## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU, PART 1

John 14

When it comes to the Trinity, most people have no trouble understanding the concept of God the Father and God the Son. But God the Holy Spirit is trickier for people to wrap their heads around, since it is not a familiar concept that we automatically understand, like a father or a son.

We do know that Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as a helper (John 14) that lives inside the believer and only the believer. But the Holy Spirit does have a specific role in the Trinity, which Jesus lays out in the Gospel of John.

### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **The Holy Spirit has a personality and has intelligence (1 Corinthians 2:10).** God reveals things to us by the Holy Spirit. No one "knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." So, the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God. Objects don't know things. Fires don't know things. Plants don't know things. But the Holy Spirit knows things.

2. **The Holy Spirit has a will (1 Corinthians 12).** We read in 1 Corinthians 12 about the gifts of the Spirit that God's Holy Spirit distributes. It says He gives to each one these gifts as He wills. The Holy Spirit decides what kind of spiritual gifts each believer will receive. In Acts 15:28 the apostles were talking about different issues and they said "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us" (NKJV). So the Holy Spirit has a will. And the Holy Spirit expresses His will.

3. **The Holy Spirit gives us inner assurance that we are believers (Romans 8:16).** We know that we are the children of God because we have that inner witness which comes from the Holy Spirit. It's not just the Bible that says we are children of God. We also sense deep inside that we are a child of God

4. **When you become a Christian the Holy Spirit seals you (Ephesians 1:13).** Back in the old days, when goods were shipped or documents delivered from one place to another, the documents would be stamped with a wax seal with the signet of the person who sent the shipment or the document. When the Bible says you're sealed with the Holy Spirit, it's as though God put His mark on you.

5. **The Holy Spirit teaches us (John 14:26).** When we read Scripture and study God's Word the Holy Spirit will illuminate it and bring it to life for us. John 14:26 says, "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 things that I said to you" (NKJV).

6. **The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers and obedience to God (John 14:15).** In the Old Testament, the Law of God was given and effectively the Law not to do certain things. Don't lie, don't kill, don't steal. A lot of no's. Old Testament believers would try to not do those things that were wrong before God and keep His commandments. But in the New Testament it's different because now those commandments are written in our heart and we keep them out of love. We do them because we want to. Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will obey Me."

7. **The Holy Spirit empowers us for service (John 14:17).** The Holy Spirit lives inside of us and dwells with us. But there's another dimension of power we can experience. Acts 1:8 says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (NKJV). So the Spirit comes in you when you become a Christian. But then the Spirit can come upon you with the dimension of power giving you a boldness or courage to be a witness for Christ and to share your faith.

## RELEVANT REMINDERS

- The Holy Spirit can be resisted. When you're a nonbeliever, God's Holy Spirit is trying to do His work to show you your need for Jesus. When you say no, that is resisting Him.
- The Holy Spirit can be insulted. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to convince you of your need for Jesus. If you continually resist Him and say no, the next step is that you are now insulting Him.
- The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed. This is done by consciously denouncing and rejecting God in defiant irreverence. The nonbeliever is then headed for the point of no return. Jesus said He forgives all sins except when a person blasphemes the Holy Spirit.

## APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? You need Jesus in your life. You know it. You are saying, "I need to do this." Good. That's the Spirit. But the Spirit will only bring you so far. You have to respond to the Holy Spirit because He will not force you to believe. The Holy Spirit will show you what you need to do. The Holy Spirit will show you why you should do it. But then you have to act on it. He'll help you as you do that. But you need to be willing to take the next step. Go to KnowGod.org if you are ready to take that step.