

# Who is the Holy Spirit & What Can He Do for Me?

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## **1 Who is the Holy Spirit and what can He do for me?**

**In the older translations of the Bible, particularly the King James Version, used the terms “the Holy Ghost”. Sounds kind of spooky doesn’t it?**

**I’d like to relieve some of the confusion by putting some Bible passages together to give you a brief and, probably, inadequate explanation.**

**God is so majestic, so far beyond our human understanding that we can’t even come close to describing Him. He and His ways are far beyond our understanding.<sup>1</sup>**

**The Bible says that our Almighty God expressed Himself in three distinct ways; the Father, the Son (Lord Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. Even though God is just one God, these expressions are described as three individual persons. Theologians call this fact the Trinity.**

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<sup>1</sup> Job 37:5.

**The Holy Spirit is one of these expressions; persons!**

**We will never understand everything, but these biblical passages should get us started. <sup>2</sup>**

## **I. Who is He?**

**Who is He? <sup>3</sup> The Holy Spirit is an expression of God as a separate spiritual person; part of the Trinity. The Great Commission in Matthew, chapter 28, verse 19, says, **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . <sup>4</sup>****

## **II. What Does He Do?**

**What does He do? <sup>5</sup>**

**He is the attribute of God Who **indwelt and spoke through God's servants in the Old Testament**. In Mark, chapter 12, verse 36, it says, **David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."** <sup>6</sup> In First Peter, chapter 1, verses 10**

through 12, it continues, **Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. <sup>7</sup> And in **Second Peter**, chapter 1, verse 21, it says, **For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.** <sup>8</sup>**

He **conceived the Son** (Lord Jesus) within the Virgin Mary. **Matthew**, chapter 1, verse 20, **But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.** <sup>9</sup>

He was **the voice of God at the Lord's baptism**. Luke, chapter 3, verse 22, the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." <sup>10</sup>

**He leads!** Luke, chapter 4, verse 1, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert. <sup>11</sup> Acts, chapter 16, verses 9 and 10, During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. <sup>12</sup> In Romans, chapter 8: verses 14 and 15, For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>13</sup>

**He gives comfort.** Acts, chapter 9, verse 31, Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria

enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. <sup>14</sup>

He gives joy, peace and hope. Romans 15, verse 13, May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>15</sup>

He gives the spiritual gifts. Hebrews, chapter 2, verse 4, God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. <sup>16</sup>

### III. The Holy Spirit Has Affected People Three Ways

The Holy Spirit has affected people three ways. <sup>17</sup>

The first way is through the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**. Several scriptures describe these events. <sup>18</sup>

In Matthew, chapter 3, verse 11, John the Baptist predicts the ministry of Lord Jesus, “I baptize you

with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>19</sup>

The first chapter of Acts says that the Lord's disciples would receive power for their ministry, **For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.** . . . 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.” <sup>2</sup> <sub>20</sub>

The eighth chapter of Acts shows how the disciples passed this power on to others, **When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit** . . . Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup> <sub>21</sub>

The tenth chapter of Acts explains that this power was used to show that God welcomed non-Jewish people

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<sup>2</sup> Acts 1:5 & 8.

<sup>3</sup> Acts 8:15 & 17.

into the faith, **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.** The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, **“Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”**<sup>4</sup> <sub>22</sub>

It appears that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was used for the apostles and those whom they ordained.<sup>23</sup> These people manifested supernatural signs and wonders to give authority to the gospel message they were sharing.<sup>24</sup> The Baptism of the Holy Spirit seems to have been a temporary manifestation. No mention of this expression of the Holy Spirit is found in ecclesiastical or secular history documents following the period of the New Testament. So, this probably

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<sup>4</sup> Acts 10:44-47.



ceased when the last person who was ordained directly by the apostles died.

Let me add here, however, that some of my Christian brothers and sisters, whom I trust, claim to have some of these supernatural gifts today. Who are any of us to pass judgment on another's experiences or abilities. I guess we will all know for sure when the Lord comes again. <sup>25</sup>

The second way is through the **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.** <sup>26</sup>

In Acts, chapter 2, verse 38 and chapter 5, verse 32, at the event where the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was first seen, God's Spirit was distributed differently, **Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit . . . We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."** Here the Holy Spirit was promised and

given to everyone who decided to surrender their lives to the authority of Lord Jesus. <sup>27</sup>

First Corinthians describes your earthly body as a temple for God's Spirit to dwell in, **Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? . . . Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?** <sup>5</sup> <sub>28</sub>

Romans pictures the Indwelling Spirit controlling and sanctifying Christians, **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. . . to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> <sub>29</sub>

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<sup>5</sup> I Corinthians 2:16 & 6:19.

<sup>6</sup> Romans 9:8 & 15:16.

Ephesians talks about the Indwelling Holy Spirit acting like a seal, a stamp of approval, a down payment for what God will provide for us in the future. **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. . . . to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.** <sup>7</sup> 30

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit was for all believers.  
<sup>31</sup> The purpose was to regain lost fellowship with God.  
<sup>32</sup> And, it is permanent until the Lord comes again. <sup>33</sup>

The third way is through the **Filling of the Holy Spirit.**  
<sup>34</sup> The Book of Acts describes Stephen this way, **They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit . . . He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought**

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<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 1:13 & 4:30.

**to the Lord.** <sup>35</sup> Ephesians, chapter 5, verse 8, tells each of us, **Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.** <sup>36</sup>

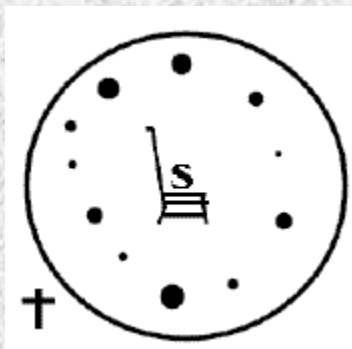
The Filling of the Holy Spirit isn't like pouring water into a glass to make it fuller, but, rather, filling as in taking control and influencing. You don't get more of God's Holy Spirit; you simply yield to His control and influence over you! Your free will is always involved with your relationship to God. <sup>37</sup>

This filling is potentially for all believers to the degree of their commitment. <sup>38</sup> Its purpose is to empower each believer to live victoriously and to bear spiritual fruit. <sup>39</sup> This filling may fluctuate depending on the believer's commitment at any given time. <sup>40</sup>

Now let me show you examples of what I'm saying here from First Corinthians, chapter 2, verse 14 through chapter 3, verse 3, **The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually**

discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ . . . Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? <sup>41</sup>

The first person is found in verse 14. <sup>8</sup> He is called **the natural person**. He is the non-believer. <sup>42</sup>

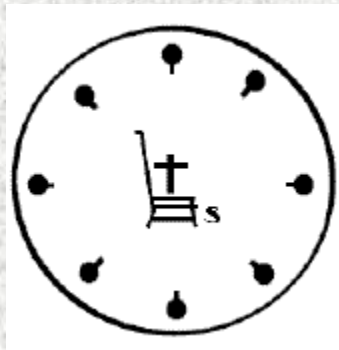


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<sup>8</sup> I Corinthians 2:14 - The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

He is on the throne of his life. Lord Jesus is outside of his life knocking to come in. The knock is unanswered. Elements in his life are in disarray and many are out of his control.

Then, there is **the spiritual person** found in verse 15 and 16.<sup>9</sup> He is the mature believer who is developing the “mind of Christ”.<sup>43</sup>



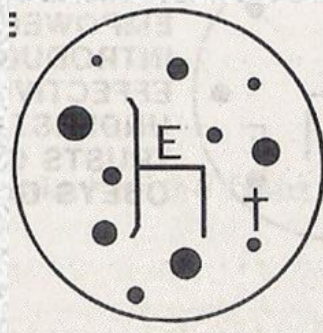
The throne of his life is occupied by Lord Jesus Who is calling the shots. He sits obediently at the Lord's feet. Most of the elements in his life are in order and he is living a victorious Christian life.

But so many of us fall into this third category found in chapter 3, verse 3, **Brothers, I could not address you**

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<sup>9</sup> I Corinthians 2:15-16 - The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ . . .

as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? These are “the men of flesh”, the babies in Christ.



The reality is all of us believers have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But He must be really frustrated with many of us because we remain static in our faith, not growing much. 44

The question then becomes how to progress from the simple indwelling state to the filling state where victory in life is found.

Here is . . .

## **IV. How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit on a Continuing Basis.**

How to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a continuing basis. Dr. Bill Bright called this biblical procedure **Spiritual Breathing**. It's as simple as letting the air out (exhaling) and taking a breath (inhaling), but biblically. Let me explain. <sup>45</sup>

First, **recognize unconfessed sin** in your life. Isaiah, chapter 59, verse 2, **But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.** You can't have a daily walk with the Lord with a sin barrier in your face. That barrier blocks your prayer life! So search your heart to discover the sin barriers. Ask God to help your search. <sup>46</sup>

When you discover the sin, **confess it in prayer** to the Lord. Asking the Lord to forgive your sins like asking, "Lord, if I have committed any sins today, please forgive me", just doesn't cut it! Tell the Lord, "Lord, I



did this (whatever the sin is) and I agree with You that this was wrong.”

Here’s God’s promise, **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**<sup>10</sup> When you do this, God wipes your sin history clean! The walk with the Lord is available and the sin barrier to your prayer life has been removed.<sup>47</sup>

Then, ask in faith for God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. You want His control in this area of your life you have just yielded to Him.

Your will plus his power will give you victory in this part of your life!

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<sup>10</sup> I John 1:9.