

The Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?

How does He speak then and today?

Why Study the Spirit

When studying the Holy Spirit, Christians look back on the study and **want to know more.**

Avoid this by taking notes that you can cross examine.

Why?

Christians do not want to miss out on God's promises.

Christians wonder if there is more to the Christians faith and the indwelling of the Spirit.

There are many strange claims about the Holy Spirit.

A. To Know More

What is an example of why Christians want to know more?

The apostle Paul revealed, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Eph 1:13–14).

Sealed with the Spirit

Observations of Ephesians 1:13–14:

The Holy Spirit **seals** believers in the sense of marking them.

The Holy Spirit is “**of promise**,” because God promised the Spirit to His people.

The Holy Spirit is a “**guarantee**” of the eternal inheritance meaning the Spirit is a “first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge” (BDAG 26).

The Spirit is the guarantee “unto the redemption of the **possession**,” which is the Christian receiving the reward.

B. The Spirit is Speaking to You

What is one clear way that **the Holy Spirit speaks** to people today?

The Holy Spirit speaks through the Scriptures (Acts 1:16).

How did the Holy Spirit speak when the prophet wrote?

Luke wrote, “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, [...]” (Acts 28:25–26b; Isa 6:9–10).

Paul introduced Scripture, “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, [...]” (Heb 3:7a; Psa 95:7–11).

Again Paul expressed, “And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, [...]” (Heb 10:15; cf. Jer 31:33).

The Spirit and Revelation

From where does the **prophecy of Scripture** come?

Peter revealed, “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet 1:20–21).

Revelation is **from the Spirit's guidance** not from explanation as the will of man.

One can translate the word “interpretation” as “explanation” (BDAG 75).

Test the Spirits

Who can claim to have **revelation from the Holy Spirit?**

1 John 4:1–2, 6; “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [...] We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error” (1 John 4:1–2, 6; cf. 1 Cor 12:3).

How can someone know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error?

C. The Holy Spirit is God

Jesus declared that “**God is Spirit**” (John 4:24).

Is God “He”? Is God masculine?

Is the Holy Spirit God?

Paul noted, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Cor 3:17).

In Acts 5:3–5, Peter interchanged “the Holy Spirit” with the word “God.”

How are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit united?

Like a body, the Father is the head, Jesus is the body, and the Spirit is their unity (1 Cor 11:3; Col 2:9).

The Father, Son, and Spirit

What does the Spirit have to do with **the triune nature of God?**

Isaiah prophesied, “Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there.’ And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit. Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.’” (Isa 48:16–17; cf. Matt 28:19–20; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 2:18; 4:4–6).

The Person of the Spirit

The Spirit operates as **a separate person** from Jesus and the Father.

Jesus revealed, “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 that I have said to you” (John 14:26; cf. 14:17).

“All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:15).

The Holy Spirit and Creation

Did the Spirit have a part in **the Creation**?

Moses reported, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 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” (Gen 1:1–2; cf. Job 26:13; Psa 104:30).

How could people live with **long ages** in the Bible?

Moses records, “Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.’” (Gen 6:3).

Job’s friend, Elihu, professed that **the Spirit made him and gave him God’s breath** (Job 33:4).

Elihu also noted that God can take His Spirit and breath from anyone so that the person dies (Job 34:14).

The Spirit's Omniscience

How does the **Spirit of God** have knowledge?

“Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?” (Isa 40:13–14).

The Holy Spirit is **all-knowing**, omniscient.

The Spirit's Omnipresence

IS the Holy Spirit **omnipresent**?

David revealed, “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!” (Psa 139:7–8).

The Holy Spirit accomplishes the **omnipresence** of God.

This is the sense that God is everywhere.

The Spirit's **omnipresence** demonstrates that He again is God.

The Spirit is Truth

Who is **the Holy Spirit**?

“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord” (Isa 11:2).

The apostle John described the Spirit as “the Spirit of truth” (1 John 5:6).

Paul observed that “the Spirit is life because of righteousness” (Rom 8:10).

Challenge

Plan to take notes about the Spirit so that you can **partake of the promises of the Spirit.**

A. Desire to know more about the Spirit who has **sealed your salvation.**

B. Realize that the Holy Spirit speaks to the common person **through the Scriptures.**

C. Understand that the Holy Spirit is **a person of God** — not a force.

Invitation

The believer is **reborn** through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus taught, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

Paul revealed, “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,” (Titus 3:5–6).

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