

September 13-14, 2025

Series: Spirit Filled: The Person, Work, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Title: More Than A Force

Text: John 14:16-17, 26

Depending on your church background, you may not have heard much about the Holy Spirit. Some church traditions are uncomfortable discussing the Holy Spirit; they believe in Him but often refrain from talking about Him, typically to avoid the excesses they've observed in particular churches. Some churches have gone so far as to assert that the gifts and miracles of the Spirit ceased with the completion of the biblical canon. Conversely, if you come from a more charismatic background, you may have heard a great deal about the Holy Spirit. We are beginning a new series of messages titled – 'Spirit-Filled'. We are going to be focusing on the Person, Work and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. I have heard individuals who teach on the Holy Spirit say we must be open-minded and "enter in" to understand the depths of the Holy Spirit. In this series, I don't want us to be open-minded but rather Bible-minded. I also don't want us to do an intellectual study of the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will also experience Him more deeply. I want us to study the Bible together to see what it teaches us about the Holy Spirit, His work in the church and the life of every believer. The Bible is the most authentic and reliable source to learn about the Holy Spirit. Some tend to look to their experiences or manifestations to learn about the Holy Spirit. We want to look to the Scriptures because the Holy Spirit verbally inspired the Bible. **2 Tim 3:16a, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."** The inspiration of the Bible extends to its very words, covering all parts and subjects. Written over approximately 2,000 years by

40 authors from three continents and in three languages—shepherds, kings, scholars, and others each had unique purposes, such as recording history or imparting moral lessons. They wrote from diverse settings, including palaces and prisons, sharing personal emotions like anger and joy. Despite this diversity, the Bible maintains flawless internal consistency and a common theme. The Holy Spirit is seen as the divine author, influencing human writers to convey God's message while preserving their personalities. This belief in divine inspiration establishes the Bible as the authoritative word of God. Let

me ask you a question: When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind? For some, the Spirit is like an impersonal energy, something you plug into when you need a little boost. For others, He is simply a passing feeling, those goosebumps during worship, or the tears that flow at an altar call. And for some, He is the forgotten member of the Trinity, rarely spoken of except in passing. But Jesus did not describe the Spirit as a force to tap into or a feeling to chase. He described Him as a **Person**—the One who comes alongside us, who speaks, who teaches, who comforts, who guides, who lives in us. The Holy Spirit is not an “it.” He is not a thing, a mist, or a power. He is God Himself, the third Person of the Trinity. He is to be worshiped, loved, and obeyed. John 14:16-18, 26, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. Vs 26, “But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to

**you.”** Jesus calls Him “another Helper.” The Greek word “parakletos” means one called alongside to help, comfort, counsel, and advocate. Jesus was saying: “Just as I have been with you, another of the **same kind** will come and remain with you forever.”

**1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, Not a Force.** The Bible teaches that there is one God. That’s known as “monotheism”; that the one God is eternal, self-existent, all-knowing, all-loving, everywhere present, holy, righteous, good, gracious, merciful, kind, etc. The list could go on of the attributes of God. But the Bible also teaches that the one God is manifested in three persons. We use the term “Trinity” to describe that. It’s better pronounced as the triunity of God. We believe in the unity of God; that there is one God, but He’s three persons. Not three gods, but three persons. One God—one in essence—and they are in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. If you find the concept of the Trinity difficult to fully comprehend, join the club. Aren’t you glad that God is more than we can fathom or comprehend? The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He has all the same attributes as God the Father and God the Son. Holy Spirit was present with the Father and the Son since before time began. The Spirit is integral to all the things God did in the Bible. It’s important to understand who the Spirit is because everything God is doing in the world, the church and in individuals, He is doing through Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit was present and actively involved in creation. **Gen 1vs2b, “...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”** Holy Spirit moved on the prophets to speak the words of God, **2 Peter 1vs21, “For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”** One of the most convincing statements in the Bible about Holy Spirit being God is found in Acts

5:3-4. When Ananias lied about the price of a piece of property, Peter said that Satan had filled Ananias' heart to "lie to the Holy Spirit," and concluded by saying that Ananias had "lied to God." Peter reveals that the Holy Spirit is God. At Jesus' baptism, the three members of the Trinity show up, together yet distinct. As Jesus comes up from the water, the Spirit descends on Him like a dove while the voice of the Father is heard from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

The Bible describes Holy Spirit as a person, not a force. Because He is referred to as a Spirit or Ghost, there can be a sense of mystery or fear to engage Holy Spirit. But the Bible describes Holy Spirit as a person. He has feelings - He can be grieved (Eph 4:30). He has a will (1 Cor 12:4-7). He uses His mind to search the deep things of God (1 Cor 2:10). He has fellowship with believers (2 Cor 13:14). The Spirit is a person who possesses all the divine attributes of God. There is a misconception that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force, the power of God. That misconception comes from passages like Genesis that says the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters, and Job which says by His breath the heavens gained their beauty. Both "breath" and "Spirit" come from the same Hebrew word, 'ruach'. This word can also be translated as "wind", and I think this is why we think of the Holy Spirit as having more in common with the Force from Star Wars than with God the Father. Wind and breath are not things that can be known, but rather things that are experienced. But as the passages we read show, the Spirit is a person who can be known, talked to and taught by. The problem this misconception creates is that we end up pursuing a "Holy Spirit experience" instead of pursuing a relationship with the person of Holy Spirit and letting the experience come because of the relationship. We chalk the working of the

Holy Spirit to unpredictable and random instead of purposeful and directed by a person. I'm convinced that whenever the Spirit moves, and it appears to be random, it is a reminder that God's ways and thoughts are far above our own. We cannot fully comprehend the way God works, and if the Holy Spirit's actions seem unknowable, it is because our finite minds cannot understand. **2. Because Holy Spirit is a Person, He desires intimacy with us.** Holy Spirit is not to be feared or avoided but rather to be embraced. You cannot live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit working in you. He is the one who convicts you of sin. Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, said **John 16:8**, **"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."** The Holy Spirit does a deep work in our hearts to draw us to Christ. After conversion, He is active in us, empowering us to overcome sin and to live the life God created us to live. All those who put their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately and permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **Rom 8:11**, **"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."** Holy Spirit works in and through believers to accomplish His will. His power leads us, convicts us, teaches us, and equips us to do His work and spread the gospel. The Holy Spirit's powerful indwelling is an amazing gift we should never take lightly. Jesus said, **"He dwells with you and will be in you."** Think of that—God's Spirit doesn't just visit occasionally. He indwells permanently. He walks with us in weakness, **Rom 8:26-27**, **"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. 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.”**

He comforts us in sorrow (John 14:18). He empowers us in mission (Acts 1:8). He whispers truth when we’re confused (John 16:13). A guest may visit your home occasionally, but family lives with you, shares life, and knows your heart. The Spirit is not a guest who pops in on Sunday—He is family, living inside you, guiding every step. Too many believers settle for weekend visits when the Spirit longs for daily fellowship. The Holy Spirit is not an “it.” He is not a mist, a vibe, or an impersonal power. He is a Person—the eternal God—who desires fellowship with you. And if you treat Him as a Person—honour Him, welcome Him, listen to Him—you will not only experience His power, but you will also enjoy His friendship. **Three Responses** **1.**

**Acknowledge Him daily** – Begin each morning by saying: “Good morning, Holy Spirit. Lead me today.” **2. Honour Him as God** – Worship Him, obey Him, treat Him not as an accessory but as Lord. **3. Pursue intimacy with Him** – Don’t settle for Sunday visits—invite Him into every decision, every moment.