

Study Guide for *The Holy Spirit*, by Edwin H. Palmer

**Extra Reading for the course:
"We Believe in the Holy Spirit"**

ACADEMIC
PACKET

**RESOURCES FOR GROUPS
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS**



Read Edwin H. Palmer, *The Holy Spirit*

Section 1, Chapters 1-8.

Review Questions

Chapter One

1. How does the Athanasian Creed describe the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son?
2. According to Abraham Kuyper, a denial of the 'filioque' leads to an unhealthy what?

Chapter Two

1. Explain the quote, "The Father originates, the Son executes, and the Holy Spirit perfects."
2. According to Palmer, what was and is the climax of the creative work of the Spirit?

Chapter Three

1. What does Palmer give as the threefold work of the Spirit in common grace?
2. In II Thessalonians 2, how does Paul describe the end of this age when the Holy Spirit is removed from the world?
3. Which ancient king was anointed by God to do his work, as seen in Isaiah 45:1? Why is this significant?

Chapter Four

1. Why does Palmer say man cannot know a single thing of either general or special revelation without the Holy Spirit?

2. Were the biblical authors passive in their writing of the Bible or active? Explain.
3. What wording does the Bible use to describe the Holy Spirit's relationship with the biblical authors?

Chapter Five

1. According to Palmer, what is the passage of Scripture that is the clearest in showing the inability of the natural man to understand spiritual things?
2. True or False? The Holy Spirit enlightens man by giving to him a secret revelation, or new knowledge. Why or why not?

Chapter Six

1. At what point was Jesus given a special endowment of the Spirit to discharge his office as Messiah?
2. What role did Jesus' divine nature play in his ability to resist Satan's temptation in the desert?
3. What particular text does Palmer give to show the Holy Spirit's work in Christ's glorification?

Chapter Seven

1. "Regeneration occurs _____." Explain.
2. How does Palmer describe the convicting work of the Holy Spirit on pages 85-86?

Chapter Eight

1. "In fact, the remarkable truth is that the holier and more sanctified a Christian becomes, the greater is his awareness of _____."
2. Unlike regeneration, in sanctification man is both _____ and _____. How does that work?
3. What three practical steps does Palmer give which the Christian can take to hasten sanctification?

Application Questions

1. How would you respond to someone who claims to have a new and secret revelation from God?
2. How does an understanding of the Spirit's role in Jesus' temptation in the desert affect your own attempt to resist temptation?
3. What would you change, if anything, about your church's discipleship program after studying the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's sanctification?

Read Edwin Palmer's, *The Holy Spirit*,

Section 2, Chapters 9-16.

Review Questions

Chapter Nine

1. Define and describe "tongue-speaking" in the Bible.
2. Where and how often does the Old Testament mention speaking in tongues?
3. According to I Corinthians 13, what is more important than speaking in tongues? Why does Palmer see this as significant?

Chapter Ten

1. Describe the Spirit's role in God's preceptive will and his decretive will.
2. What is the term used for times when there is not a choice between right and wrong, but between two morally good alternatives?
3. Fill in the blank. "The Spirit uses only _____ to guide us inerrantly." Why is this significant?

Chapter Eleven

1. What are the four "sonships" used to describe Jesus as the Son of God?
2. All men are called sons of God because God created them and because they are like God. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
3. The Holy Spirit's role in adoption is to testify to us of our adopted sonship and to _____.

Chapter Twelve

1. Explain the quote, "Christ's intercession occurs in heaven; the Holy Spirits on earth."
2. Should Christians pray to each Person of the Trinity individually?

Chapter Thirteen

1. What is the essential meaning of "to baptize"?
2. Explain the quote, "Because the Spirit equips every member of Christ's church with certain gifts or talents, it is obligatory for every Christian to find out what those gifts are and then to employ them for the benefit of the church."

Chapter Fourteen

1. What two reasons does Palmer give for the Bible's close association of the Holy Spirit with water as a symbol?
2. What concept does Palmer center on when describing fire as a useful symbol for the Holy Spirit?
3. What act is most closely tied to the Bible's use of oil as a symbol for the Holy Spirit?

Chapter Fifteen

1. How does Palmer describe the 'unpardonable sin' in both positive (what it is) and negative (what it isn't) terms?

2. Can Christians commit the unpardonable sin. Explain.

Chapter Sixteen

1. When Jesus says to Nicodemus, "You must be born again," why shouldn't we see it as a command?
2. Explain the quote, "When God commanded us to do great things, even impossibilities, he gives us the ability to fulfill what he commands."

Application Questions

1. Why is it important to have a clear understanding of "tongue-speaking" in your context?
2. What difference has an understanding of the Christian's adoption made in your life?
3. How would you direct those who ask you to find and practice their spiritual gifts?