

“I Believe in the Holy Spirit”

The Personality of the Holy Spirit (1of2) - John 14:16-17

This is the beginning of a fourteen-week study on the Holy Spirit.

- Person – Who is the Holy Spirit and How can we know Him?
- Helper – How does the Holy Spirit help us in our daily lives?
- Worship – What does it mean to worship in spirit?
- Baptism – What is the baptism of the Spirit and how can we experience it?
- Gifts – What are the gifts of the spirit and how can I know and experience my gifts?
- Power – How can I experience more of the power of God in my life?
- Fruit – What is the fruit of the Spirit?

We will have the teaching and theology, but this is only to help us have the experience we need with God the Holy Spirit. We are going to study about the Holy Spirit not for an educated mind but for a transformed life.

We want to experience the presence and power of God!

A Sunday school class was reviewing the Apostles' Creed. The teacher asked each child to repeat one part they had committed to memory. The teacher said, "Okay, class, let's begin." The first little boy stood up and began, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth." He sat down and a little girl stood up and said, "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord." She sat down, and there was a long silence as the kids looked at each other uncomfortably. Finally one little girl stood up and said, "I'm sorry, teacher, but the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit is absent today." - From Skip Heitzik

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON NOT A POWER.

A. Personality of the Holy Spirit – He does all the things a person does

- i. “Jesus said he would send “another” in his place (John 14:16). The word for another is *allos* in Greek and refers to another just like Jesus. It is reasonable to conclude from this that the Spirit is a person since Jesus is clearly a person. Further, Jesus referred to him as a *parakletos* (enabler, encourager, comforter, etc.) which requires that he be a person since the functions of a *parakletos* are personal; Jesus functioned as a *parakletos* to the disciples.” – Greg Herrick

B. He has knowledge, a will, he makes choices, and has a mind

- i. HIS KNOWLEDGE - 1 Corinthians 2:10–11 ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes,

the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

- ii. “The Holy Spirit is not merely an illumination that comes into our minds, but He is a Being who Himself knows the deep things of God and who teaches us what He Himself knows.” – RA Torrey
- iii. HIS WILL - *1 Corinthians 12:11 ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*
- iv. HIS MIND - *Romans 8:26–27 ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

B. Just like a person He can be grieved and lied to.

- i. GRIEVED - *Ephesians 4:30 ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
- ii. LIED TO - *Acts 5:3 ³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?”*

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

A. “Another just like me” = God (John 14:16)

B. The divinity of the Holy Spirit – He does the things God does: Creator, All knowing, and Eternal

- i. CREATOR - *Genesis 1:2 ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*
- ii. ALL KNOWING - *1 Corinthians 2:10–11 ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*
- iii. ETERNAL - *Hebrews 9:14 ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

C. He is referred to as God

- i. *Acts 5:3–4 ³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”*

- ii. 2 Corinthians 3:17¹⁷ *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST BE RECEIVED

A. Through prayer (John 14:16)

B. Through spiritual sight (John 14:17)

- i. 1 Corinthians 2:14¹⁴ *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*
- ii. 1 Corinthians 2:10¹⁰ *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*
- iii. John 3:19¹⁹ *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

C. Through spending time with Him (John 14:16-18)

- i. Helper/Comforter/Counsellor. He is with you and will live in your heart. It's a daily relationship with God.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL RADICALLY CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

A. The force of the Wind

- i. "Ruach" (OT), "Pneuma" (NT) is breath or wind
- ii. John 3:8⁸ *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*
- iii. Acts 2:2² *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

B. The transformation of the heart. Born Again / New creation

- i. John 3:6-8⁶ *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* ⁷ *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* ⁸ *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*
- ii. 2 Corinthians 5:17¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

C. The power of God

- i. Ephesians 3:16¹⁶ *that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*

D. The Gifts He gives

E. The Fruit He produces

F. The Grace he offers.

Recommended Books:

[The Person and Work of The Holy Spirit by R. A. Torrey](#)

[Living Water by Chuck Smith](#)

[The God I Never Knew by Robert Morris](#)

[How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit by A.W. Tozer](#)

[Forgotten God by Francis Chan](#)