



WEEK 5

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

WEEK 5 • OVERVIEW

One of the main tenants of the Christian faith is the acknowledgment that we worship one God, who is revealed in three persons. We shared in Week 2 that this is known as the Trinity. We have thus far covered two persons of the Trinity - God the Father and God the Son. This week we will focus on the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit.

DAYS

1. The Person
2. The Work
3. The Presence
4. The Fruit
5. The Gifts

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Show the divine personhood of the Spirit
- Know the role of the Spirit
- See the ways the Spirit helps believers

MEMORY VERSE

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

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WEEKLY PRAYER *(write down your prayers for this week)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2).

DAY 1 • THE PERSON

Let's start with reviewing our memory verse this week:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Many people have a hard time imagining the Holy Spirit in a personal way, viewing Him more as a power or an energy at work in the world. Although power is one of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, it is not who He is, for He is a person. As we have previously mentioned God has revealed Himself to us in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So, being fully divine the Holy Spirit is equal in nature.

God the Father and the Son Jesus are more familiar to us. These titles are more tangible and can often be more easily understood while the Holy Spirit seems more aloof. But, He is the third person of the Trinity and critical to our salvation, so let's get to know Him a bit better. Today may seem like a heavy day of theology, but it will be necessary starting line for the rest of this week.

We see the Holy Spirit in the very first words of the Bible, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1-2). God's Spirit is eternally existing and was part of the world's creation. Throughout the Old Testament we see the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We see the Holy Spirit is part of instructing the prophets and equipping the leadership of Israel. When the prophet Samuel was anointing David as the future king, God's Spirit was present and came upon him: "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward." (1 Samuel 16:13)

The prophets looked forward to a glorious day when the Spirit of God would be poured out on all His people: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28). In the New Testament, we learn the Holy Spirit was a present participant in Jesus Christ's birth, baptism, and ministry.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 2:21-22).

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. (Luke 4:14)

Now, for us the Holy Spirit has been sent by the Father to continue His Son's ministry by filling the believer with power, truth, and special giftings that will conform us into the image of our savior and equip us for the work of the ministry. God poured out His Spirit on all believers at Pentecost when the church first began and continues to do so today: *"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4a).*

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From the passages you read today, how would you explain the person of the Holy Spirit in your own words?

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What confidence do you gain knowing the same Spirit that was in Genesis and with Jesus is with you today?

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?

DAY 2 • THE WORK

Let's review our memory verse:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

We learned yesterday that the Holy Spirit is a person and is presently at work in the world and in all believers. Let's look a bit closer at some of the Holy Spirit's works. Take a few minutes and scan through these 10 passages and **circle all the ways the Spirit works**. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the Spirit's activity.

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever. (John 14:16)

But 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 that I have said to you. (John 14:26)

*But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (John 15:26)
And when He (Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)*

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon 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)

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)

For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

Wow! Did you ever realize how the work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to our faith in Jesus Christ? He is part of our being convinced of our need for Jesus, being saved through Jesus, being conformed into the likeness of Jesus and being secure in Jesus. His presence in your life is God's permanent presence dwelling in you.

JOURNAL

How necessary has the Holy Spirit been in your walk with God?

List one to three works of the Holy Spirit that you didn't know:

How can the Holy Spirit be your Counselor? Teacher? Advocate?

DAY 3 • THE PRESENCE

Let's review our memory verse:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

From the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, God has given the Holy Spirit to all believers when they repent and profess Jesus Christ as Lord. We have already seen that the Spirit seals the believer so they cannot lose their salvation, guaranteeing our security and inheritance in Christ.

But, what does it mean to be given the Holy Spirit to indwell us? What is the filling of the Holy Spirit? Does it come all at once or does it grow over time?

It's important to know that God gives His Spirit to INDWELL all believers. This is so much more than a ceremonial anointing. The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" The present residence of the Holy Spirit should change the way we view our life and ourselves.

We now belong to God as His sons and daughters because of His Spirit's indwelling: "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him (Romans 8:9). Now as children of God we approach Him as our heavenly Father.

Though the Spirit indwells us as believers, we are called to be FILLED with the Spirit: "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). This filling is distinctive from His indwelling.

To be filled is to yield to His authority and influence. A life under the Holy Spirit's influence is demonstrated by an ever-increasing love for God and for others. A life filled with the Spirit is one where we are more full of God's desires, will and passions than our own desires, will and passions. It's a life that surrenders to His control. Therefore, a life that is filled with the Holy Spirit submits to God and is continually shaped into Christ's likeness.

DAY 4 • THE FRUIT

Try to recite our memory verse without looking:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Yesterday we looked at the Holy Spirit's indwelling and filling. The Spirit's active presence in our life is the power by which we can overcome sinful behaviors and live holy lives. It is not our own physical strength and insight that equip us, but our faithful walking in step with the Holy Spirit. We cannot live the fruitful life God has called us to apart from Him.

Read Galatians 5:16-17 and note the battle we face:

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Have you ever experienced this inner struggle? You want to do what God has called you to do, but there is something inside of you that pulls you in the opposite direction. This battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual things, and so we must be in step with the Holy Spirit in order to win a spiritual battle. Continue reading in Galatians 5 and notice the difference between a life that develops from works of the flesh opposed to the fruit of the Spirit:

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

What do you want more of in your life? Tension in relationships, a hot temper, and a constant jealousy of other people's lives? Or, do you want loving friendships, a joyful gratitude, and a compassionate heart for others? Do you want to always be flying off the handle, carried along by your latest wants? Or would you like to have the ability to be faithful and self-controlled? God promises that if we abide in Him, being rooted in His word and in step with His Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will become the characteristics of our lives.

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Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18: *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

What do you think Paul means when he says, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”? How have you experienced this freedom?

How do you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life? How would you like to see it increasing?

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What attribute would you like to see increasing?

DAY 5 • THE GIFTS

Recite our memory verse:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

I hope you have seen by now that God is generous and kind toward us. One of the ways God is kind is that He invites us to participate with Him in accomplishing His kingdom's mission. He generously gives all believers spiritual gifts to serve one another and accomplish three important purposes.

Sharing the Gospel: Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Building Up the Church: Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Glorifying God: 1 Peter 4:10-11

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

An understanding of spiritual gifts is important for knowing how God has uniquely equipped you to participate in His ministry to serve other people. We want each person at Calvary to know, develop and exercise their giftings. There are assessment tools that can help with the process of discovery. One of the best ways to discover your gifts, though, is to simply get involved in serving in the church where others can observe you in action and you can learn more about what you enjoy and happen to be good at.

JOURNAL

Read through the list of spiritual gifts. Do you recognize any of these in your life? Circle any that you think could be true of you. Do you recognize any of these in your Basecamp group? Write their name next to any that could apply.

Administration
Church Planting
Discernment
Evangelism
Encouragement
Faith
Giving
Healing
Knowledge
Languages
Leadership
Mercy
Miracles
Prophecy
Shepherd
Serving
Teaching
Wisdom

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What could be your next step in discovering and/or developing your gifts?
