

Jesus and the Holy Spirit



SABBATH—APRIL 8

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Matthew 1:18-20; Matthew 3:16, 17; Luke 1:35; John 3:3-8, 34; Romans 8:11; Hebrews 9:14.

MEMORY VERSE: “The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God.’” (Luke 1:35, NIV).

JESUS WAS GIVEN A START IN LIFE BY MARY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP. Before Jesus began His public work, He was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus as a dove at His baptism. Immediately after Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Throughout His entire ministry (work), Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was dedicated to doing His Father's will as shown to Him in the Bible and by the Holy Spirit's leading. He surrendered His own feelings. He did not want to die at the age of 33 any more than you or I would. He begged His Father to take that cup of death away, if possible (Matthew 26:39, 42). But He would rather die at 33 than go against His Father's will. Jesus did His work and miracles through the directions (leading) of the Holy Spirit.

Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, April 15.

SUNDAY—APRIL 9**MIRACLE BIRTH
(Matthew 1:18-20).**

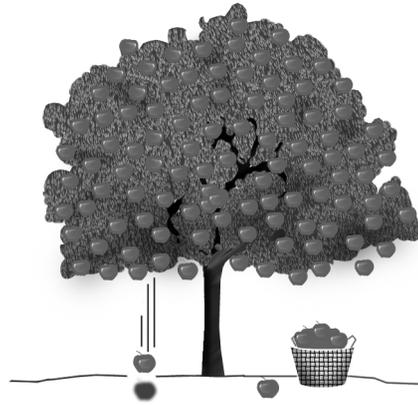
What part do Matthew 1:18-20 and Luke 1:35 give to the Holy Spirit in giving life to Jesus as a human?

People who limit themselves to what science and reason can tell them have a hard time with Matthew 1:18-20 and Luke 1:35. But people who trust in God's power (Luke 1:37; Hebrews 11:6) and the truth of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16) can accept what the Bible says about Jesus' birth. "The just [holy people] shall live by faith" (Hebrews 10:38). Faith is believing in what we cannot fully understand.

How do the following verses help us better understand the part of the Holy Spirit in Mary's pregnancy and in Jesus' birth? Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; John 3:3-8.

We cannot fully understand how Jesus was put in human form. But it is not hard to understand why the Holy Spirit would be the acting Agent.¹ Only God Himself could do such a miracle. It is hard to imagine that an angel or any other created being could be the agent in this unbelievable act.

What are some things in the natural world you believe are true but do not understand? How do these examples help you to believe things about God that you cannot understand?



We do not understand how the force of gravity can pull something to the ground. But we believe that gravity is real. We do not understand how the Holy Spirit put Jesus in human form. But we believe He did it.

MONDAY—APRIL 10**ANOINTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Luke 3:21, 22).**

What do Matthew 3:16, 17; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21, 22; and John 1:32-34 tell us about the Holy Spirit in Christ's work?

Jesus was God's sinless Son. Jesus was with God from the days of eternity² (John 1:1-3). But He, in

¹ agent—someone, or something, who does work for someone else. The Holy Spirit works for God and Jesus.

² eternity—life without end; forever.

human form, was fully dependent upon the Holy Spirit's work in His life.

During Jesus' baptism, all Three Persons of the Godhead were shown in a special way: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all there. This fact alone should tell us how important the anointing and baptism of Jesus were. In a special way, Jesus began His work for saving people and for ending the great controversy (war) with Satan.

What do Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; and Luke 4:1 tell us about the Holy Spirit's work in Christ's life?

In the wilderness temptation, Christ had the same temptations Adam had. But Christ was in a much worse situation than Adam. Adam had a full stomach in a land of plenty while a very hungry Jesus was in a barren³ wilderness. The three writers (Matthew, Mark, and John) who wrote about Jesus' temptation all said it was the Holy Spirit who had led Jesus into the wilderness. They also said it was Satan who had tempted Jesus.



The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

How have you faced your own “wilderness temptation”? How were you helped? What can you learn from Christ's experience that can help you with future temptations?

TUESDAY—APRIL 11

**GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
(John 3:34).**

What is Jesus saying in John 3:34? What do His words tell us about the Holy Spirit's influence in His life? What should His words

³ barren—without life; empty.

tell us about what the Holy Spirit should be doing in our lives?

Acts 1:1, 2 makes it clear that it was through the Holy Spirit that Jesus had given commandments unto the apostles. This is another example of how Jesus depended upon the Holy Spirit.

What was Jesus' main goal during His life on earth? John 4:34; John 6:38; John 8:29. How does this goal fit in with the work of the Holy Spirit in His life?

“Jesus, with His human nature, stood during all the days of His suffering under the steady working of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had everything. But together with His Father and the Holy Spirit, He accepted our human nature. . . . Jesus was God's Son. But He did not take our nature Himself. Instead, He was willing to receive it from the Holy Spirit.”—Adapted from Abraham Kuyper, *The Work of the Holy Spirit* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1975), p. 96.

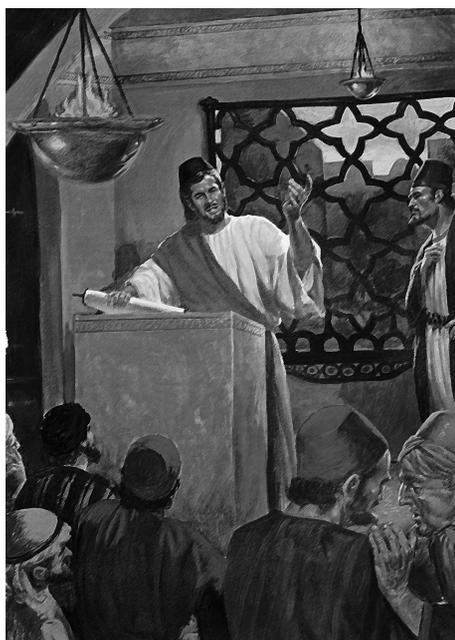
What changes must you make in your life so that every word you speak is spoken through the Holy Spirit's influence? How different would your words be than they are now?

⁴ demoniacs—people possessed by demons.

WEDNESDAY—APRIL 12

SPIRIT-DIRECTED ACTIVITY—PART 1 (Luke 4:18, 19).

As you read Luke 4:18, 19, focus on Jesus' main point. Jesus is talking about the Spirit of the Lord being upon Him. But how was that made real in His life?



“The Spirit of the Lord . . . has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners”
(Luke 4:18, NIV).

Jesus preached the gospel to the poor demoniacs⁴ (Mark 5:1-16). He forgave Mary Magdalene (Luke 7:36-48; John 8:1-11). He rescued her from being a slave to sin. He gave sight to the physically blind (Mark 10:46-52). He made the spiritually blind able to understand spiritual truth. He freed those who were bruised. And He preached the acceptable year of the Lord (Isaiah 61:1, 2).

The Pharisees⁵ announced that Jesus threw out devils through the power of Beelzebub (Satan), but Jesus made it clear that He did His miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28).

What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's offering Himself as a ransom (replacement; payment) for our sins? Hebrews 9:14.

What did Peter think of Jesus' Spirit-inspired work? Acts 10:38.

How can we do some of the things Jesus did (John 14:12) if we are filled with the Holy Spirit? How have you been able to do some of these same things under the Holy Spirit's power?



We want to do good things for Jesus when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

THURSDAY—APRIL 13

SPIRIT-DIRECTED ACTIVITY—PART 2 (1 Peter 3:18).

God is Three-in-One. The Three Persons of the Godhead work together. They are united in Their work. First Peter 3:18 says Jesus was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit, but the other Two Persons of the Godhead joined together to bring about the resurrection.⁶

According to Paul, who raised Jesus from the dead? Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:17-20.

What did Jesus say about His resurrection? John 10:17, 18. How do these verses help us understand all that was involved in His resurrection?

“Over the opened tomb, Christ had announced victoriously, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’ These words could be spoken only by God. All people live by God’s will and power. They are dependent receivers of the life of God. From the highest angel to the lowest living thing, all are given life from God. Only He who is One with God could say, ‘I have power to lay down My life. And I have power to take it again.’ As God, Christ had the power to break the chains of death.”—Adapted from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 785.

⁵ Pharisees—religious leaders of Jesus’ day who believed a person must keep God’s laws to be saved.

⁶ resurrection—coming back to life after dying.

Paul speaks about what is “the most important” thing for believers. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-5. It is no surprise that the Bible connects all Three Persons of the Godhead with Christ’s resurrection. All Three Persons of the Godhead being involved with Christ’s life and work is very important to all we believe as Christians. Without that belief, we have no hope (1 Corinthians 15:17).

Why is Jesus’ resurrection so important to us as Seventh-day Adventists?

FRIDAY—APRIL 14

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 72–74, 111–113, 122, 123; *The Ministry [Work] of Healing*, p. 479; Isaiah 58.

“Jesus is our example. . . . He lived to please, honor, and glorify His Father in the common things of life. His work began in making noble the lowly trade of workers who work for their daily bread. Jesus was doing God’s service while working at the carpenter’s bench as much as He was while working miracles for the people. Every young person is to follow Jesus’ example of faithfulness and obedience. The youth may try to be like those words spoken: ‘Here is my servant [Jesus]. I [God] take good care of him [Jesus]. I have chosen

him. I am very pleased with him.’ Isaiah 42:1, NIV.”—Adapted from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 74.

Everything about Jesus’ life on earth was done by the power of the Holy Spirit: (1) His mysterious birth (Luke 1:35); (2) His baptism (Luke 3:21, 22); (3) His example of a righteous (holy) life (1 Timothy 3:16); (4) His guidance in His life of service (Luke 4:1; Luke 2:49); (5) His miracles (Matthew 12:28); and (6) His resurrection (1 Peter 3:18). These things show how important the work of the Holy Spirit is in the plan of salvation and in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As a class, talk about Jesus’ coming to the earth as a human. What does it mean that God Himself would “come down” to our world and die for our sins?
2. According to Ellen White, stories were going around about the illegitimate birth⁷ of Jesus. Do you know someone who is pregnant out of wedlock or whose parents were not married? What can you do to help that person, instead of gossiping about him or her?
3. How can you do for others the kinds of things Jesus did? How are these acts examples of the Holy Spirit working in our lives?

⁷illegitimate birth—when a baby is born to parents who are not married to each other.