

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

### WHO?

Who exactly is the Holy Spirit?

First of all, the Holy Spirit is a person, a member of the trinity. The other two persons of the trinity: God the Father and Jesus, God the Son we have looked at the previous two weeks. Many, in referring to the Holy Spirit, call Him, “it.”

In John 16:7-8 and 13-15, the masculine pronoun, “He,” is used 12 times with reference to the Holy Spirit.

**John 16:13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all 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.

Then, when Jesus gives what we call “The Great Commission” at the end of Matthew 28 we read:

**Matthew 28:18–20** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Then, we have the benediction of the Apostle Paul at the end of 2 Corinthians.

**2 Corinthians 13:14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Secondly, He is God. Just like God the Father and God the Son are deity, so is the Holy Spirit. He is part of the trinity, not 3 gods, but one God expressed in three persons. I don’t pretend to be able to explain the trinity, for every illustration breaks down. I take it by faith. Some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit that express His deity include.

#### Eternal:

**Hebrews 9:14** How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

#### Omnipotent:

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

#### Omnipresent:

**Psalms 139:7–10** Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? **8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. **9** If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, **10** even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

#### Omniscient:

**1 Corinthians 2:9–11** However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”— **10** but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. **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.

#### Truthful:

**1 John 5:6** This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

### WHAT

What exactly does the Holy Spirit do? I want to take the rest of our time to highlight some ministries of the Holy Spirit.

#### Convicts people of sin

**John 16:7–11** But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and

righteousness and judgment: **9** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; **10** in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Baptizes those who come to faith (not talking about water baptism)

The Holy Spirit makes us part of the body of Christ!

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**Acts 11:16** Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

We are all one body in Christ! Better get along now because we’re going to be around each other forever.

Seals the believer

**Ephesians 1:13–14** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

**2 Corinthians 1:21–22** Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, **22** set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Indwells the believer

The baptizing, sealing, and indwelling happens immediately upon coming to faith. This is where people get confused sometimes. This is different than the filling of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. When a person comes to faith the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer.

The Apostle Paul tells us that is one of the reasons believers are called to be morally pure.

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

This would have been a radical thought during Paul’s time. See this body? It is a temple of God. Those who were Jewish would have thought of what when the word “temple” was mentioned? It would have been the place they go to worship. Paul is telling us that the Holy Spirit lives inside every believer and so we are NEVER alone. That should both encourage us and challenge us.

Fills the believer

What does it mean to “be filled” with the Holy Spirit?

**Ephesians 5:18** Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

There are two commands in this verse, both are in the present tense and passive tense. Don’t be drunk with wine. That is, don’t be controlled by wine. Pagan worship was characterized by a great deal of drunkenness and immorality. Paul tells them, instead of what you did prior to coming to faith in Christ, be filled with the Spirit. Just as alcohol controls someone, so the Holy Spirit is supposed to control the believer.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be under complete domination and control of the Holy Spirit. This involves confession of sin, submission to the Word of God, giving of our time, talents, possessions, and desires. (John MacArthur)

It’s a realization that none of us can do this on our own.

**Galatians 5:22–23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Look at what Peter did, the one who denied the Lord not long before this.

**Acts 4:8–13** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** He is “ ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must

be saved.” **13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

#### Teaches the believer

**John 16:12–15** “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 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 bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. **15** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

As believers we need to get into the Bible if we are going to grow in our faith. When you and I approach this book, the Bible, to read and study it, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to teach us God’s truth. Prior to coming to faith, I tried many times to read the Bible. I couldn’t seem to get anything out of it. The Holy Spirit is the great teacher. He points us to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

#### Prays for us

Have you ever felt at a loss as to what to pray? The words just don’t seem to come. When you are facing those challenging times, maybe times of grief or trial. What do I say to God? The Holy Spirit will intercede for us.

**Romans 8:26–27** 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 with groans that words cannot express. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.

The Holy Spirit is the great translator of our prayers!

*“helps us:”* present tense

*“intercedes:”* present tense (both times it is used it is in the present tense)

#### Counselor/Comforter

**John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

**John 14:26** 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.

#### **SO WHAT???**

Without the Holy Spirit we would not be able to live for God.

\*Am I a child of God?

**Romans 8:14–17** because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15** 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.” **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

\*Am I listening to the Holy Spirit when He convicts me of sin in my life?

\*Take some time studying and meditating on who the Holy Spirit is and what He does

\*As I approach the Word of God am I asking God to teach me and change me?