



SESSION 5

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit empowers God's people to live for Jesus.



WORSHIP

READING PLAN

Read through the following Scripture passages this week. Use the space provided to record your thoughts and responses.

Day 1

John 16:7-15

Day 2

Acts 1:1-8

Day 3

John 14:25-31

Day 4

Romans 8:26-28

Day 5

Isaiah 11:2

Day 6

John 14:12-17

Day 7

Ezekiel 36:25-28



PERSONAL STUDY

1

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is a Person. Long before Jesus came to earth, God's people were struggling. Worship was dry. Sins were weighing them down. There was little change in their lives. They were frustrated in the little progress they had made spiritually. God promised them that one day He would give them a new heart and a new Spirit to live within them. He spoke these words through the prophet Ezekiel:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

EZEKIEL 36:26

This promise came true when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples. Jesus knew that His disciples were going to be devastated after His crucifixion. He knew they would feel abandoned and alone, so He said He was going to send "another helper"—a Person just like Him who would be with them forever, meet their every need, and never leave them.

Just after Jesus' death and resurrection, He instructed His disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit to come. Then, on the Jewish holiday called Pentecost, the Spirit began to move powerfully on them. They were filled with boldness to preach the gospel. More than 3,000 people were saved that day and the church began (see Acts 2). Ever since that day, God has been moving in the hearts of His people through the power of His Spirit.

How have you experienced frustration in your relationship with God?

What obstacles keep you from relying on the power of God's Spirit?

Jesus said the Spirit of God was our "Advocate" (John 14:26, NIV). Other translations use different terms, including "Counselor" and "Comforter" (KJV). The original Greek word literally means "someone to come alongside."

The Holy Spirit is the Person called to come alongside you. Probably the best translation is simply "Helper" (NASB). The Spirit will be with you forever and will meet your every need and never leave you, just like He was with the disciples.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is described in many ways throughout the Bible. In Genesis 1:2, He is called “the Spirit of God.” In Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD.” In Zechariah 12:10, He is the “spirit of grace.” David called Him the “Holy Spirit” in Psalm 51:11. In Matthew 10:20, Jesus called Him “the Spirit of your Father.” In Romans 1:4, He is called the “Spirit of holiness.” In Romans 8:9, He is the “Spirit of Christ.” In Galatians 4:6, He is called the “Spirit of His Son.” In 1 Peter 4:14, He is the “Spirit of glory.” Hebrews 9:14 says He is “the eternal Spirit.”

All throughout Scripture we see that the Holy Spirit is God. To follow the Spirit is to follow God. To know the Spirit is to know God. To listen to the Spirit is to listen to God. In fact, all throughout the Scripture, the Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of God:

He is eternal.

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.

JOHN 14:16

He is all-knowing.

Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10

He is all-powerful.

So he answered me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by strength or by might, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of Hosts.

ZECHARIAH 4:6

He is ever-present.

Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?

PSALM 139:7

What else have you learned about the Spirit from your study of Scripture?



PERSONAL STUDY

2

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

The Spirit's work in salvation: The Spirit of God is actively at work when we come to saving faith in Jesus. He convicts us of our sin, points us to Christ, and reveals the truth of Jesus. He also, at the point of our salvation, enables us to call on Jesus to be saved. He washes us, cleans us, makes us a part of God's family, and eternally secures us in Jesus forever! When we choose to follow Jesus, the Spirit indwells us and is with us forever. Just think about it.

You will never be left alone. You will never be apart from God. You will never be separated from God's Spirit.

Let's dig into God's Word and find out what the Spirit does to bring us to salvation. Answer the following questions according to the attached passage.

What does Jesus say the Spirit reveals to us (John 16:13)?

What does the Spirit bring into our hearts (John 16:8)?

What does the Spirit enable you to do (1 Cor. 12:1-11)?

What does the Spirit do for you (Titus 3:5-7)?

How does the Spirit secure you (Eph. 1:13-14)?

Where does the Spirit dwell (1 Cor. 6:19-20)?

The Spirit's work in transformation: From the moment of your spiritual birth, you enter into a new relationship with God, and this new relationship is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who convicts you, draws you in, gives you new life, and places you into God's family. But He's also the One who transforms you. Look at some of the following ways the Spirit works after salvation.

The Spirit of God changes you.

Read Romans 8:5-8. What are some evidences that the Spirit of God is in control in your life?

The Spirit of God leads you.

Read Romans 8:12-17. Through what specific circumstances have you seen the Spirit lead you?

The Spirit of God empowers you.

Read Acts 1:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. In what areas do you feel inadequate to be used by God?

How do these passages encourage you in that you are empowered by the Spirit?

He is the one who convicts you, draws you in, gives you new life, and places you into God's family. He is also the one who changes you from the inside out, making you more and more like Jesus. He leads you in daily decisions, He guides you in wisdom, He convicts and changes parts of your character, and He produces new desires for God and for good. He also fills you with joy, peace, love, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, patience, gentleness, and self-control. It's the Spirit that empowers you to serve God, love others and share what Jesus has done for you! You cannot accomplish this on your own; it's a work of the Spirit. And the joyful Christian life is a life lived walking in step with the Spirit.