

## Overview

There is a lot of confusion when it comes to the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Living in the United States gives most of us a Western Greek based mindset. This means that most people would like to have things completely defined. This mindset has a very analytical, logical way of approaching any subject which could be part of the issue when Christians study the Holy Spirit. With all the roles of the Holy Spirit we read about in Scripture it is difficult to have a complete, concise definition. In the sermon, Pastor Brent said: "The Bible describes one God revealed to us in 3 persons (Father, Son, Spirit), each of whom is fully God but it's not 3 gods. It's a mind-bender to see God as one, revealed in 3 persons, each fully God but not 3 gods. For centuries, theologians have said this: you can't fully explain the Trinity but you can't explain it away. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is eternal. No beginning or end. He's God. He is present everywhere and all-knowing. Humans, angels, Satan: no one but God is present everywhere and knows everything. In Genesis and Job it says that that Holy Spirit is creator. Another thing: the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal "force" but a "person." Ultimately understanding the Holy Spirit comes through faith and not from a dictionary.

## Bible Study: Various

1. How do you describe the Holy Spirit? What role does He have in your faith?
2. How would you respond to someone who says, "I think I received the Holy Spirit, but I just don't know for sure?"
3. Read John 16:7-10. In this passage Jesus tells His disciples that the Holy Spirit will prove the world wrong. Do you believe the Holy Spirit only convicts believers about right and wrong or non-believers as well? Why or why not?
4. Read John 14:23-26. In this passage a couple of the roles of the Holy Spirit are to teach and remind. Teaching and reminding implies that there is learning and studying taking place. Even with the help of the Holy Spirit why is studying God's word so important for your faith to grow?
5. "Christianity is not simply about believing the right things (though this is important). Nor is it simply a matter of living a Christ-like life (though this is important too). Christian experience must necessarily have a mystical, spiritual, non-quantifiable dimension. To be a disciple means having the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit living in us (John 14:23-26). It means having a supernatural, interior experience that is completely unlike anything available in the world."<sup>1</sup> In what ways does the Holy Spirit separate Christianity from other world religions?
6. In the sermon Pastor Brent said: "Holy Spirit does is this: He convinces people that they need God. Every single person who ever comes to a point in their life of saying, "I need God," comes to that point because the Holy Spirit convicted them (made them aware) of their need for God." Discuss as a group when this occurred in your life. Did you realize at the time that it was the Holy Spirit convicting you?

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<sup>1</sup> Burge, G. M. (2000). *John* (p. 426). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

7. In the sermon Pastor Brent said: “Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to us and we hear it but resist it. We have an undeniable feeling that God wants us to do something – but we say, “No.” How do you know if you are resisting the Holy Spirit?