



Lessons That Last PT. I | “Who Is The Holy Spirit?”

Mark Allen | 06.21.26

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members apply what they learn.

Icebreaker

When you think of the Holy Spirit, what's the first image or word that comes to mind? Why?

Sermon Summary

This message explored the person and work of the Holy Spirit, emphasizing that He is not merely a force or concept, but the third person of the Trinity—our Helper, Friend, and Empowerment. Pastor Mark identified 10 key truths about who the Holy Spirit is and is not, helping us understand how essential He is to our daily Christian walk.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing** - He is God, equal with the Father and Son
 2. **He is our Helper** - He guides, teaches, and remains with us forever
 3. **He convicts us** - Of sin, righteousness, and judgment
 4. **He empowers us** - To be witnesses and live the Christian life
 5. **We can receive Him** - Through salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Holy Spirit

1. **What surprised you most about the sermon's description of the Holy Spirit?** Were there any misconceptions you had that were challenged?
2. **Pastor Mark said the Holy Spirit is not rude, not mean, and doesn't act weird.** Why do you think some Christians have developed strange behaviors they attribute to being "Spirit-filled"?
3. **Read John 14:16-17.** What does it mean that the Holy Spirit will be with you "forever"? How should this truth change how we approach daily challenges?

The Work of the Holy Spirit

4. **The sermon outlined three things the Holy Spirit convicts us about: sin, righteousness, and judgment.**
 - Which of these three do you struggle with most?
 - How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's conviction in your life?
5. **Pastor Mark said, "He corrects me when I'm wrong, convinces me that I'm forgiven, and gives me confidence that Satan has been defeated."** Share a time when you experienced one of these three works of the Spirit.
6. **The Holy Spirit is described as our "Helper."** In what areas of your life do you most need His help right now?

Personal Application

7. **Read John 16:13.** The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and tells us about the future.
 - Have you experienced His guidance in a major decision?
 - What decision are you facing now where you need His direction?

8. **The sermon emphasized that the evidence of the Holy Spirit is becoming a witness, not just speaking in tongues.**

- How naturally does sharing your faith come to you?
- What might be hindering the Holy Spirit's witness through you?

9. **Pastor Mark asked, "Are you a mean Christian?"**

- How do we balance calling out sin (which is loving) with not being mean?
- Can you think of examples where Christians have gotten this balance wrong?

Going Deeper

10. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit was described as distinct from salvation—the Spirit coming "upon" us, not just "in" us.**

- Had you heard this distinction before?
- If you've experienced this, what difference did it make in your life?

11. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 in the context of the Holy Spirit's character.**

- Which fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc.) is most evident in your life?
- Which one do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to develop more?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Invitation

- Each morning, invite the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and guide your day
- Journal what you sense Him saying or leading you to do

Option 2: Correction & Conviction

- When you sense conviction about something, pause and pray

- Ask: "Is this the Holy Spirit correcting me or just guilt/shame?"
- Respond appropriately—confess if it's sin, reject condemnation if it's false guilt

Option 3: Spirit-Led Witnessing

- Ask the Holy Spirit each day to show you one person who needs to hear about Jesus
- Be obedient to share when He prompts you (even if it's uncomfortable)

Option 4: Character Assessment

- Review the list of what the Holy Spirit is NOT (rude, mean, weird, a puppet, etc.)
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if any of these describe your behavior
- Repent and ask for His fruit to be evident instead

Memory Verse

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

Prayer Time

Guided Prayer Focus:

1. **Thanksgiving** - Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit
2. **Confession** - Confess areas where you've ignored or grieved the Spirit
3. **Invitation** - Ask for a fresh filling/baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. **Empowerment** - Pray for boldness to be His witnesses
5. **Each Other** - Pray for specific needs shared in the group

- **Ministry Opportunity:** If anyone in your group has never received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and would like prayer, have group members lay hands on them and pray for them to receive this gift.
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Looking Ahead

- Continue praying for Freedom Fest and the 7,000-10,000 people expected
 - Prepare your heart for next week's message in the "Lessons That Last" series
 - Practice being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading throughout the week
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Closing Thought

The Holy Spirit is not optional equipment for the Christian life—He is essential. He's not weird, not distant, and not impersonal. He's your Helper, your Friend, your Empowerment, and your God. The question is: Are you listening? Are you following? Are you allowing Him to produce His fruit in your life?

Happy Father's Day to our Heavenly Father—the greatest Father of all!