

Christian Doctrine

The Holy Spirit (Intro)

Holy Spirit's Work Seen All throughout History

The role the Holy Spirit has played through history is clearly seen in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit has been at work and has made His presence known in creation, in the history of Israel, in the life of Christ, in the beginning of the church, and in the lives of believers today. The Holy Spirit will also play an integral role in future events as well. By looking at the role of the Holy Spirit throughout history, one will gain a much needed understanding of His ministry. There are over 250 references to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament alone, making it very clear that God desires us to know a lot about who He is and what He does.

Perceptions of the Holy Spirit Today

Debate has risen, particularly in recent years, as to how we should correctly understand the Holy Spirit. Questions pertaining to the Holy Spirit include:

- Is the Holy Spirit just a “force” at work around us, or is the Holy Spirit an actual spiritual being.
- Does every believer receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, or is receiving the Spirit something we should strive to attain?
- Is there something we must do in order to get the Holy Spirit into our lives?
- What do concepts such as “Spirit baptism” and being “indwelled” and “filled” by the Spirit mean? How significant are these to the Christian life?
- Is the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives permanent, or might the Holy Spirit leave us?

Understanding the Role of the Holy Spirit

Scripture is clear that the Holy Spirit plays a vital part in the life of the church and each believer. In this study, we will gain a better understanding of who the Holy Spirit is, what He has done in the past, and what He desires to do in our lives today.