

THE HOLY SPIRIT



A CALL TO LIVE SPIRIT-FILLED EVERY DAY

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Key Passage(s): John 14:15–17, 26; John 16:7–15

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... ²⁶ But the Advocate, 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.

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.”

FOCUS:

- The Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity
- His role as Advocate, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth
- Misconceptions vs. Biblical identity
- Introduction to His work in salvation and sanctification

QUESTIONS:

1. What words would you use to describe the Holy Spirit based on John 14 and 16?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the Spirit's role as a Helper and Advocate?
3. How is the Holy Spirit both a person and divine?
4. What misconceptions about the Holy Spirit have you encountered or held?



THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

Key Passage(s): Genesis 1:2; Judges 6:34; Joel 2:28–29; Acts 2:1–4

² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³⁴ But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

The Lord Will Pour Out His Spirit

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

FOCUS:

- The Spirit's activity before Pentecost
- Differences in how the Spirit worked in the Old vs. New Covenant
- Fulfillment of prophecy in Acts 2

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some differences in how the Holy Spirit operated before and after Pentecost?
2. How do the Old Testament appearances of the Spirit reveal God's plan for redemption?
3. How does Acts 2 fulfill Joel 2:28–29?
4. What does it mean that the Spirit is now available to "all people"?



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SALVATION

Key Passage(s): Romans 8:1–11; Titus 3:4–7; Ephesians 1:13–14

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you 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.

FOCUS:

- The Spirit's role in regeneration and justification
- Being sealed with the Spirit
- The Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance

QUESTIONS:

1. How does the Holy Spirit bring about new life in a believer?
2. What does it mean to be "sealed" with the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13–14)?
3. How have you experienced the Spirit's work in your own salvation journey?
4. What assurance or comfort do you draw from Romans 8:1–11?



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SANCTIFICATION

Key Passage(s): Galatians 5:16–26; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18

Keep in Step with the Spirit

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

FOCUS:

- Walking by the Spirit vs. the flesh
 - Fruit of the Spirit
 - Transformation into Christlikeness
-

QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit"?
2. Which fruit of the Spirit is most evident in your life right now? Which one is a struggle?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help us become more like Christ?
4. What might be some obstacles to walking daily in step with the Spirit?



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SANCTIFICATION

Key Passage(s): 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; Romans 12:6–8; 1 Peter 4:10–11

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

FOCUS:

- Spiritual gifts: purpose, diversity, and unity
- Discovering and using your gifts
- The Spirit's empowerment for ministry and edification

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts according to Scripture?
2. How do spiritual gifts build up the Church and glorify God?
3. Have you thought about what your spiritual gifts might be? If so, how do you think you might have used them?
4. How can we honor and celebrate the diversity of gifts within the body of Christ?



LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Key Passage(s): Ephesians 5:15–21; Acts 4:31; Galatians 2:20

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

FOCUS:

- What it means to be filled with the Spirit
- Daily dependence and surrender
- Boldness, joy, and power through the Spirit

QUESTIONS:

1. What does a Spirit-filled life look like in everyday terms?
2. How can we remain continually filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)?
3. What does it look like to surrender to the Spirit's leading in tough decisions?
4. How can a Spirit-filled life bring boldness, joy, and power into your faith walk?



SUPPLEMENT ONE

Biblical References for Definition and Traits of the Holy Spirit:

1. He's called God (Acts 5:3-4).
2. He's called the Spirit of God (Gen. 1:2; Judg. 3:10).
3. He's considered God (Acts 28:25-27; 2 Cor. 6:16; Heb. 3:7-9).
4. He's treated as equal to God the Father and Son (Matt. 3:16; 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:2).
5. He's eternal (Heb. 9:14).
6. He's self-existent (Rom. 8:2).
7. He's omnipresent (Psa. 139:7-8).
8. He's omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10-11; John 14:26; 16:13).
9. He's sovereign (Zech. 12:10).
10. He was involved with creation (Gen. 1:1-2).
11. He enabled the writing of the Bible (2 Pet. 1:21).
12. He helps us to recognize the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:4).
13. He enables us to call upon Jesus as Lord (1 Cor. 12:13).

Biblical References for understanding the personal characteristics of the Holy Spirit:

14. He's referred to as a Person (John 6:63; 14:26; Rom. 8:11, 16, 26; 1 John 5:6).
15. He speaks (2 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 21:11; 28:25-26; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:7-8; Rev. 2:7; 14:13; 22:17).
16. He witnesses (John 15:26).
17. He searches (1 Cor. 2:11).
18. He can be grieved (Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30).
19. He loves (Rom. 15:30).
20. He has a mind (Rom. 8:27).
21. He has intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-11).
22. He can be tested (Acts 5:9). He can be resisted (Acts 7:5).
23. He has a will (1 Cor. 2:11; 12:7-11).

SUPPLEMENT TWO

The “Sealing” of The Holy Spirit

The sealing of the Holy Spirit, spoken of three times in the New Testament (2Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30), is the mark of identification that the believer is truly God's own and is kept forever by the power of God. It is an unbreakable seal of divine ownership and salvation.

Edmund Clowney writes, “By being present in the Spirit, God not only claims us for Himself, He also gives us claim on Him. The Spirit certifies His promise, His pledge to us. Indeed, the Spirit is God's keeping of His promise.

In the Bible, being sealed by the Holy Spirit means that believers are marked as God's children. The seal is a permanent mark that signifies security, ownership, and authority. By being present in the Spirit, God not only claims us for Himself, He also gives us claim on Him.

What does it mean?

SECURITY

The Holy Spirit protects believers from sin and other social or historical bonds.

OWNERSHIP

The seal is a mark of ownership, establishing that believers belong to God.

AUTHORITY

The seal represents the authority of God's decrees.

SALVATION

The seal guarantees that believers will be saved and will inherit Jesus Christ.

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

The sealing happens once; at the moment a person believes in Christ.

The sealing is a past action, and believers do not need to earn it again.