

# The Relevance of The Ministry of The Holy Spirit to the New Testament Church

By: Dr. Isaac K. Damoah

## Abstract

The research design used to write this paper was explanatory research design, the research strategy used was cross sectional survey, the research approach adopted for the study was qualitative research approach, the method of data collection was primary source and the data was collected through qualitative research. The sampling design was research into papers published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites. The population of the study was 10 authors.

The problem statement of the study was "The relevance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament church". Background of the study was brief introduction of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The objectives of the study was achieved through qualitative research. The study discovered things that proof the personality of the Holy Spirit, the role the Spirit played during Jesus' earthly ministry, the work of the Spirit in the early church, misconceptions about the Spirit, evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism, divinity of the Spirit and the significance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Church. The study recommended that Christian organization should organize a seminar to help Christians to understand the ministry of the Spirit, Pastors should preach and teach about the Holy Spirit and create time for those who have been baptized in the Spirit to share their experiences in the Holy Spirit baptism and organize special prayers for the church where the congregation will be giving ample time to pray to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.

## Background of the study

### Introduction

The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. He is not an active force but He is God. In the scriptures He is also called Holy Ghost or the Spirit. The Christian Journey start with the Spirit and ends with the Spirit.

### Objectives of the study

To find out things that proof the personality of the Holy Spirit

To find out the role the Holy Spirit played in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ

To find out the work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church

To find out the importance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to New Testament Church

To find out the evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism

To find out the evidence of the divinity of the Holy Spirit

To find out misconceptions about the Holy Spirit

### The personality of the Holy Spirit

#### Knowledge

The Holy Spirit is full of the knowledge of God and mystery of God (1Corinthians 2:10-11).

### Will

The Holy Spirit has a "will" but His "will" does not contradict the word of God. He uses the children of God in accordance with the word of God (1Corinthians 12:11).

### Mind

The Holy Spirit has mind but the word "mind" means "comprehensive word". This comprises of thought, feelings and purpose (Romans 8:7;27).

### Intelligence

The Holy Spirit is intelligent as God (Nehemiah 9:20).

### Grief

The Holy Spirit can become sad when we disobey His voice (Ephesians 4:30).

### Authority

The Holy Spirit is a person who has authority to give orders to men in the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gave instructions to apostle Paul and his fellow workers and they submitted to His instructions.

### **The work of the Holy Spirit**

The nature of the work of the Holy Spirit shows His personality

- His work during creation of the universe (Genesis 1:2).
- His empowerment (Zechariah 4:6)
- His comforting (John 14:26).
- His command (Acts 8:29; 13:2).

### **Personal pronoun**

The scriptures use personal pronoun, masculine pronoun and relative pronoun for the Holy Spirit which testify His personality (John 15:26; Ephesians 1:13-14).

### **Thesis statement**

The problem statement of the study was to find out the relevance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament church. The study investigated into the proof of the personality of the Holy Spirit, the role the Spirit played in the ministry of Jesus Christ, functions of the Spirit in the early Church, the importance of the ministry of the Spirit to the New Testament church, evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism and misconceptions about the Holy Spirit.

### **The role the Holy Spirit played in Jesus' ministry Conception**

It was the Holy Spirit that made Jesus' virgin birth to be possible. It was the Holy Spirit who made Jesus to be God-man.

### **The baptism of John**

John the Baptist baptized Jesus Christ in the River Jordan. The following are the implications of Jesus' baptism:

- He revealed Himself as a man
- As obedience to God
- He portrayed to the public that He was the son of God
- Revealed His ministerial office as a prophet, priest and king. The Holy Spirit came upon Him in the form of a dove that shew that He was the lamb of God (John 1:36). Through this, John the Baptist believed that He was really the son of God.

### **The wilderness**

Jesus Christ fasted and prayed for 40days and 40nights but the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. He was filled with the Spirit and was not hungry until 40days (Matthew 4:2). The Holy Spirit prepared Jesus for His earthly ministry. Devil tempted Him and He overcame him by the word of God.

### **Return**

When Jesus had completed fasting and praying, He came down from the wilderness in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14). He went to Galilee but His life and ministry were controlled by the Holy Spirit.

### **Anointing**

Jesus Christ was anointed by the Holy Spirit and it was manifested in His teachings, preaching and miracles (Acts 10: 38).

### **Motivation**

Jesus Christ rejoiced in His ministry because of how the Holy Spirit used Him including His disciples (Luke 10:21).

### **Demons**

With the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ cast out demons and the Pharisees said He used the power of Beelzebub to cast out demons. He declared that it was the Spirit who used Him (Matthew 12:22-32; Mark 3:22-30; Luke 11:15-20).

### **Crucifixion**

The Holy Spirit was with Jesus Christ when He was crucified. This enabled Him to sacrifice His life for humanity (Hebrews 9:14).

### **Resurrection**

The Holy Spirit helped Jesus Christ to rise from the dead (Romans 1:4, 8:11; 1Peter 3:18).

### **Post resurrection**

Before Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven, He gave instructions to His disciples through the Spirit (Acts 1:2).

### **Literature review**

The Holy Spirit is important in the Christian ministry and the study is limited to the relevance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Church. Lauren Berg wrote an article entitled "The importance of the Holy Spirit". In his article he stated the importance of the Holy Spirit as follows:

- The Spirit assist Christians to get revelation from the word of God and to understand Jesus' ministry (John 16:13-14).
- The Spirit speaks to and revives us to be strong in the Lord (Romans 8:9).
- The Spirit gives spiritual gifts to disciples of Jesus Christ (1Corinthians 12:7-11).
- The Spirit strengthens Christians to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:5-12).

- The Spirit assures Christians of our inheritance in Heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14).

In reference to the article written by the New Spring church the importance of the Spirit are:

- The Holy Spirit gives us power to proclaim the gospel to the world

- The Holy Spirit shares the love of God in the heart of believers in Christ.

- The Holy Spirit helps Christian to understand the scriptures.

- The Holy Spirit leads Christians to do what is inline with the word of God. In December 18,2020 Micheal Bradley wrote an article entitled "The benefits of being baptized in the Holy Spirit". In his article he stated the importance of the Spirit as follows:

- The Holy Spirit establishes Christian's relationship with God to be cordial

- The Holy Spirit helps Christians to grow in the Lord

- The Holy Spirit anoints Christians for the service of God

- The Holy Spirit enables Christians to develop in prayer. With respect to what the authors have written, the study investigated into the proof of the personality of Jesus Christ, the role the Holy Spirit played in Jesus' ministry, the work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church, the significance of the Holy Spirit to New Testament Church, the evidence of the divinity of Holy Spirit, evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism and misconceptions about the Holy Spirit.

#### **The work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church**

- The Holy Spirit helped the apostles of the early Church to witness about Jesus Christ coupled with miracles that was beyond the knowledge and understanding of man (John 14:16; Acts 2:4).

- The Holy Spirit comforted the early Church (Acts 9:31).

- The Holy Spirit directed, supported and encouraged the early Church.

- The Holy Spirit assisted the early Church to grow through winning souls into the church.

- The Holy Spirit inspired the apostles and the prophets to preach the gospel in order for the early Church to know the will of God (Acts 4:31).

#### **Importance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Church**

- The Holy Spirit empowers the church to reveal Jesus Christ to the world (Acts 2:1).

- The Holy Spirit assists the church to understand the Bible (John 16:13).

- The Holy Spirit helps the church to remember the words of Christ (John 14:25-26).

- The Holy Spirit reveals future things to the church.

- The Holy Spirit shows the presence of God, His leading, help and comfort.

#### **Holy Spirit Baptism**

John the Baptist prophesied about the Holy Spirit baptism (Mark 1:8) and Jesus Christ predicted about the Holy Spirit baptism to His disciples before He went to Heaven (Acts 1:5). The prediction of Christ came to pass on the Pentecost day (Acts 2:1-4). The disciples' experience of the Holy Spirit was the first time the Spirit descended upon and to dwell in them and the Christian Church was formed on that day. The Spirit baptism is not for a few people but for those who will truly believe in Christ (1Corinthians 12:12-13). The Spirit baptism does two things in the life of believers

- The Spirit enables followers in Christ to become part of the body of Christ

- It portrays that His followers died with Him.

If believers in Christ were baptized by one Spirit, then it would mean that the church should be united (Ephesians 4:5).

#### **Divinity of the Holy Spirit**

- God did not create the Holy Spirit but the Spirit was the creator. The Spirit took part in the creation process of the world (Genesis 1:1-2)

- The Spirit raised Christ from the dead

- God reveals Himself through Christ and the Holy Spirit. Before the Spirit can reveal God, He should be co-equal to God (1Corinthians 2:9-10).

- The Spirit will raise believers in Christ from the dead during rapture (Romans 8:11).

- The Spirit is holy (Matthew 12:32).

- The Spirit is eternal (John 14:16).

- The Spirit is Omnipresent (Psalms 139:7-8).

- The Spirit is Omnipotent (Job 33:4)

- The Spirit is Omniscient (John 14:26).

#### **Misconceptions about the Holy Spirit**

# The Holy Spirit is not a person but a force or power

**Fact:** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity (Genesis 1:26-27).

# The Spirit never dwells in a man

**Fact:** In the New Testament times the Spirit resides in the New Testament believers

# The Spirit acts like "goosebumps"

**Fact:** The Spirit's presence can be felt (Hebrews 13:5).

# The Holy Spirit keep records my sin

**Fact:** The Spirit will not remind of me my sin (Hebrews 10:17)

# The Spirit directs me to confess my sin

**Fact:** The Spirit urges me to confess that Jesus is Lord (1Corinthians 12:3).

# The Spirit reveals the judgement of God

**Fact:** The Spirit reveals the love of God (Romans 5:5)

## **Methodology**

### **Introduction**

This chapter covers research design, research approach, research strategy, the population, the sampling design; the method of Data collection

The research design used for writing this paper was explanatory research design. Through this, the study was able to examine and explain the means of getting the objectives of the study. It was the best method of giving reasons for collecting data. The research approach to the study was qualitative research approach. The study find out if the ministry of the Holy Spirit was important to New Testament Church. The research strategy used to write this paper was cross sectional survey where a number of authors were chosen as case study.

### **Sampling design**

The study investigated into articles published by academic journals and the articles published at the various websites.

### **Population**

The study considered ten authors.

### **Method of Data collection**

The method used to collect data for writing this paper was primary source. The study researched into various articles written concerning the Holy Spirit and His ministry.

## **Summary of findings, Conclusion and Recommendation**

### **Summary of findings**

The study found out the proof of the personality of the Holy Spirit, importance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, misconceptions about the Holy Spirit, the role the

Holy Spirit played in the early church, the evidence of the divinity of the Holy Spirit, evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism and the significance of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Church.

### **Conclusion**

The study discovered that the Holy Spirit is not an active force but He was a person, the Spirit played an active role in Jesus' earthly ministry, the Spirit performed important ministry in the early church, the Spirit baptized Jesus' disciples, Misconceptions about the Spirit, the divinity of the Spirit and the significance of the Spirit to New Testament Church. Due to the above mentioned points, therefore the study concluded the ministry of the Holy Spirit was important to the New Testament church.

### **Recommendation**

#### **Seminar**

Christian organization should organize a seminar titled "The relevance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to New Testament church. During the seminar, leaders of the program should expose Christians to understand the assistance of the Holy Spirit to the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ and the role the Holy Spirit played in the Church. Through this, they will value the ministry of the Spirit and to recognize the need to allow the Spirit to lead them in their various ministries.

#### **Preaching and teaching**

The ministers of God must preach and teach about the Holy Spirit so that their congregation will know that the ministry of the Spirit is very important to the New Testament church. Without the Spirit, the church cannot operate as Christ is expecting.

#### **Testimony**

Pastors should create time for those have been baptized in the Holy Spirit to tell the differences in their lives since the Spirit baptized them.

#### **Acknowledgement**

I thank the Almighty God for helping me to write this paper. Thanks are due to the writers of the various papers that I consulted. To you all, I say God should protect you from the evil one and makes you prosper in all sphere of life.

#### **Prayers**

The Pastors ought to organize special prayers for the entire church. This could be once in a month so that who are not baptized in the Spirit will get time to pray for it.

**Author's profile**

Dr. Isaac K. Damoah is a Christian, a Theologian and co-author to International Journal Of Scientific Research and Engineering Development. He holds Ph.D in Christian Education, Masters in Divinity, Bachelor Of Arts Degree in Theology, Diploma of Bible and Practical Theology and Associate Degree in Biblical studies.



**Dr. Isaac K. Damoah**

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