

THE HOLY SPIRIT
Part 1 - GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT
John 14:15-27

When it comes to our spirituality, humanity has two great needs. The first is forgiveness and the second is goodness. God has met our need for forgiveness through the work of Jesus Christ; because of Jesus we can be forgiven. God meets our need for goodness through the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit works in us to make us good. God has given Jesus for our eternal life and he has given the Holy Spirit for our internal life. The power of the Holy Spirit can change your life.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

I. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

God the Holy Spirit is far more than some intangible life-force floating around in the universe. The Holy Spirit is not some “gut-feeling.” The Holy Spirit is a person. He has the characteristics of a person.

He thinks (Acts 15:28)

He speaks (Acts 1:16)

He leads (Romans 8:14)

He commands (Acts 16:6-7)

He guides (John 16:13)

He appoints (Acts 20:28)

He can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4)

He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)

He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).

The Holy Spirit is the way in which the person of Jesus is present with his people today (Romans 8:9; Acts 16:7).

II) GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A DIVINE PERSON

The Holy Spirit is God. We know this because we recognize the attributes of God in the Biblical descriptions of him.

He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14)

He is present everywhere (Omnipresent) (Psalm 139:7)

He is all-knowing (Omniscient) (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

He is the Creator (Genesis 1:2)

Peter calls Him God (Acts 5:3-4)

III) HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. He was involved in creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was Formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the water' (Genesis 1:1-2).

b. He came on particular people at particular times for particular tasks

He filled people for artistic work. The Spirit of God filled Bezalel ... *'with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts - to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship' (Exodus 31:3-5).*

He also filled individuals for the task of leadership ... *'How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family' (Judges 6:15).*

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him (Judges 6:34).

The Holy Spirit filling people with strength and power ... *'The Holy Spirit of the Lord came upon him [i.e. Samson] in power. The ropes of his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands' (Judges 15:14).*

The Spirit of God enabled prophets such as Isaiah ... *'to preach good news to the poor To bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners' and 'to comfort all who mourn' (Isaiah 61:1-3).*

c. He was promised by the Father

'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts' (Jeremiah 31:33).

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you', he said. 'I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws' (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

IV) HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT...

a. Jesus

Almost everyone connected with the birth of Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God.

- John the Baptist (Luke 1:15).
- Mary (Luke 1:35).
- Elizabeth (Luke 1:41)
- Zachariah (Luke 1: 67).

b. John the Baptist links him with Jesus

'I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire' (Luke 3:16).

c. Jesus was a man completely filled with the Spirit of God.

'full of the Holy Spirit; and was 'led by the Spirit in the desert' (Luke 4:1).

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me' 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing' (Luke 4:18 and 21).

d. Jesus predicted his presence.

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified (John 7:37-39).

'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high' (Luke 24:49).

e. Jesus tells the disciples to wait until they receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you' (Acts 1:8).

'Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them' (Acts 2:2-4).

"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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39)

WHAT NOW?

Do you know God the Holy Spirit? He will change your life.

He will enable you to overcome fear ... *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15)*

He will lead you into the truth ... *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:26).*

He will guide you into spiritual truth ... *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).*

With the Holy Spirit you will never be lonely ... *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- 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 (John 14:16-17).*