

Renewed Unity The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the divine third person of the Trinity. He is part of the very nature of Yahweh—God the Spirit. He is not, as some false religions claim, similar to an impersonal force like electricity. Rather, the Spirit is deeply personal. He thinks & knows (1 Corinthians 2:10–11), He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), He intercedes (Romans 8:26–27), He makes decisions according to His own will (1 Corinthians 12:7–11), He comforts & counsels (John 14:16; 14:26; 15:26), and He appoints specific people to specific tasks (Acts 13:2; 20:28).

The Holy Spirit literally dwells inside every Christian and is omnipresent, guides us to truth, convicts us of sin, and protects us from possession, gifts every believer to serve kingdom purposes, produces His fruit in our lives working to bring about our sanctification, and He inspired the Bible. He is no less God than the Heavenly Father or the Lord Jesus is God. The Spirit is referred to as God (Acts 5:3–4), is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7–8), omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10–11), eternal (Hebrews 9:14), participates in creating (Psalm 104:30), and inspires Scripture (2 Peter 1:21).

Topic: Many Christians wish that Jesus was physically in their presence. The Holy Spirit literally indwells every believer. We grow closer to Christ by collaborating better with God the Spirit.

- What is the importance of the Spirit dwelling within us (read 1 Corinthians 6:16 and Romans 8:9–11)?
- What are some of the roles of the Holy Spirit (read John 14:26; 15:26; and 16:7–14)?
- What are the listed fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22–23)? Are there other fruit not listed?
- How do you suppose the Spirit inspired the Bible—did He recite the words He wanted written, or was it in a different manner?

Association: God gets most closely personal with us through the Holy Spirit.

- What are your spiritual gifts? Have you investigated the spiritual gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; and Ephesians 4)?
- Have you taken any spiritual gift tests? Consider the test at the website spiritualgiftstest.com.
- Do you think all of the gifts are still active today?
- Why might some gifts be less needed in some areas?
- Have you ever known a believer who thought you needed a particular spiritual gift to be saved?
- Which of the fruit of the Spirit is most manifest in your life? Which is least manifest?
- Do you pray to the Spirit? Why or why not?

Guidance: The Spirit is God. As such, we can and should pray to Him.

- Pray to the Holy Spirit, for His leading, His power, & His fruit. Pray that He help you better collaborate with Him to grow in Christlikeness. Ask Him to help you better follow His leading.
- What is the Spirit prompting you give? Have you started fulfilling your debt reduction pledge?
- Who is the Spirit prompting you to invite to Easter service at GCC?
- Pray to the Spirit with and for one another.