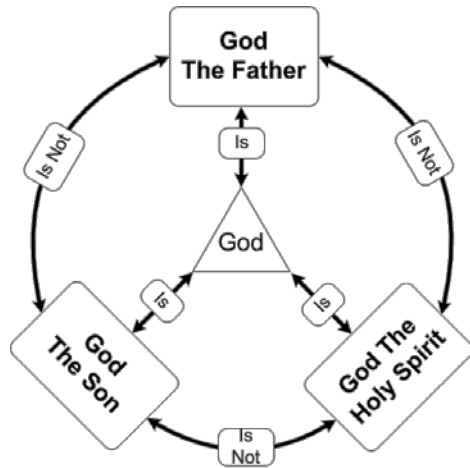


# The HOLY SPIRIT

Many people do not realize the power God has provided for His children to live a life of faith. Today we are going to learn about the least understood person of the Trinity, His Holy Spirit.

- **Let's Start with a brief overview of the Trinity.**

## What is the Trinity?



Three Persons, all of whom possess deity

Eternal and Co-Equal

Equally God. Unique in their roles.

**Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)** As soon as \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the \_\_\_\_\_ descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a \_\_\_\_\_ said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

**Matthew 28:19 (NIV)** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_

Our finite minds cannot understand or explain the Trinity, which is nevertheless a fact. We must accept the truths found in the Word of God by faith even though we ourselves cannot comprehend them fully.

## Read Genesis 1:26-27.

1. **What do you think about the pronouns used in these verses?**

\_\_\_\_\_

It is difficult to understand. But for all of eternity, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit have been in communication and relationship with each other. Did God create **love** when He created mankind? Or did love exist prior to the creation of man? Of course God didn't create love at the time of creation of man; He created mankind out of love. So who gave and received love prior to creation? (see Matthew 3:17, John 3:35, John 15:9, John 17:24) \_\_\_\_\_

We do not have the ability to fully "define" God, or the Trinity. But that's what's so cool about God. He's so awesome, powerful, and unfathomable that we simply cannot fully define Him.

2. **What do you learn about God from the following verses?**

- Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Romans 11:34 \_\_\_\_\_

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

In John 14:16-17, during the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever- the 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." (NIV)

## The Holy Spirit is a person, just like God the Father and Jesus Christ

### 1. What do we discover about the Holy Spirit from the following verses?

- Isaiah 63:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_
- Hebrews 10:29 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. What qualities do you discover about The Holy Spirit that distinguish Him as a person?

- John 15:26 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 13:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Romans 8:26-27 \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. What are the Roles of the Holy Spirit? Read the following verses and write down a role or task of the Holy Spirit.

- John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_
- John 16:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- John 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Romans 8:16 \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit's work is directly related to two great promises in the Bible. The promise of God's presence in our lives and the promise of God's power to live life. Let's look briefly at these promises.

## presence | power

God promises to be with us throughout life.  
**Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:5**

God's presence in our lives will change us fundamentally from the inside out.  
**Ezekiel 36:26**

**Read Galatians 5:22, 23.**

Which of these qualities (the fruit of the Spirit) would you like to see develop in your life?

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God promises us power to live for Him.  
**Ephesians 3:20, 2 Peter 1:3**

The Holy Spirit desires to give us power to be His witnesses. **Read Acts 1:8.**

What is a witness? What do you think it means to be a witness for Christ?

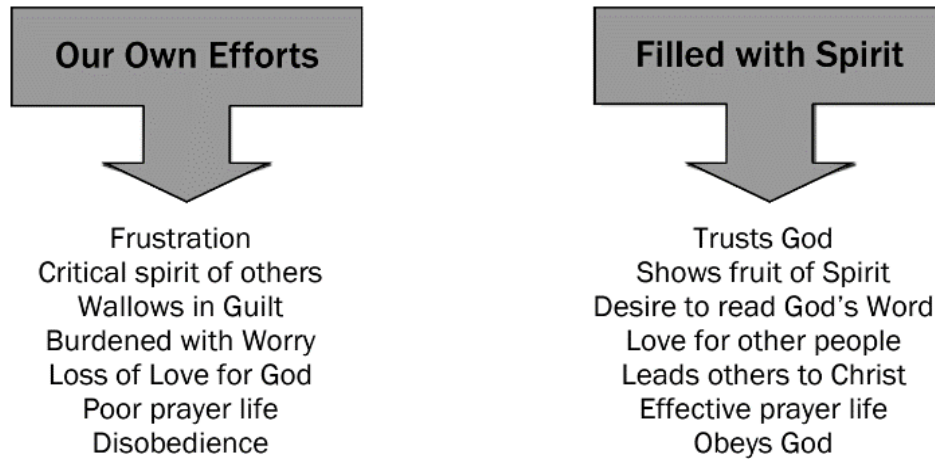
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For what else could you need God's power?  
**Read Galatians 5:16.**

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As a follower of Christ we can live one of two ways: we either try to live for God in our own efforts OR we can live for God in His power. The results however are very different in each case:



**Romans 8:6—The mind of sinful man is death,  
but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace...**

### **It is a Process**

The characteristics of the Spirit filled life are developed in us as we walk with God by faith over time. We shouldn't be discouraged if the "fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5:22-23 is not yet as evident in our lives as in the lives of other believers. The important thing to keep in mind is that we can't do it on our own. The Holy Spirit filling our lives is what will produce real and lasting change in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is the primary change agent in our sanctification as He will conform you more and more to the image of Christ.

### **Being Filled with the Holy Spirit**

You can be filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone.

- **Yield Your Life to God**

We must desire to yield every area of our lives to Jesus Christ. **Read Romans 12:1, 2**

What do you think that would involve in your life?

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Confess any known sin in your life to make sure you are clean with God. **1 John 1:9**

- **Understand it is God's Will**

It is God's will for us to be filled with, directed and empowered by His Holy Spirit.

**Read Ephesians 5:18.** Why do you think the analogy to drunkenness is used?

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- **Ask in Faith**

God promises to answer any request that is according to His will. Read 1 John 5:14, 15. If we know it is God's will, we can ask in faith to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We can be confident God will answer this prayer. You can pray in faith right now to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED PRAYER:

*Father, I have been directing my own life, thank you for forgiving my sins through Christ's death on the cross. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, I need your presence and power to lead my life. I pray this in the name of Jesus. To express my faith, I now thank you for directing my life and filling me with the Holy Spirit.*

### **Summary**

- The Holy Spirit is God. He is our counselor and our teacher. He convicts the world of sin and justice, and He confirms in our spirits that we belong to God.
- God is always present with us and gives us power through the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses and to live a holy life.
- All true Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9) though not all are filled, directed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- We can live one of two ways: we can try to live for God in our own power resulting in frustration and defeat OR we can live by the Spirit, having the direction and power of God within us. God uses time to develop His character in our lives.
- We can be filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone.

**Memorize: Galatians 5:22-23**