



# gracefellowship

Series: The Holy Spirit  
Date: May 28, 2023  
2:1-41

Title: Introductions  
Passage: Acts

Scripture: Galatians 5:13-26

Israel Video 8655- The Southern Steps

Today we are starting a new teaching series where we are going to focus on the Holy Spirit. The video we just watched is one I shot on the Southern Steps outside the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. For the past ten days as a church we have been praying and asking God to move in powerful ways in our individual lives and in our church as a whole. I believe that when God has our full attention and allegiance we will be used by Him in ways we have never imagined to unleash the power of His Kingdom on the earth. The book of Acts gives us a look into the day the Holy Spirit was sent down from heaven in order to bring life to the Church. That happened after Jesus had ascended to heaven and promised that if He went away He would send another comforter. After ten days of waiting and praying the Holy Spirit descended on the followers of Jesus and the Church was born in power. Let's read that account together.

**:: Acts 2:1-41**

**1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.**

**2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

**3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.**

**4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

**5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.**

**6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.**

**7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"**

**8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?**

**9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,**

**10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome**

**11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”**

**12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”**

**13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”**

**14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.**

**15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!**

**16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

**17 “ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.**

**18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.**

**19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.**

**20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.**

**21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’**

**22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.**

**23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.**

**24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.**

**25 David said about him: “ ‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

**26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,**

**27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.**

**28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’**

**29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.**

**30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.**

**31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.**

**32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.**

**33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.**

**34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand**

**35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” ’**

**36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”**

**37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

**38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”**

**40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”**

**41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

When the Holy Spirit makes His entrance, we see some powerful and unique things happen. There is a violent wind that blows through the city, but settles in the room where the disciples are; they see what appears to be flames of fire resting upon each of them; they begin to speak in tongues- which in this instance appears to mean they are speaking in their native language and everyone who is gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration can hear them in their native language.

Because of what the Holy Spirit does and the power He brings into the life of the disciples, this is one of those topics in Christianity that causes a lot of division and people have a lot of different opinions about. In fact, as I’m talking in this series on the Holy Spirit some of you will think I am going too far with the place of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Others of you will not think I am going far enough with the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Entire denominations exist because of disagreements concerning the Holy Spirit. So, my goal is not to be divisive, but to point to Scripture to help us really understand who the Holy Spirit is.

- Some of us treat the Holy Spirit like our crazy Uncle we don't talk about and try to avoid at the family Christmas gathering. We know He's there, but we want to avoid Him as much as possible. He scares us a little!
  - Some of us may have a view of the Holy Spirit that is more driven by our religious upbringing than the actual teaching of Scripture. Demonstrations of the Holy Spirit are super-emotional and often cause us to lose control of our faculties to give in to Him.
- Somewhere in between those two extremes is probably the truth about how we should relate to and experience the Holy Spirit.

**In this series we want us to do two things:**

- a) Gain a biblical understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in our lives as disciples of Jesus.**
- b) Learn to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.**

It doesn't do us any good to understand the Holy Spirit if we are not going to have a relationship with Him. When I interview people one of the questions I typically ask is asked in 3 parts:

"Tell me about your relationship with God the Father."

"Tell me about your relationship with Jesus- God the Son."

"Tell me about your relationship with the God the Holy Spirit."

Typically, people have good answers and responses to the first members of the Trinity, but when I ask them to describe their relationship with the Holy Spirit, they often struggle to answer or say they have never thought about what it means to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Today let's lay the groundwork that will help us know how to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit that is built on the foundation of the Bible as He is revealed to us there. This morning we are just going to introduce this topic and we are going to look at different passages of Scripture as we go through the morning. Beginning next week we are going to walk through Romans 8, breaking it down into three sections to see the Holy Spirit's role in the life of a believer and His role in God's creation.

Here's the first thing I want you to see and understand about the Holy Spirit:

### **1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a force.**

When we talk about the Holy Spirit we are talking about a person- not human, but divine. The Holy Spirit is not a "force," "power," or "thing." A force can be wielded for our purposes- it can be used for good or evil. Electricity is a force; you can't have a relationship with it, but can wield it for your purposes. The Holy Spirit is relational and cannot be controlled by us.

**a. He has a mind and intellect.**

**:: Ephesians 1:17**

***17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.***

**:: 1 Corinthians 2:11**

***11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.***

**b. He has emotions and feelings.**

**:: Ephesians 4:30**

***30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***

**c. He has a will.**

**:: 1 Corinthians 12:11**

***11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.***

When talking about giving spiritual gifts to disciples of Jesus, we are told that the Holy Spirit makes willful determinations about who will receive what gift(s).

Here's the second thing we need to understand about the Holy Spirit:

**2. The Holy Spirit is God.**

**God exists as a Trinity- the word Triune means "three in oneness."**

**:: Deuteronomy 6:4**

***4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.***

(Father)

**:: Genesis 1:1**

**1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

(Son)

**:: Acts 2:36**

**36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."**

(Spirit)

**:: Acts 5:3-4**

**3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?**

**4 Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”**

This is one of those great mysteries within our faith. How can God be One, yet Three?

The first verse of the Bible, which we read just a minute ago, and the chapter following it, highlights this triune relationship. The word “God” in the Hebrew in Genesis 1:1 is Elohim. Elohim is plural in form, but understood in the singular sense. When God speaks about creating man He says,

**:: Genesis 1:26-27**

**26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”**

**27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

God is one, yet three distinct persons.

The Father, Son and Spirit all share the same attributes, but they are distinct persons, so they differ in their expression of attributes.

Because we are made in the image of God we share some of the attributes of God, these are called “communicable attributes.” (Love, grace, mercy, joy...all things we share with God.)

But there are also things called “non-communicable attributes”- things we do not share with God (eternality, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence)

The Holy Spirit shares all the same attributes of God because He is God.

### **3. The Holy Spirit is active in the Old and New Testament.**

Some people hold to the belief that the Holy Spirit only shows up in the New Testament to empower believers and birth the Church. But that’s not true! If you read your Bible you will see the Holy Spirit show up throughout the Old Testament. The major difference in the Spirit’s activity in the Old Testament and New Testament is that in the O.T. He was given for specific purposes and for specific periods of time. I want to highlight a few of these for you today, but you’ll need to go and read them for yourself to get the full picture.

In Exodus 31 God places His Spirit inside a man named Bezalel, who was assigned the work or leading the building of the Tabernacle. The first instance of the Spirit of God residing in someone comes when God desires a place to reside among His people as He leads them through the desert.

In 1 Samuel 10 we find that when God gave the people a king to rule over them, He chose Saul, and after being anointed by Samuel, Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit.

However, later in Saul's life we are told God removed His Spirit from him because of his disobedience. Then God choose a new king- David- and in 1 Samuel 16 David is anointed and the Spirit of God fills him with power.

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit serves a different purpose. Rather than being given to a specific person for a limited time to accomplish a certain task, the Holy Spirit is given to all believers in Jesus as an eternal guarantee of our salvation. We are going to see that more as we hit Romans 8 in the weeks ahead.

Here's where I want to draw things to a close today as we are introduced to the Holy Spirit:

**If we have knowledge of the Holy Spirit, but no relationship with the Holy Spirit, we are missing the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives!**

So let's look for just a minute at some of the things we have in relationship with Holy Spirit, keeping in mind we will develop this more as the series goes along. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it gives you an idea of the different roles the Holy Spirit plays in our lives relationally.

#### **What we gain in relationship with the Holy Spirit:**

**- We receive fellowship with the Holy Spirit- we gain intimacy.**

**:: 2 Corinthians 13:14**

**14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**:: 1 Corinthians 3:16**

**16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?**

Church is not just a place I go to learn about God. Church is a place I go with my brothers and sisters to meet with the living God who is available to us. Church is not a school or learning, it's a place of communing to experience God's grace, God's love and God's fellowship along with all His people.

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit helps us recognize that God is interested in us and is in love with us- not our performance for Him. Maybe you have the view that Christianity is about acting a certain way or performing certain tasks and if you don't, God is mad at you. There are certainly things God has for you to do in His Kingdom, but it is born out of a loving relationship, not condemnation. In fact, we are going to look at that idea next week when we get into Romans 8. You are loved by God and have fellowship with him through the Holy Spirit He put in your life.

**- We receive counsel from the Holy Spirit- we gain an Advocate.**

**:: John 16:7-15**

**7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.**

**8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:**

**9 about sin, because people do not believe in me;**

**10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;**

**11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.**

**12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.**

**13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.**

**14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.**

**15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."**

Why did Jesus say in John 16 that it was good for Him to go away?

**:: John 14:15-18**

**15 "If you love me, keep my commands.**

**16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—**

**17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.**

**18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

Jesus couldn't be with us in His physical form forever, nor could He be present physically everyone at once, but His Spirit can! He resides in every believer.



**- We receive prayer- we gain an intercessor.**

**:: Romans 8:26-27**

**26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.**

**27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.**

As we go through this series my hope is you will take time to read Scripture and explore the passages that reveal the Holy Spirit and make Him known. Then I hope we will all grow in our relational connection with Him and learn to walk with Him so we grow in our understanding of His power that is available for our lives.

As we close this morning, will you stand with me and let's pray for one another. You can get with your family, or huddle up with some people around you. I'm going to give you something to pray and I want you all at the same time to pray these words over one another. God hears us and understands us.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of your Spirit.

We pray that you would help us to know your Spirit.

We pray that we will have power through your Spirit.

We ask for a deeper relationship with your Spirit.

We ask for a fresh movement of your Spirit in our lives...in our church...in our community...and in our world.

Holy Spirit, you are welcome here.

If you want someone to pray with you this morning we will have people at the front of the church at the baptismal area and by the cross. We would love to pray with you.