

Session 7

Holy Spirit – Who He is, Being Filled, and Led

The Holy Spirit - The Most Amazing Gift

In the life of every believer there is a most amazing gift that God has prepared for us. Sadly, many Christians fail to understand this gift. This wonderful gift is the person of the Holy Spirit.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - ¹⁷the 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. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:16-18

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples knowing in a few days He would be put to death on the cross. He wanted them to be encouraged and to know that they would not be alone when He went away.

Jesus tells us, *“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”* (John 16:7 ESV).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is in heaven now sitting at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us. Until He comes back, we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

In this session we will learn how the Holy Spirit equips us. But first we need to know ‘Who’ the Holy Spirit is.

As we learned earlier, God exists in three persons: The Father (God), the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. This is referred to as the Trinity. The word Trinity comes from the prefix “tri” meaning three and the suffix “unity” meaning one. The Bible clearly shows us that there is only one God, and yet three personal distinctions in His complex nature. Each is distinct from the others but never acts independently. They are one in nature and purpose. In Genesis (1:2, 26), we see that before the foundation of the world, the Trinity was in existence.

Read the following Bible verses to see if you can identify the Trinity - the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and how they work together. Write down the key words in these verses.

Genesis 1:1-2

Genesis 1:26

Matthew 3:16-17

Matthew 28:19

It is important to understand that before salvation the Holy Spirit is alongside everyone (believers and unbelievers). He is the one who brings conviction of sin to us and draws us to the goodness of God.

At the moment of salvation (when we believe and repent), the Holy Spirit begins to live inside each of us, equipping us to do what we cannot do in our own power. He is our amazing gift, God's promised gift to all Christ Followers.

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message 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.” Ephesians 1:13-14

The Role of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit helps conform us to the image and character of Jesus. He leads us, guides us, and empowers us with spiritual gifts. He comforts us, teaches us, and He can help us pray. He is our helper. He leads us into all truth. He begins to chip away everything in us that does not look like Jesus. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT), *“Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself.”* The Holy Spirit causes us to think/act different from how we normally think/act. He changes us from the inside out. We as Christ Followers, need to learn how to hear and obey the Holy Spirit.

How the Holy Spirit Helps Us

Read John 16:13 and list three things the Holy Spirit does:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

There are hundreds of verses found in the Bible that demonstrate how the Holy Spirit helps us. In this next exercise, read the verses in their context. List how the Holy Spirit can specifically help you in your circumstances in your journal and share it with your One on One mentor.

- ▶ The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
- ▶ The Holy Spirit reveals the deep things of God to us (1 Corinthians 2:10).
- ▶ The Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- ▶ The Holy Spirit enables us to obey the truth (1 Peter 1:22).
- ▶ The Holy Spirit teaches us (John 14:26).
- ▶ The Holy Spirit comforts us (John 14:16 KJV).

Share which role of the Holy Spirit impacted you most in this exercise and why?

Which one do you find yourself needing to put into practice the most today?

Acts -1:7-8

“He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.’⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Romans 8:26

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

Luke 4:14-15

“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.”

1 Corinthians 2:10

“...these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.”

The evidence of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). These are the fruit of the Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Now that we understand the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and how He equips us, let us look at another role of the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we receive His supernatural empowerment. This supernatural empowerment equips us to do things that we could not do without His help.

Listen to what Jesus said to His disciples when He was leaving them.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these.”

John 14:12

We see that the reason for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the imparting of spiritual gifts is to accomplish the work of Christ in this world.

Before going to the cross, Jesus told the disciples to wait until He sent the Holy Spirit to empower them. Like us, they needed the power of the Holy Spirit before taking the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Today we are equipped to operate with that same empowerment to expand God’s Kingdom.

In this next exercise, match the Scriptures in the left column with these statements:

Gives us the power and anointing to teach

What we receive when we wait

Shows us how to pray and intercedes to God on our behalf

Reveals deep secrets of God to us

(Answers: Luke 4:14-15, Acts 1:7-8, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10)

Being Spirit filled (baptized in the Spirit), allows us to fully use the spiritual gifts that God has given us.

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:11

In 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT), the apostle Paul tells us that spiritual gifts are given to each of us so we can help each other. Unlike the natural abilities that everyone has from birth, spiritual gifts belong exclusively to Christ Followers.

Gifts of the Spirit

Being Spirit filled or baptized in the Spirit is nothing to be afraid of. It is not weird or unbiblical, nor is it for only certain people or for certain denominations.

All Christ Followers should desire to use their spiritual gifts. We encourage you to study the chapters on spiritual gifts and begin to pray and ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Here are the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12. You can read more examples of spiritual gifts and how they should be utilized in Romans 12:6 and Ephesians 4.

Wisdom – This gift gives the recipient the ability to apply the principles of the Word of God in practical ways to specific situations and to recommend the best course of action at the best time (1 Corinthians 12:8).

Knowledge – The recipient of this gift can discover, analyze, and systematize truth for the benefit of others. With this gift, one speaks with understanding (1 Corinthians. 12:8).

Faith – This gift gives the recipient the ability to have a vision for what God wants to be done, and to confidently believe that it will be accomplished, despite circumstances and appearances to the contrary (1 Corinthians 12:9).

Healing – The gift of healing provides the recipient to serve as a human instrument through whom God supernaturally cures illnesses and restores health (1 Corinthians 12:9).

Prophecy – With this gift the recipient will be able to boldly speak and bring clarity to scriptural and doctrinal truth, in some cases foretelling God’s plan (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Miracles – The gift of miracles gives the ability to serve as an instrument through whom God accomplishes acts that manifest supernatural power (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Distinguishing of Spirits – With this gift, the recipient can clearly discern the spirit of truth versus the spirit of error, to distinguish reality versus counterfeits, the divine versus the demonic, true versus false teaching, and in some cases, spiritual versus carnal motives (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Tongues – The gift of speaking in tongues is the supernatural ability, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to speak to God in prayer and worship in a language not known to the person speaking. This gift is for private personal prayer. However, it can be used to communicate a message in a group *if* someone with the gift of interpretation of tongues is present. (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Interpretation of Tongues – The ability to interpret a message that has been spoken in tongues to a group for everyone’s understanding (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Ask God to show you the gifts He has chosen for you, so you can begin to experience the Spirit-filled life that God intended every believer to have. Ask your One on One mentor to pray with you in this area. Ask and keep on asking! God is faithful!

Summary Points:

- ▶ The Holy Spirit is one person of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is a gift to all people who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit lives in us and has several roles.
- ▶ The baptism of the Holy Spirit (different from water baptism) is an overflowing of the Spirit used to edify and serve the Church.

Next Steps:

- ▶ Take the time to study verses regarding the Holy Spirit and look to see how the Holy Spirit is working in and through you.
- ▶ Identify areas in your life where you need the Holy Spirit’s guidance and correction.
- ▶ Seek out one of your pastors and share with them your desire to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Journal the times when you feel the Holy Spirit using you to serve others.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8