

1) THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

a) Introduction

- i) Modern American society has become more and more secular. And yet many people seem to feel something of a void and seek to fill it.
 - (1) The "New Age" movement.
 - (2) Meditation in one form or another
 - (3) The fascination with UFO's and other worldly creatures in films and on TV
 - (4) The fascination with super heroes with power beyond that of normal humans.
 - (5) Guthrie feels that they are in effect groping in the dark and what they yearn for is what Christians call the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life.

b) Who (not what) is the Holy Spirit?

i) The Holy Spirit is Personal

- (1) Not an energy or power like electricity
- (2) The Holy Spirit is God interacting with us "Person to person".
- (3) Some suggest we should use the pronoun "she" in the sense that this person of the Trinity is what is reflected in the female side of humanity. Interestingly enough *ruach* the Hebrew word for spirit is feminine.

ii) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the God of Israel.

- (1) God at creation in Genesis
 - (a) The Spirit of God moved across the waters
 - (b) And the Lord God breathed into the man the breath of life
- (2) "Who spoke through the prophets..."
- (3) In the OT the Spirit is the source of wisdom as well as justice for the oppressed and helpless
- (4) The Spirit of God works outside Israel as well

iii) Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- (1) He received the Spirit
 - (a) At his baptism
 - (b)** Performed his mission "full of the Holy Spirit".
Jesus is our model of the "Spirit-filled person"
 - (i) He "came eating and drinking..."
 - (ii) He sought the lost and ate with sinners
 - (iii) He believed human need had priority over strict observance of the Law.
 - (iv) He believed human reconciliation took precedence over formal worship.
 - (v) He loved enemies
 - (vi) He came to serve and to sacrifice himself
 - (vii) He trusted in God no matter what.
- (2) Jesus sends the Spirit to his disciples
 - (a) In John Jesus speaks of sending "another advocate"
 - (b) He is the Risen Christ continuing his work
 - (c) She teaches what Jesus taught and helps the disciples remember all he did and said.