



Pillar Truths Study Series

Who is the Holy Spirit?

I. Introduction:

A. READ Key Texts:

1. John 15:26 – 16:16:
2. Romans 8:1-17:
3. Acts 2:1-41:

B. Key Points:

1. No way to comprehensively address the topic of the Holy Spirit
2. *Focus of study is to inspire, motivate, and develop interest in studying the Holy Spirit personally & collectively.*
3. Not objective of this platform to discuss what the Holy Spirit *is not*; rather who the Spirit is, per God's Word. Note three additional points regarding this key:
 - a. The Holy Spirit is probably one of the most misrepresented topics within Christendom today.
 - b. Our concepts of religious issues often are created, influenced and formed, based on upbringing, religious background, experiences, etc. (no different in the New Testament times)
 - c. Typically, when we do not understand something, we still create impressions based on our limited knowledge. This presents major issues with regards to God's Word, and the concept of the Holy Spirit.

C. Key Questions:

What is your first image, thought when you hear the term, Holy Spirit? (holy roller, slay in spirit, etc...)

Where did you develop that concept?

Does your image, thought vary based on who is addressing the topic?



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II. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. Background:

God has always been working with man, for man and within man to glorify God. The Trinity is completely involved in these actions, each fulfilling a continual role in the preserving and saving of God's creation – man. Note the thread of activities throughout the Old to New Testaments.

B. Basic Progression:

1. God creates man in His Image
2. God acts through man for His Purpose
3. God sends Son, acting in a man, to complete His purpose
4. God introduces Holy Spirit to man
5. Man chooses to respond to God and is given Holy Spirit to carry out purpose

C. Old Testament:

1. God, Spirit, Jesus collectively involved in creation – Gen. 1:26 – “our” image
2. Holy Spirit part of Trinity – 3 in 1 –**KEY FOUNDATIONAL POINT** (we'll never understand this, but like 3 states of water.) Consider why we are baptized into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Focus upon God directly acting in men's lives & through men (e.g. Abraham, Moses, David)
4. Holy Spirit is more futuristic – Joel 2:28-32

D. New Testament:

1. Advent of Savior, Messiah – New act of God in man's world
2. God works through Jesus – Prepare man to live now and for eternity
3. God completes work through Jesus – Enables man to spend eternity with God
4. God moves to new stage in spiritual history – Holy Spirit becomes active part of man's relationship with God
5. Epitomized in Acts – Acts of the Apostles, but more aptly, the Acts of the Holy Spirit.

So, WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? The Spirit is an integral part of the Trinity, Godhead, who, like God & Jesus, specifically acts in the lives of men.



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Let's see exactly what the Spirit's role is...

III. What does the Holy Spirit do?

Holy Spirit assumes many roles – Advocate, Comforter, Helper, Counselor, Guide...mysterious, sometimes likened to our new conscience.

Why would God's plan include the Spirit after the salvation offered through Jesus' death/burial/resurrection?

A. *Spirit's Role with the Apostles – Jn. 16:5-16:*

1. *Transition for life without Christ*
2. *Empower apostles to carry on Christ's work*
3. *Continue Christ's mission*
4. *Guide with truth, inspiring, convicting, and communicating for God*

Key transition between Christ's role in God's plan to Spirit's role in God's plan – Acts 2:1-41. Like the O.T., God's intrusion into our lives comes dramatically in the form of a miraculous, power-packed fashion.

1st ...God pours out Spirit on Apostles, empowering them to carry out His plan.

2nd ...God offers to current disciples, providing them with the power to live a Christ-like life.

3rd ...God makes His promise available for everyone who believes, completing the transition from acts of Christ to the ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...

B. *Spirit's Role with us...*

1. Convicts Man of Guilt & Sin (Jn. 16:8) – continues the work of God (OT) and Christ (NT) to bring men back to God. Begins with conviction & helping man to deal with guilt due to separation from God.
2. Seals my relationship with God (Eph. 1:13-14) – Holy Spirit of Hope (English version) / Deposit guaranteeing my inheritance (NIV) – until we are redeemed or God gets back that which is His.



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3. Keeps me from sin (Rom. 8:5-11) – I choose to be a slave of the Spirit, to the point that my spirit intertwines with God’s Spirit. Just as God, Christ & Spirit are one, so I also begin to become one with God, Christ & Spirit through subjecting my life everyday to God.
4. Intercedes for me (Rom. 8:26-27) – Throughout life, we don’t understand a great deal, e.g. the why’s, how’s, when’s, etc. The Spirit helps us in ways we don’t understand – there is a mystic side of God.
5. Enables me to live like God – Fruits of Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

C. My Response to the Spirit

1. Set my mind on what the Spirit desires – Rom. 8:5. What does the Spirit desire?
2. Let my life be controlled by the Spirit – Rom. 8:6. What decisions are you making that indicate to whom you subject your life?
3. Be led by the Spirit – Rom. 8:14. Are you seeking to be led by the Spirit?
4. Exhibit fruits of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22 - Does your character reflect the attributes of the Spirit?
5. Use our gifts provided by the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:7-11 – Are you in touch and utilizing the gifts provided by the Spirit?

Life with the Spirit is a gift, entrusted to us at our conversion. The Spirit, acts in our lives, but only when we open up our lives. This begins at baptism and continues for the remainder of our lives.



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IV. Summary

So, who is the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is God’s investment in you, building upon your commitment to Him and empowering you to be like Him. Although mysterious and difficult to grasp (in concept), the key message behind studying the Spirit lies within our understanding that God loves us so much that He would actually guarantee us our inheritance by investing not just His Son, but also the third face of the Trinity – His Spirit, into our lives.

V. Discussion Questions

1. What aspect of your sinful nature is most likely to quench the Spirit? _____

2. When was the last time you prayed in the Spirit? How did the time impact your day? _____

3. Describe how you have seen the Spirit work in a fellow disciple’s life this week. What prompted you to notice? _____



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VI. Scriptures for Further Study

1. 1 Thess. 5:19:

“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire...”(NIV)

2. 1 Thess. 1:4-6:

“For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.” (NIV)

3. Eph. 6:18:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, always be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (NIV)