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# The Preciousness of the Holy Ghost

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# Abstract

The aim of our study is to try deeping deep into the understanding of the importance of the Holy Ghost of God in our daily lives. The emphasis is made on a biblical appraisal of the phenomenon. To achieve this goal, the methodology used is based on critical literature review, phenomenology and Biblical methodology which is a method that seeks to shed light upon the historical processes which give rise to the biblical texts. It proceeds from textual criticism to redaction criticism, operating with the help of scientific criteria. The objective of our study is to answer a number of questions useful to shed more light on the impact of the presence of the Holy Ghost on the physical, psychological and spiritual lives of people and ultimately to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The interest of this work is spiritual, philosophical and social. The results of our analysis show that the Holy Spirit is a central concept in the Bible. His specific role being to empower, fill with wisdom, guide, renew, strengthen an equip the believer with superior gifts. Characteristics of the Holy Ghost include omnipresence, omniscience, and power. The HS bears various names and representations significant in the sense that they portray divine and holy nature of God's work.

Keywords: Yahweh, Humankind, Bible, Preciousness, Holy Ghost, Redemption

#### 1. Introduction

The Bible mentions severally the Holy Ghost (HG) also called Holy Spirit. It operates through several ways such as the comforter, the guide, the helper or powers of believers. Key passages include John 14:26, Acts 1:8, and Acts 2:38, among others. The HG is the third personality of our creator Yahweh. In fact and as stated in the book of 1 John 5:7-8: 7, it is written: « For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one ». Hence, the three in one principle also known as trinity implies that there is one God in three distinct persons who are the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal, co-eternal, and share the same divine essence.

There are differences among the three in terms of role, functions and positioning in the life of humankind. In the sense that the HG specific role is to empower, fill with wisdom, guide, renew, strengthen an equip the believer with superior gifts. The other personalities of the trinity is all about God the Father as the creator, the origin of everything without exception. God the Son or Jesus Christ as the living word of YWVH.

Among the major religions in the world which are include Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and a wide variety of other faith traditions. If obviously Christianity through the Bible recognizes the place of the Holy Spirit in our faith what about the other religions?

Concerning Islam, « the Quran clearly identifies Gabriel as the Holy Spirit, distinct from God and not part of a Trinity, which Muslims reject ». In the same manner Jesus Christ is not seen as the second personality of the trinity. His divine nature is rejected and He is simply considered as a messenger or prophet like the others. However they believe Jesus will return for the final judgment. He will defeat the evil one and rule with Justice the Earth.

In Hinduism, there is nothing like trinity. However while Holy Spirit in Christianity is seen as a distinct person within the Trinity, Maya Shakti the equivalent is more of a divine energy or force, similarly in Buddhism. In some other forms of faith such as voodoo the concept of a "holy spirit" is represented by the lwa, which are spirits or divine forces acting as intermediaries between the supreme creator god Bondye and humanity. In rosucricianism the Holy Spirit is often associated with Jehovah, representing the third aspect of the triune Godhead, similar to the Christian concept of the Trinity. However, unlike in Christianity, Rosicrucians associate it as a universal creative energy or force connected to the "Region of Abstract Thought," a realm associated with the Ego's human spirit aspect and the creative power in nature. In freemasonry, the Holy spirit does not play any core or primary role like in christianity.

The objective of this research is to avoid a possible erroneously analysis of the Holy spirit by undertaking a deep description, a thorough exploration and a factual grasping of this extremely important topic for the well being of the humanity. In order to achieve this objective few questions need answers namely:

- What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit(HS)?
- Why is the HS called in various ways?
- What is the work of the HS?
- What is the link between the HS and preaching?
- How do christians experience the HS?
- What are the gifts of the HS?
- What is the link between baptism and the HS?
- What is the link between gospel music and the HS?
- Is there a variation inbetween the HS in the Old and then New Testament?
- What about the Holy Spirit and the early Church?
- What about the Holy Spirit and science today ?

#### 2. What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit (HS)?

The Holy Scriptures give us clear picture of the attributes or characteristics of the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to the Bible, are listed in Isaiah 11:2 and are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. In addition, the Holy Spirit is characterized as one of the three personality of the divine, distinct yet equal to God the Father and Son. Hence the HS also possesses characteristics such omnipresence, omniscience, and power.

Wisdom should be understood as going beyond the mere fact of accumulating knowledge. It is indeed about knowing God, His will for us and applying it into one's life. Hence wise is the person who understand the goal of his life and the meaning of circumstances. The best way to achieve God's will

In fact Wisdom is a gift from God that goes above reading books. Just like in the case of King Solomon, it gives one the ability, the best way to achieve sound judgment and decisions. Above all it is about living a life that reflects God's image and resemblance. In a nutshell wisdom is to resemble and to be in the image of our creator Yahweh by doing exactly like Jesus Christ.

#### 3. Why is the HS called in various ways?

The Holy Spirit is not only rich in mysteries and powers but surely in various names demonstrating the immensity of God's glory. The Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter (or Paraclete), the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of Counsel, the Spirit of adoption, the Helper, Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord, Spirit of Grace, breath of the Almighty, Seven Spirits of God or Anointing Spirit. The HS is also represented by forms such as Dove, Finger of God or fire

These names and representations are significant in the sense that they portray divine and holy nature of God's work, the genesis of all things and our dependance on God, the rulership of Jesus Christ, the sole truth found in the gospel, our source of hope and encouragement in a troubled world. In addition, the HS is symbolized by unseen, powerful and life giving power. Water, oil, light, and cloud, as well as the laying on of hand talk about the glory of the God through the HS.

It appears that the variety of the names attributed to the HS is due its diverse nature and aspects as well as the multiple roles played in the lives of believers. As can be observed in the Bible, the HS appears in different forms, names, titles, symbols and representations, all for the glory of God. This shows the richness and the greatness of the Almighty God.

#### 4. What is the work of the HS?

The HS plays a great role in the life of the believers such as channel of God's powerful messages as well as strenghtening them in face of adversity and guiding in the midst of questionning or doubt. The main role of the HS is to lead humans closer to God and to restore their stolen position, dignity and power. This is done by helping in their faith whatever the surrounding circumstances.

The HS makes us conscious of sins and its terrible consequences. Thereby fighting against the flesh and the distractful desires of this world. In addition true precious stones and wealth just as gifts offered to Christ on birth are restored through the power of the HS. We are then guided on our daily basis by the light of God in the same way like the Israeli in the desert when departing from Ancient Egypt. The absolute need for Jesus in our life in every single moment is the work of the HS. True illumination comes from the HS that makes us see clearly the light of God, his personality, character and what is expected from us.

# 5. The HS is the essence of every human being

The HS is the essence of all creation. This is demonstrated in the Holy Scriptures. In Genesis 1:2, it is said that the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. This verse shows that the Holy Spirit is at the very beginning of creation and the initial element involved in the act of forming the universe. Psalm 104:30 says, "You send forth Your Spirit, they are created." From this passage the link or correlation between the HS and the creation is indisputable. The same goes for John 1: 1-3. Job 33:4 with no ambiguity mentions the Spirit of God and its creative power. (ESV). It appears therefore that the HS 's presence is indispensable for the existence and continued life of all creation.

In addition, the empowerment for the service of the Lord as ordered to go and make of all nations disciples and baptizing in the name of the Almighty can only be the doing of the HS, mere human intelligence, tricks or reasoning are just but futile and vanity. Spiritual gifts to serve the church and the world are fruits of the HS. One thing is clear in our lives, it is

that we all need guidance and direction to make it. Hence the HS leads believers in making wise decisions, providing comfort, and strenghtening them in times of hardship.

#### 6. Glorifying Jesus Christ as the ultimate goal of The HS

Ultimately, the goal of the HS is all about glorifying Jesus Christ by captivating our focus on him and by exerting through sanctification to build people to live in relationship with Him. The HS is by essence a transformer, a seed enhancing growing up, development and finally likeness in the image and resemblance to Christ. The Holy Spirit is the active presence of God, working within believers to empower them for Christian living and to draw them closer to Him. The ultimate goal of creation especially human is to glorify the Father through our thoughts and deeds. By ourselves we cannot perform it, we need the active intervention of the HS. To glorify Jesus in our lives implies practically that we should love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our Neighbors as ourselves. We should live a life of sacrifice for Jesus as He also sacrificed for us. Pleasing God is aligning one's life with His will and obedience to His

## 7. The HS as the active presence of God Almighty

Apart from being one personality of the Holy trinity, it should be stressed that he HS is himself the active presence of God based on several facts namely:

• It is involved in creation:

teachings.

- It is the redemptive force by excellence;
- It is the active force behind believers and the faith in Christ:
- It is the tool used by God to bring life, beauty and order out of chaos;
- It is by essence the maker and giver of life;
- It symbolizes breathing;
- It is the only soul redeemer;
- It is the perfume that makes believers smell good in God's presence;
- It is the symbol of the gospel sharing, transformer of lives and secured access to salvation.

#### 8. Activity of the HS in the believer's life

The HS is active in the believer's life in various ways namely:

- Assisting, comforting and guiding believers;
- Interceding and accompanying prayers;
- Bringing spiritual gifts and edificating the church;
- Blessing with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control;
- Convicting of sins a wound in God's heart and pushing God away from our lives;
- Mediating between God and us considering God's intense presence.

# 9. Experiencing God's presence through the HS

God's presence is the greatest need of human kind just like human body needs blood to functions. God is therefore the heart of all human systems. However the problem is that while many seek diligently the presence of God through their own means, they will definitely not achieve in the sense that it is ultimately a gift from God not the fruit of our own effort. We do not earn it by merit nor by force.

God's presence is experienced through a number of ways

such as prayer, bible study, fellowship with brethren. We are called for that purpose to be attentive to God's spirit in our daily life. Eventhough most often God's presence is not perceptible, it may happens that it could be tangible and powerful experience.

To experience God's magnificient and indispensable presence in our life, it is important to love God with your whole being and loving your neighbor as yourself are the greatest commandments and the foundation of our life. Faith in Jesus is unavoidable and obeying God's commands. It is all about moving in the spirit which implies being guided by God in our thoughts, actions, and decisions in order to live a life that is pleasing to the Almighty.

Life speaks to us through its brevity, rich, poor, scholar, illiterate, men, women, children and old are subject to death, illnesses, trials, challenges most often unexpected. The HS is the best communicator and the message is simple we should learn from our environment as we cannot detach from it. We are called upon to give our lives as sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving both publicly and privately, to honor Him. We ought to do good and share to others as a tangible way to please God. Most of all we must live with integrity, honesty, sincerity and authenticity in all we do pleases God. We must resist temptation, recognize our sins, repent and live straight with God.

#### 10. HS definition: Work heartily as for the Lord

The reason of our creation is Straighforward and simple: it is to Work heartily as for the Lord in whatever we do with diligence and a focus on pleasing God, not just for human approval. Praying continually is indispensable as a regular communication with God through prayer is vital for maintaining a close relationship with Him. In addition and support to prayer, Bible reading and meditation are of great essence in order to please God and do His will with all our hearts by acts of faith and complete obedience.

The heart represents the central or innermost part of something. It is the embodiment of a person's character, the siege of his feelings or emotions. It is therefore the center of the personality. The heart is the symbol of what we are fond of; like, how we feel about something; what we care about; our desires or what we are attached, love, show warmth, passion, goodwill, devotion, inclination. Just like the physical heart that is meant to pump the blood through the circulatory system by rhythmic contraction and dilation. Spiritually the heart is the center of life, energy, personality and will determining our actions as well as our fate. Then working heartily as for the Lord is to give in our all without reserve, with desire, decision, determination and facing whatever difficulty for the glory of our Lord God Yahweh.

### 11. HS: the ultimate giver

When we look at nature from the waters, stones, forests, sky and every other things therein, we come to a conclusion that all is about giving without calculation. Hence nature, God and its messenger the Holy Ghost is the ultimate giver. But what does that mean to be the ultimate giver? What are the implications for us? What are the ultimate gifts of the HS? The ultimate giver refers to HS sent by the Supreme Lord our God, the origin of all blessings and spiritual gifts. This is materialized by the fact that God is the greatest giver of all, with no physical or carnal limitations, He has no imperfect motivations, no questionable intentions, selfless giving, mercifulness, love without limits for mankind. Blessings,

miracles, talents, life are the gifts of the ultimate giver.

# 12. HS: the fingers of God

The acting power of God is illustrated in a number of instances in the Bible through the figure of « finger ». We can read from a number of verses such as Deuteronomy 9:10; Exodus 31:18; Luke 11:20 and Exodus 8:19 some powerful illustrations.

In fact, God's power and divine authorship is numerously and symbolically illustrated by the fingers of god. Concerning the key verses mentionned earlier, we can draw inference as in the first verse, the magicians of Egypt acknowledge the plague of gnats as being caused by the "finger of God". In the second one, the Ten Commandments were written on stone tablets by the "finger of God". In the third one, Jesus states that he casts out demons by the "finger of God". Does God have several or only one finger may one ask?

Human beings as created by God in his image have 05 fingers generally called thumb, index, middle, ring and little fingers. Each play a specific role and has a particular symbolism. The five fingers represent the five energetical elements of nature (earth, fire, water, air, and ether). symbolizing key points of the Christian faith and prayer method. Thumb refers to Heaven as a free gift, Index Finger means humanity is a sinner. Middle Finger ays God loves people but hates sin. Ring Finger states that Jesus is God and man. Little Finger implies that salvation is received by faith.

#### 13. Symbolism of the HS as working power of God

Symbolism of the power of the Creator of the universe is demonstrated in various main religions around the World. Whether in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, etc. God acts through his hand. Bu such it is understood that the 05 fingers of the Almighty are channels of energy composed of the elements of the nature such as water, fire, air, earth and ether.

God is the thumb of the whole universe as He is the one holding everything. By such He is the only one entitled to point and judge as an index. He is the greatest, the longest, the largest and the greatest just as a middle finger. He is the Almighty, powerful, creator with whom we are called to be allied for security and success as a ring finger. Furthermore, He is lovely, our father, caring as a little one humble though the greatest.

The choice of five fingers on legs and hands is not by chance. In fact, it could symbolize the limitations of human beings who need to constantly rely solely on God. It is a call for transformation, true freedom, life change from man's weaknesses, wickedness to God's abundance, generosity and salvation. It is a reminder that we came in only after the 05 th day, many things existed before us and only few things are above all and us. We are required therefore to always be humble.

#### 14. HS as the only harmonizing factor

If there is something that characterizes nature it is surely diversity which can be observed at all levels. This can be testified in the mineral kingdoms, similarly with the vegetal and animal reigns among which humans are part of. When we see the history of mankind, it has always been characterized by divisions, feud, rivalry and all sorts of conflicts which are entirely due to the non ability to accept our differences, but instead has constituted motives for racism, discrimination.

The World as we see it today is far from the original plans

and promises of the creator. The initial goal has always been peace, happiness, beauty, success, health, wealth, prosperity and coherence. How can we explain that family, people, countries are at war. The reason appears that only God is one in multiplicity and adversity. He is the unifier as we are just members of the multiplicity system. Therefore any plan out of him is doomed to failure. The Bible says in Psalm 127:1 that "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain"

#### 15. Figures of the Holy Ghost

The first book of the Bible highlights the importance of figures by revealing that all that was created was done in 07 days i.e one, two, three, four, five, six and seven. What is the mysteries behind the figures in relation with the HS?

One symbolises the unity of God, the first personality of the triune God as well as the day light was separated from darkness. Hence we are called upon to put God first in our lives and our priority in life should be to part away from anything dark or evil. Our goal should be to do whatever is good and avoid any form of wickedness whatever.

Two symbolizes division and equilibrium i.e the spiritual vs the material; Man vs woman; the good vs evil; the strong vs weak; the tall vs the short, etc. It gives meaning and reward to the world as it is. It determines the inferiority from the superiority, the hierarchical systems of things, order vs chaos. Hence the unity of God is structure oh hierarchy, complementarity; understanding, love and humility.

Three is very important as it is the day when the earth was created, when heaven and earth became distinct entities. It is the period of seed, production and fecondity. Hence to be productive Man should balance his life between heaven and earth. A life merely material will lead to chaos and trying to live only spiritually appears unbalanced. Therefore holiness is a combination of a wise life engaging spiritual and physical discipline.

# 16. Holy Ghost, Man's aim, objectives and purpose on earth

To the question about the goal and existence of humanity. It is asserted that the reason for being human is to be inhabited by the HS in order to serve as a vessel for the manifestation and plan of the most high god on earth as it is in heaven. This means in other words that there is no life outside of christ. Even if we believe to be alive biologically, we resemble corpse that has no life, deserts without water and the HS makes us know that Jesus christ is the living water that never dries up.

There appears to be 02 types of spirits namely carnal spirit geared towards earthly envies and occultism and heavenly or spiritual spirit interested by things of God, doing things like Christ and walking on the path of truth. Living in the lights of principles and rules of the kingdom of God and not abiding to worldly ways of doing or living.

In the book of Matthew 7, we are invited to ask but not only what we ask but most importantly how, why we ask. We are called upon to ask what is good, in a way that please God with prayer and supplication for He is ready to give us the best thing at all times, we ever need what is best which is the Holy Ghost.

#### 17. Holy Ghost, a manifestation of God's love

The HS is defined as a manifestation of God's love for various reasons namely:

Embodiment of divine love by comforting;

- guider and sanctifyers of the saints;
- means of experiment of God's love in our lives;
- testifyer of Gospel truth and helping understand the depth of divine message;
- imparter of God's nature in us;
- empowerer of love towards ourselves, others and God above;
- glorifier by excellence of Jesus Christ;
- provider of wisdom, power and authority;
- revealer of God's nature and personality;
- answering prayers and providing guidance.

## 18. Holy Ghost, the light of Man

Man was meant from creation to distinguish light from darkness and to do good rather than evil. To attain that goal He was meant to meditate and learn to live from the inside in communion with the supreme Light who is God. It is from there that come spiritual illumination, guidance, and truth.

Man is the supreme symbol of illumination or light by God. It means that he was called upon to shine bright in the darkness of chaos. By such he was created to become a cocreator of what is good since he also has the power to introduce what is evil that is what makes him a god just like Yahweh who divided and created light out of darkness. The devil being the god of this century as the promoter of chaos, destruction and permanent darkness which is said to be evil by the Most High God.

There seems to be 02 lights as explained by the Lord Jesus Christ which are the interior one and the external one. The interior light is that of the inner man, his soul is enlightened by the word of God, the fear of the laws of the Most High, moral values and Jesus Christ are the compass. Once we have that light even our body and spirit are enlightened as well as the people, animals, environment around us. The contrary is also true when we are wrongly illuminated by occultism.

#### 19. What is illumination all about?

In common parlance, once we talk of illuminati, we see occult, freemasons and alike. The idea behind is that the illuminated or enlightened as it means, is a network of influencial and mystical people controlling the whole world. Some go to the extent of referring to illuminati as a corrupt elite who secretly run the world.

But it should be remembered that the first thing God created was light out of darkness and chaos after a process of meditation. Therefore to be illuminated in reality should refer as having the light of God meaning acting good according to the Holy principles. This goes in total contradiction to a limitation of the widespread of knowing God the supreme light since the most illuminated known as Jesus Christ was for the spreading of the gospel throughout all the nations, to save, heal, build, enrich and strengthen.

In a nutshell, through illumination consists in having a clear understanding of the word of God. Gaining by such clear path and direction in the way we should live our lives. We become one with the beauty and authority of God's message. We become like Christ meaning christians or obedient to Christ. Hence, Illumination is not essentially and merely a human intellectual process but paramountly a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit. Having spiritual discernment to be

transformed in glory.

#### 20. Who is the church of Christ?

Church can be designed as a house, an assembly, a set of people believing in a specific faith, a congregation, a place for Christian worship, house of the Lord. It is referred as people that belong to the Lord. As such church should be differentiated from religion in the sense while the latter is all about a particular system of faith and worship such as Catholicism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, etc. Church unlike religion that seeks to reach God through rules and works, church is merely a the body of believers representing God's presence and grace reaching down to people.

The church of Christ or christianity is therefore all about anointment, prophesying, set apart by God to rule as a king and priest, it is to be confined divine mission or office by God marked by rubbing oil on one's head as part of religious ceremony. The following were for instance empowered for specific divine purpose such as leadership, prophesy, healing, caring, teaching, etc. namely priests like Aaron, prophets like Moses, Elijah, and Elisha, and kings such as Saul, David, and Solomon. Jesus Christ himself was anointed as well a his disciples and many other followers.

Hence the church of Christ or christianity is not merely pronouncing the name of Jesus Christ but it is a life characterized by guidance, clarity, truth revealing, life, living in the light of Christ, be filled with inner light of the gospel and work constantly in the path of Jesus Christ. This is demonstrated by a human existence marked by purity, love for others, fear of Go, morality, religiosity, peaceful mind, calmess, self control, respect and spirituality, etc.

#### 21. The truth?

Truth refers to root names such as tree, trust, faithfulness, fidelity. In other words, it is the quality or nature of what is true i.e the actual facts of an event, about a person or something. The body of what is real. To be in accordance with the reality or what is genuine. In a nutshell, the reality of the real world as it is really.

Most often everyone believes to have the truth. We can ask one question whether truth is an object or a subject. The Bible reveals to us that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. One may infer by that Jesus is a person, a divinity meaning that truth is in a form of a person. But it appears that what makes a man truthful is his words, what he says in accordance with what he does. The Bible tells us that at the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God, implying that truth is what God says.

The relationship between the truth and the Holy Spirit is an important topic of the Bible. Many books talk about it namely John 14:17, John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:13. In the first extract refers who dwells with believers. The second passages talks about the Holy Spirit as the spirit of truth that will come and guide in truth. While the third and last one says the Holy Spirit teaches spiritual things in spiritual language. The important precisions here are that the Holy Spirit is a guide into all truth, not speaking on his own but relaying what he receives from God. The world cannot accept the spirit of truth because it is not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit. It is the best advocate and teacher of truth.

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