

Session One

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in All the Bible

1. The word for “spirit” in Hebrew is *ruach* and in Greek is *pneuma*.
2. *Ruach* is used roughly ninety times for the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
3. *Pneuma* is used more than 250 times as a reference to the Spirit in the New Testament.
4. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - A. At creation (Gen. 1:2).
 - B. Bezalel and Aholiab (Ex. 35:30–35).
 - C. Balaam, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, and Azariah (Num. 24:2; Judges 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14; 2 Chron. 15:1).
 - D. Saul (1 Sam. 16:14)
 - E. David (Ps. 51:11).
5. The Spirit’s activity in the Old Testament is powerful but wasn’t complete.
6. Three prophecies predict the glory to come in the New Testament era
 1. **Joel 2:28–32** looks forward to the Spirit’s coming upon all God’s people.
 2. **Ezekiel 36:22–37:14** awaits the day when the Spirit will dwell within God’s people personally and permanently.
 3. **Isaiah 11:1–5** promises a Spirit-anointed Branch from the root of Jesse who will usher in the day of salvation for Israel.

7. In the New Testament, under the New Covenant
 - A. This outpouring is realized (2 Cor. 3:1–11).
 - B. The Spirit is poured out on all flesh (Acts 2:14–21),
 - C. The Spirit indwells all believers (Rom. 8:9)
 - D. The Spirit empowers and glorifies the Spirit-anointed Messiah in his earthly ministry and saving work.

8. The Holy Spirit empowered the Son through every stage of his ministry.
 - A. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary in her conception (Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35).
 - B. The Holy Spirit was upon Simeon when he spoke about Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:25).
 - C. The Spirit rested on Jesus at his baptism (Matt. 3:16).
 - D. Then the Spirit led Jesus, who Luke says was full of the Holy Spirit, into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil (Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1).
 - E. After the temptation, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14)
 - F. He announced in the synagogue that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him to proclaim the good news to the poor (Luke 4:18).
 - G. It was by the Spirit of God that Jesus cast out demons (Matt. 12:28).
 - H. Hebrews 9:14 says it was through the eternal Spirit that Christ offered himself as a sacrifice to God.
 - I. According to Romans 1:4, Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead through the Spirit of holiness.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

1. *A Person*

The Holy Spirit is a person: He...

- i. grieves (Eph. 4:30);
- ii. intercedes (Rom. 8:26–27);
- iii. testifies (John 16:12–15);
- iv. speaks (Mark 13:11);
- v. creates (Gen. 1:2; Luke 1:35);
- vi. has a mind (Rom. 8:27);
- vii. can be blasphemed (Mark 3:28–29).

2. *God*

The Holy Spirit is not just a person; he is a divine person.

- i. Psalm 139:7 hints at his omnipresence.
- ii. He is “the eternal Spirit” (Heb. 9:14).
- iii. Lying to the Holy Spirit is the same as lying to God (Acts 5:3–4).
- iv. Paul uses the phrase “God’s temple” interchangeably with “temple of the Holy Spirit,” thus equating the two (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19).

3. *Distinct from the Father and Son*

- i. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6), and the Spirit will lead the disciples into all truth (John 16:13).
- ii. Jesus came to bear witness to God the Father (John 1:14–18), and the Spirit comes to bear witness to Christ (John 15:26).
- iii. The sinful world did not receive Christ (John 1:11; 5:43), and the sinful world will not receive the Spirit (John 14:17).

The Work of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit Convicts

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper [parakletos] will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:7-11)

2. The Holy Spirit Converts

²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. (Eze 36:25-27)

- i. He enables us to understand and spiritually discern the things of God (1 Cor. 2:12-14).
- ii. He grants us repentance that leads to life (Acts 11:18).
- iii. He pours out God's love into our hearts (Rom. 5:5).
- iv. He enables us to believe in the promises of God (John 1:12-13).

3. The Holy Spirit Applies

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” 1 Cor 1:30

How do we receive those benefits which the Father bestowed on his only-begotten Son - not for Christ’s own private use, but that he might enrich poor and needy men? First, we must understand, that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us.” John Calvin, Institute of Christian Religion

So how do we share in Christ’s benefits? Calvin’s answer: *“The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself.”*

4. The Holy Spirit Glorifies

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. John 16:13–15

Magnifying in Christ is evidence of the Spirit's work! The focus of the church is not on the dove but on the cross, and that's the way the Spirit would have it.

J I Parker, *Keep In Step With The Spirit*

"The Spirit's message to us is never, 'Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me,' but always, 'Look at him, and see his glory; listen to him, and hear his word; go to him, and have life; get to know him, and taste his gift of joy and peace.'

J I Parker, *Keep In Step With The Spirit*

"All gifts from God, including the gifts of the Spirit, are intended to direct our attention to Jesus and create fresh affection for Jesus." C J Mahaney

5. The Holy Spirit Sanctifies

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13

6. The Holy Spirit Equips

7. The Holy Spirit Promises

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory” Eph 1:13–14.