

Attic Answer #9
What About the Holy Spirit?
What does the Bible say about Him?

“But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:39) The Apostle John records here in his Gospel about the time when the Holy Spirit would be given to the new covenant kingdom. The text states that the Spirit would be given following the glorification of Jesus. God’s word and history have testified that this glorification took place in the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. The new covenant kingdom would have something that no other dispensation could claim; that is the indwelling gift of God’s Holy Spirit.

It is critical to recognize that this Holy Spirit is a distinct divine person. Where Christ dwelt among man, the Holy Spirit dwells within man. He sets up residence at the onset of one’s baptism into Christ. To deny His divine personhood is to deny His essential nature; that is, of God Himself. It is vital to understand that the Holy Spirit is God, who acts in total harmony with God’s will and God’s plan through God’s word. As a divine person, He possesses all the inherent attributes of deity and the qualities of personhood. As related to His deity, He possesses all the attributes as God would such as; He is eternal, He is present and active in creation, He is omnipotent, He is omnipresent, He is omniscient, He is holy, and He is identified as God. Therefore, He is a thinking/rational being, He has the power of choice, He speaks expressively, He is emotional and has feelings, and He can be vexed and expresses righteous indignation.

The Holy Spirit has always been at work within the sovereign and providential plan of God. As the Holy Spirit is eternal and unchangeable, His work though has varied

according to the dispensation within which He was working. In the OT, the Holy Spirit's work was different than that of His work within the early church. Similarly so, His work from the time of the early church in the apostolic age to that of the present day church has differed as well. For instance in the OT age the Holy Spirit worked in the inspiration of the Prophets in order for them to communicate God's message to man. The Spirit was working alongside these men and was not indwelling as He would in the Christian age. He also empowered certain leaders to certain tasks such as Gideon, Samson, Saul, & David. This is also an example of the work of the Holy Spirit in the OT age. In the NT age the Spirit serves as a mark of one's inheritance of the coming glory that will be. The Spirit is the earnest or deposit of God's promise to bring those who are obedient to Him into His presence in Heaven when Christ comes to redeem His church. As part of the early church work of the Holy Spirit, He empowered the Apostles to do things that were necessary for the establishment of the early church. As the scriptures are the clear and only authority of the present day church, the miracles, signs and wonders performed by the apostles and those whom they laid their hands upon were in need of a clear authority as well. As is made clear in many passages, these Baptisms of the Spirit were only bestowed twice within the early record of the church; to the apostles on Pentecost and to Cornelius and his family some eight years after the first. Each of these special dispensations of the Spirit was for the Apostles benefit and these 'Baptisms of the Holy Spirit' were a direct action of Jesus Himself. Once a clear and coherent study of all the scriptures pertaining to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and to the hands of the Apostles is completed, it is easy to discern that these gifts and abilities would cease once the Apostles and those whom they had laid their hands upon would die. Therefore, the Holy

Spirit's work within the present day church is different than that of the early church and of the old covenant age.

“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"

(John 7:37-38) These are the very words that Christ spoke in order to teach that the Holy Spirit would be given to those who thirst for Him. In conclusion, being a Spirit led person and a spirit indwelt person are a result of an intimate, trusting, obedient relationship to Jesus Christ and to His Gospel. He simply and exclusively gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.