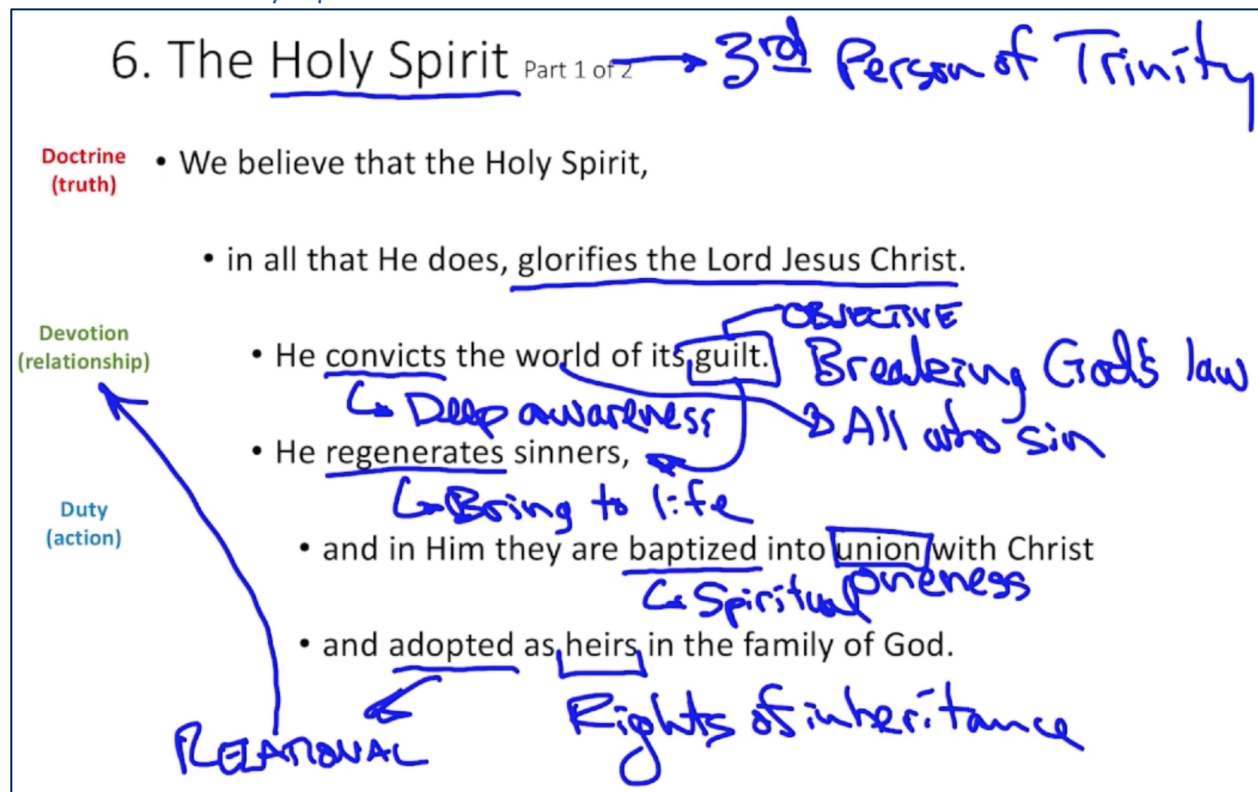


## Doctrine 6: Holy Spirit



We come now to the sixth part of our doctrinal statement. This is about the Holy Spirit.

Taken chronologically our doctrinal statement begins with belief in God, and moves through the second person of the Trinity Jesus, and His person and His ministry. And in some sense the final act, the transition point for the ministry of Jesus, from His earthly ministry to His heavenly ministry, is the giving of the Holy Spirit.

And as a review, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, and in that, He is God. He is fully God. He is a person not merely a force.

And so what do we believe about the ministry of the Holy Spirit? We believe that the Holy Spirit **glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ**. The Holy Spirit does not bring attention to Himself, but points people to Jesus.

And He enables people to live like Jesus. Three broad categories of how we think about this: the first is that He **convicts**. He convicts the world of sin. And what we mean by conviction is a deep awareness. So the Holy Spirit is not judging. The Holy Spirit is bringing a deep awareness and appreciation for the reality of guilt. And so this idea of guilt is the breaking of God's law, of God's ways. And so whenever we, in our attitudes and our words and our actions, are doing things that are contrary to God's design, we become guilty. And the Holy Spirit brings a deep awareness of that guilt.

And the Holy Spirit **convicts the world**, and we take this to be all who sin. So in this sense, the Holy Spirit is bringing conviction in the life of those who are not yet Christians as well as those who are Christians, in bringing this deep awareness of guilt.

And then the journey of becoming a Christian is a work of the Holy Spirit in **regeneration**. This is to bring to life. So the Holy Spirit, for those who are guilty, which is all of us as sinners, the Holy Spirit does the work of regeneration, of bringing to life.

And there are two ways that we see that that is expressed. First, we are **baptized into union with Christ**, and so there is a oneness with Jesus Christ, that those who are regenerated are baptized. And this directly is a spiritual baptism. It is in effect a death to self, of being buried to self, and being raised to union with Christ, to oneness with Christ. And in a minute, we'll be looking at the physical expression of that in water baptism. And so there is this baptism into union with Christ.

And second, in that we are adopted as children of God, **we're adopted as heirs**, as those who have the rights of inheritance. And the inheritance we have is the blessing of God as his children. And so the guilt emphasizes an objective nature of what is wrong, and the adoption emphasizes the relational nature of the work that God does. And so the work of the Spirit relates to both realms. So it's very significant for our devotion that we have relationship, that we are brought into relationship with God. And so that's where our walk in love with God, of worship, of prayer, is central to what it means to be a Christian.

## 6. The Holy Spirit Part 2 of 2

Doctrine  
(truth)

- He also indwells, → Lives in

- illuminates, → bring. understanding of life

Devotion  
(relationship)

- guides, → direction: Bible & life

- equips → gives ability to do our tasks in Christ

Duty  
(action)

- and empowers believers → to obey

- for Christ-like living and service,

Glorifies Jesus Christ through His work in us

And of course, there is then the duty, which leads us into the second part of of this segment, and that is this work that He does in those who are regenerated. So we believe that the Holy Spirit **indwells**, which means He lives in. And this in a spiritual sense, are spiritual beings, the Holy Spirit has an ongoing presence in who we are.

The Holy Spirit **illuminates**, which is, to bring understanding and life. The Holy Spirit brings understanding and life, because light is a symbol both of understanding and of life. And so this is a work that the Holy Spirit does deep inside of us, and this understanding is not merely the understanding of our minds and how we think about things, but deep in who we are, in our will, in our emotions, that there is an understanding, a deep understanding and knowledge of God.

The Holy Spirit **guides**. He gives direction. And key ways in which this happens is clearly, in one part of it, is through the Bible, and this expression is that we, through the Holy Spirit and through the skill of reading and of study, we come to understand the path that God has for us. And it's applied to life, that there is also the direction of the Holy Spirit in making sense of our lives, in the direction we are to go.

The Holy Spirit **equips**, so the Holy Spirit gives ability to do the tasks God gives us to do, our tasks in Christ. So this equipping is in spiritual gifts, something that is uniquely ours because of a relationship with God, as well as through the natural things that happen in life that God has given to us, perhaps before we became Christians. In both cases, the Holy Spirit is giving this ability to do our tasks in Christ.

And the Holy Spirit **empowers**. And this is central to an understanding of the presence of the Spirit, that He is giving us the power to obey. It is the power to say "No!" to sin, to say "No!" to ourselves, and to say "Yes!" to the work of Jesus. We started saying that the primary work of the Holy Spirit was to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and one way He does that is through us, for the purpose of these things, in the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, is that we would be able to **live in a Christ-like way and to serve Christ**. And so this is where the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ through His work in believers.

So in this way, there is a very significant sense of the duty that we have. Our duty is to live in obedience to Christ, and we do that by the power of the Holy Spirit.