scripture in Romans 8:26-27 (NASB): 'In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.'

If you are hurting and in too much pain to pray clearly, the Holy Spirit knows what to pray and will pray for you.

When you are troubled, stressed beyond your ability to function, too confused to think straight, when your mind is on the problem and not on the solution, God the Holy Spirit will pray for you and will take the matters of the heart to the Father in a way that agrees with what God wants. Alleluia! That gives me so much comfort, I can never say thank you enough.

He sheds the love of God in our hearts because He dwells within us.

God the Holy Spirit does everything to bring us closer to Christ, everything we need to walk with Christ in this life, and everything we need to take us safely from this life to the heavenly life to come. He does it all for us, because He loves us. We could not live even one day as a Christian without the help and assistance of God the Holy Spirit.

If you need help or prayer today, God the Holy Spirit is ready to help you and take your prayers to the Father.

Do you need strength? The Holy Spirit will supply it. Do you need God's wisdom? The Holy Spirit knows what the Father knows and He will stir up your mind.

Do you face a difficult task? The Holy Spirit is ready to help you and guide you through your difficulties. Are you facing a spiritual battle? Let the Holy Spirit fight your battle for you.

God the Holy Spirit is God the Father's Chief Executive Officer, He is the Executor of His Will. God the Holy Spirit is with us. Nothing is impossible. No sin unconquerable, no problem unsolvable, no river uncrossable. God has not left us alone as orphans in this lost world. The God of the Angel Armies lives within us, to protect us, and guide us.

Its heaven on earth in the person of the Holy Spirit.