

**Who is The Holy Spirit?**  
**November 5, 2017**  
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

As we continue the theme of our knowing God this morning that we have been following this past month, today's message is "Who is The Holy Spirit?"

Concerning the Holy Spirit, there abounds a tremendous amount of error in regard to Who He is and the purpose in which He is engaged in our lives today.

It seems that most want to exploit the sensationalism that surrounded the miraculous gifts of the Spirit in the early Church; most of which, with good reason, have ceased.

If you want to learn more about this era and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in that day, I suggest that you come on Wednesday night when you can ask questions as we study this subject together.

Today, however, we are going to limit ourselves to learning about the true and very powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit that is going on right now.

Let's begin this morning with a little review:

**I. Truly, There is Only One God.**

*A. The Trinity, as you may understand it, is God manifest in three persons.*

**1. The Great 3 in 1!**

2. God created us "like Him"; we have a **body** (whose image you can see), we have a **spirit** (which you cannot see) and we have a **soul**, sometimes referred to as our mind.

**3. Genesis 1:26**

And God said,

Let us make man [1] **in our image,**

[2] **after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

4. God has an image: that image is Jesus.

**Colossians 1:15**

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

5. God IS a Spirit; invisible, yet real, alive and eternal. He is called The Spirit of Truth, The Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Christ, The Holy Ghost: He is God's Spirit.

6. Within the Spirit of God exists the *mind* of God, the *will* of God and moreover from that mind of God we have been given the *The Word of God*.

7. **2 Peter 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

8. All of this is who God is.

*B. Jesus made a promise to His Church concerning His Holy Spirit that would be fulfilled upon His ascending back into heaven.*

1. Just like we baptize new believers in water, Jesus promised the Church that He would baptize them in the Holy Spirit.

2. **Acts 1:5** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

3. This baptism in the Spirit would empower the witness of the Church all the way to the end of the world; Churches coming from Churches, all with that same Holy Spirit empowered witness that we still see in action today.

4. **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

5. This, of course, was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost directly after Jesus ascended into heaven as is recorded in Acts chapter two.

*C. Jesus also made a promise to every believer that would be fulfilled upon His ascending back into heaven.*

1. **John 14:16-18**

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

2. **John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

3. The fulfillment of this first took place on the very day Jesus rose from the dead.

4. **John 20:19-22**

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

5. Jesus, who IS God; by His Spirit now dwells both in us as individuals, and with us collectively as His body.

Now let's look at:

**II. The Work and Purpose of the Holy Spirit Today.** Here are just some of the things that are a direct result of the Holy Spirit in our lives today:

*A. The Holy Spirit brings us peace.*

1. When Jesus first gave believers His indwelling Holy Spirit the very day He rose from the dead, He also specified the purpose.

2. **Jesus spoke it three times** during which He breathed on them imparting to them His Spirit.

3. **John 20:19** "...and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**"

**John 20:21** "Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you**"

And again 8 days later in **John 20:26** "and said, **Peace be unto you.**"

4. This incredible gift of the Holy Spirit begins the moment we get saved.

5. **John 14:27** **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

6. **John 16:33** **These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

7. I've seen it scores of times as I've witnessed men and women place their trust in Christ; the tension and stress melts away and is replaced by beautiful sweet peace.

8. How many times have you been able to be at peace during the most trying of times?

9. Death, sickness, emergencies, serious accidents, hurricanes, floods, financial crises, family crises...every situation under the sun...and yet somehow from inside you are able to find peace.

10. You can talk about all the sensationalism and amazement created by the gifts of the Spirit in past ages...but I haven't read of any that surpass this incredible miracle of God's wonderful peace.

11. **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

*B. The Holy Spirit guides our path.*

1. **John 16:13-14**

**13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

**14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

2. The primary application of this verse is in the Holy Spirit revealing the Word of God to the apostles and prophets.

3. Yet His work goes even further.

He calls preachers to preach.

He guides the content of every sermon of every true man of God.

He impresses us; He reminds us of Scriptures we have read; He shows us opportunities; He warns us of impending dangers; He reminds us to seek Godly counsel...and far more as we walk in fellowship with the Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit even intercedes in our prayers so we can get it right.

**Romans 8:26-27**

**26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: **for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

**27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, **because he maketh intercession for the saints** according to *the will of God*.

*C. The Holy Spirit reveals God's presence.*

1. Have you ever wondered what actually causes us to experience the presence of the Lord when we come together to worship?

2. You know that you have visited other Churches and have not experienced God's presence like you do here.

3. How does that work?

4. Jesus made another promise to His Church:

**Matthew 18:20** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

5. We know the Spirit of God dwells in every believer.

6. But when we members of His Body are gathered together in His name (which means according to His will), Jesus dwells, not just in us, but in our midst.

7. This is done by the Lord through His Holy Spirit who we know IS Jesus.

*D. The Holy Spirit gives us power:*

1. Tongues, the gift of healing, the gifts of various miracles; all the miraculous gifts of the Spirit in the early Church were given for a specific purpose.

**1 Corinthians 14:22** Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...

2. That specific purpose was to back up and to reinforce the witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. The early Churches were told that these miraculous gifts of the Spirit will have ceased when that which is perfect is come.

4. **1 Corinthians 13:8-10**

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

5. What is this **which is perfect** of which the Scripture speaks?

**Conclusion:**

**If you want answers to Biblical questions, the first and best place to look is where the question originated.**

**If you back up just a few verses, you will find the answer.**

**At the end of Chapter 12 God promises a more excellent way to witness; indeed, I believe you will find it a “perfect” way.**

### **1 Corinthians 12:28-31**

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 *Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

30 *Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*

31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: **and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.**

**In Romans 1:16 the Holy Spirit reveals to us that the power of God to save sinners is revealed through the gospel.**

### **Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for **it is the power of God unto salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

**We know that the gospel is how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**

**When we teach those Jesus is drawing to Himself what the Bible is; the very Word of God given to us by the Holy Spirit of God;**

**When we introduce them to the Jesus of the Bible Who the grave couldn't hold;**

**When we explain that when Jesus died it was for them in payment for all their sins;**

**When we invite them to place their trust in Jesus to save them...**

**The Holy Spirit speaks to their heart, like He is doing in yours right now, He assures them of the truth, and He enables them to put their trust in Jesus and be forever saved from sin.**

**Just like He is doing for you right now.**

**Indeed, a more excellent way!**