

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for a Christian life pleasing to God. Receiving the Holy Spirit is part of what I call the believers package. Before Jesus crucifixion He assured His Disciples he would not leave them alone but would send the Helper (Advocate, Comforter and Counselor), the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of truth to be with them and aid them. The Holy Spirit will do the same for us today.

The debate over the Holy Spirit is usually not over the Holy Spirit's existence but whether the Holy Spirit is a person (or being, not in the human sense, but a unique personality). The early church was rather silent about this aspect of the Holy Spirit. Is the Holy Spirit a person? In the verses below, the Holy Spirit is referred to as He, Him, Himself, who, whom.

¹⁶ “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He** may abide with you forever----¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16,17)

“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 things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

“But when the Helper comes, **whom** I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He** will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

“However, when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He** will guide you into all truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own *authority*, but whatever **He** hears **He** will speak; and **He** will tell you things to come.” (John 16: 13)

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit **who** was given to us. (Romans 5:5)

The Spirit **Himself** bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Romans 8:16)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit **Himself** makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because **He** makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. (Romans 8:26,27)

Searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ **who** was in them was indicating when **He** testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (1 Peter 1:11)

In the King James Version some of these same verses refer to the Holy Spirit as “itself”, “it” or “which”, instead of “Himself”, “He” or “who”.

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost **which** is given unto us. (Romans 5:5 KJV)

The Spirit **itself** beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Romans 8:16 KJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit **itself** maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:26 KJV)

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ **which** was in them did signify, when **it** testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (1 Peter 1:11 KJV)

Here the King James Version shows less bias. The word for Spirit in the New Testament Greek is neuter in gender being neither feminine nor masculine. The only time it can be argued that masculine pronouns (he, him, himself, etc.) should be used is when the antecedent (the noun which it refers to) is a masculine noun... Otherwise “it” or “itself” should be used. For example, the Comforter or Helper as a description of the Holy Spirit is a masculine noun in the quotes from the Gospel of John. The gender of the words translated Spirit and the use of “Him” or “it” are a matter of grammar and don’t prove or disprove personality. Interestingly enough the gender of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew Scriptures is not masculine, **but feminine**.

The New King James Version does use “it” in 1 John 2:27. This is correct because the antecedent “it” is referring to the “anointing” (which we understand to be the Holy Spirit) which is a genderless (neuter, neither masculine nor feminine) noun.

27 But the **anointing** which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as **it** has taught you, you will abide in Him [Jesus]. 28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (1 John 2:27,28)

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit is spoken of in ways one would normally attribute to a personal being not just a force. It takes a little more effort and imagination to interpret these verses as showing the Holy Spirit is not a person were the Holy Spirit is said to speak, direct, forbid, guide, be grieved, predict, comfort, have knowledge, intercede for us, teach, be tested, or be lied to. Those who believe the Holy Spirit is not a person point out how sin and wisdom (which are not personal beings) are referred to. In Romans 7:17, 8: 6, sin is considered, “ruling as a king”, “receiving an inducement”, in Romans 5:21, 7:8-11, “working out covetousness”, “killing”, and wisdom as “having children” and “works” in Matthew 11:19, Luke 7:35. It is easy to see such comparisons are figurative.

Paul says the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness by interceding for us with groans which words cannot express and God understands because the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us according to Gods will.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind [or meaning] of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. (Romans 8:26,27)

It would be quite a stretch to call this verse figurative. This is more than some power or force directed by God. Notice what John the Apostle says in John 16:13.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He will not speak on His own *authority***, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

The statement “He will not speak on His own *authority*” or “He will not speak on His own” (the word *authority* is not in the Greek but is implied) in John 16:13 is very interesting. Does this indicate the Holy Spirit **could** speak on His own? If the Holy Spirit was simply the power of God why even mention this?

First Corinthians 2:10,11 are also difficult to explain away as simply an illustration. Here the Apostle Paul makes a direct comparison between the spirit of a man which is in him knowing his things and the Spirit of God knowing the things of God.

¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10,11)

Instead of saying, “Thus says the Lord”, or “God said,” the New Testament often emphasizes the Holy Spirit.

Then **the Spirit said** to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” (Acts 8:29)

While Peter thought about the vision, **the Spirit said** to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you. (Acts 10:19)

Then **the Spirit told me** to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. (Acts 11:12)

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, **the Holy Spirit said**, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2)

For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit**, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: (Acts 15:28)

After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but **the Spirit did not permit them**. (Acts 16:7)

When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, **Paul was compelled by the Spirit**, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is* the Christ. (Acts 18:5)

“Except that **the Holy Spirit testifies** in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.” (Acts 20:23)

When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, “**Thus says the Holy Spirit**, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.’” (Acts 21:11)

There is only one verse in the Hebrew Scriptures I could find that was similar in its emphasis of the Spirit.

“Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I *was* there. And now **the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me**.” (Isaiah 48:16)

There is a conspicuous absence though, of the Holy Spirit in many verses in the New Testament. In Paul’s letters he gave a similar greeting of, “Grace to you and peace from God the father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:3)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:2)

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, (Galatians 1:3)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:2)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:2)

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Colossians 1:2)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:2)

To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Timothy 1:2)

To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (2 Timothy 1:2)

To Titus, a true son in *our* common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. (Titus 1:4)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philemon 1:3)

Why no greeting from the Holy Spirit? John says our fellowship is with the Father and the Son. Again where is the Holy Spirit?

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our **fellowship** *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

No one was ever instructed to pray to the Holy Spirit, there are only examples of people praying to the Father and the Son. But, there are a couple of verses which speak of the fellowship or communion of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **communion of the Holy Spirit** be with you all. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any affection and mercy, (Philippians 2:1)

In both these references and 1 John 1:3 the Greek word for communion or fellowship is the same. Some versions say fellowship “**with** the Holy Spirit” instead “**of** the Holy Spirit”. Are these verses proof that we have fellowship *with* the Holy Spirit? Perhaps, but other evidence is lacking. In Ephesians 4:4-6 below notice the grouping of “**one body and one Spirit**”.

⁴ *There is* **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. (Ephesians 4: 4-6)

This grouping is not accidental or haphazard. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into one body.

For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**----whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free----and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Jesus indicated that the Helper, the Spirit of Truth would dwell in us uniting us in a relationship with Jesus and His Father.

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper, that He may abide with you forever**----¹⁷ **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, **for He dwells with you and will be in you**. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him** [by the Holy Spirit].” (John 14:15-23)

The early church did not emphasize a relationship with the Holy Spirit; instead it emphasized receiving the Holy Spirit and a relationship with the Father and the Son. The Father and the Son dwell in us by the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that we have communion with God the Father, his Son the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another (i.e. the body of Christ) Is this what Paul meant when he spoke of fellowship or

the communion of the Holy Spirit? Perhaps, but again we are lacking enough details to draw a solid conclusion.

In John 17 below, Jesus prays to the Father, saying “**this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**”

¹ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And **this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**” (John 17:1-3)

Eternal life is in knowing the Father the only true God, and his Son Jesus Christ. What about knowing the Holy Spirit? If the Holy Spirit is God, why does Jesus identify the Father as the “only true God”?

Jesus said that the Scriptures, John Baptist, and his Father bore witness of him. In another place he said, even in your law it has been written, the testimony of two men is true. I am one who bears witness of himself and the Father who sent me bears witness of me.

³¹ “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true [or rather acceptable in their eyes].
³² There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. ³³ You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.
³⁴ Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.
³⁵ He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶ But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish----the very works that I do----bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷ And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸ But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” (John 5:31-39)

¹⁷ “It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.” (John 8:17,18)

Again there is no mention of the Holy Spirit. Here was a perfect opportunity for Jesus to say His Father and the Holy Spirit bore witness of him, but he could not because the Spirit was not considered a person by the Jews and Jesus had to have two persons to bear witness of him to make a proper comparison with what their law said.

John said if anyone does not abide in the teaching of Christ, he does not have God, but the one who does abide has both the Father and the Son.

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.
He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. (2 John 1:9)

Again there's no mention of the Holy Spirit.

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. (1 John 2:23)

This verse from 1 John taken alone might also show a curious absence of the Holy Spirit. Unless we take into account John was dealing with those who denied Jesus was the Christ. The thrust of the writer's emphasis has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit. So there was no need to mention the Holy Spirit.

Was this absence of mentioning the Holy Spirit in many places throughout the New Testament because of the emphasis on Jesus Christ our Lord? Has that changed? Should it change? Absolutely not! To many a God who resides in the heavens is too abstract a principle. Let alone trying to understand and approach this invisible God. We need someone to show us and lead the way. This is why we must know Jesus! This is why we must preach Jesus!

There is an interesting quote from Hippolytus (died c. 236 AD) who was a presbyter of the Church of Rome in the early third century and possibly a disciple of Irenaeus. Hippolytus was one of the early proponents of the Trinity and is often quoted by Trinitarians. **He states plainly that the Disciples did not glorify God properly (Wow!), by not recognizing the Holy Spirit as part of a Trinity;** a God who is one, comprised of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Who would you trust to actually know the truth; the Disciples who were taught by Jesus or someone who wrote these things almost two hundred years later?

It is the Father who commands, and the Son who obeys, and the Holy Spirit who gives understanding: the **Father who is above all, and the Son who is through all, and the Holy Spirit who is in all. And we cannot otherwise think of one God, but by believing in truth in Father and Son and Holy Spirit.** For the Jews glorified (or gloried in) the Father, but gave Him not thanks, for they did not recognize the Son. **The disciples recognized the Son, but not in the Holy Ghost; wherefore they also denied Him.** The Father's Word, therefore, knowing the economy (disposition) and the will of the Father, to wit, that the Father seeks to be worshiped in none other way than this, gave this charge to the disciples after He rose from the dead: "Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

Ghost.” **And by this He showed, that whosoever omitted any one of these, failed in glorifying God perfectly. For it is through this Trinity that the Father is glorified. For the Father willed, the Son did, the Spirit manifested. The whole Scriptures, then, proclaim this truth.** (*Against The Heresy of One Noetus, Chapter 14*)

Jesus said in three of the Gospel accounts that blasphemy against Him would be forgiven but not blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw... 24 Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” 31 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.” (Matthew 12:22,24,31,32)

28 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; 29 But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”---- 30 because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.” (Mark 3:28-30)

“And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.” (Luke 12:10)

What about blasphemy of God. I believe the Pharisees knew exactly what Jesus was talking about. Blasphemy of the Spirit of God was actually blasphemy of God, a sin punishable by being stoned to death. If the works He did were by the Holy Spirit then they were committing a sin punishable by death by attributing them to the ruler of demons! Jesus Himself said the works he did (including miracles) which we know were by the power of the Holy Spirit were actually done by Father.

10 “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; **but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.** 11 Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. (John 14:10,11)

Jesus said, **only** the father knew the hour of his coming. If the Spirit is God and equal to the Father in all ways why doesn't the Holy Spirit know the hour of Jesus coming? Trinitarians have redefined the meaning of “one” and “equality.” Do we need to add “only” to the list?

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, **but My Father only.** (Matthew 24:36)

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, **but only the Father.** (Mark 13:32)

In the early days of the church many believers were voluntarily selling their possessions and donating them to the church for the needs of fellow believers. A certain man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a possession and kept part of the money for themselves but claimed to have donated all of it. In Acts chapter 5 we have this account.

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? “While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**” (Acts 5: 3,4)

Here Peter accused Ananias of not lying to men (although that’s exactly what he did) but lying to the Holy Spirit and said that he was actually lying to God. This is not calling the Holy Spirit, God. It is only saying that ultimately he was lying to God by lying to the Holy Spirit. The same principle is true when we wrong someone, ultimately we are sinning against God and he will hold us accountable. This principle is also demonstrated in Mark chapter nine where Jesus said anyone who receives a little child in his name ultimately receives the one who sent him (the Father).

³⁶ Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever receives one of these little children in **My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.**” (Mark 9:36,37)

Some people refer to the Holy Spirit as “God the Spirit”. The Bible never uses this title. In fact the Bible never refers to the Holy Spirit as God. It simply refers to the Holy Spirit as the “Holy Spirit” or “Spirit of God”, not “God”. In the verses below notice the **One God, is the Father not the Holy Spirit.**

⁴ *There is* one body and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ **one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.** (Ephesians 4: 4-6)

How do we understand the Holy Spirit? If the Holy Spirit is the Spirit **of** God, and God is a spiritual being himself then we are dealing with a concept that may not fit any earthly parallel. **How do we comprehend the Holy Spirit of a Spirit?**

“God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

It is easy to picture the Son **of** God and a Heavenly Father but to understand the Holy Spirit or Spirit of God is difficult. Church leaders in the early 3rd century described the Holy Spirit as the essence of God or the same substance as God. Thus the Holy Spirit was God, they reasoned.

God alone has immortality and the Holy Spirit which proceeds from the Father through Jesus is eternal.

¹⁵ Which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ **who alone has immortality**, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see [this is not Jesus], to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:15,16)

“But when the Helper comes, whom **I shall send to you from the Father**, the Spirit of truth **who proceeds from the Father**, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)

Let’s get back to basics, even if it seems simplistic. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, or a force or power that appears to be a person as the Spirit reveals to us the person of the Father or the Son. When Jesus spoke of having a close relationship with God, He always referred to His Father, never the Holy Spirit. When He did speak of the Holy Spirit he called the Spirit our Comforter or our Helper. He said the Helper would glorify him. The simple message of the early church was the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, repentance, forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God through Him, and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“But when the Helper comes, whom **I shall send to you from the Father**, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

“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 depart, I will send Him to you.” (John 16:7)

¹⁴ “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.” (John 16:14,15)

The Holy Spirit is not God, but simply the Spirit of God. It is vital we believe in the Holy Spirit and understand that everything God does he does through the Son by the Holy Spirit. Even our access to God the Father is through Jesus the Son by the Holy Spirit.

For through Him [Jesus Christ] we both have access **by one Spirit** to the Father.
(Ephesians 2: 18)

In the early church the Holy Spirit was simply spoken of as the Holy Spirit. But by the early 3rd century the Holy Spirit was mistakenly called the third person in a unity of substance called God.

What are some of the things the Holy Spirit does for us?

The Holy Spirit will aid us to be witnesses even giving us the words to speak.

¹⁷ “But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ **for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.**” (Matthew 10:17-20)

“But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; **for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.**” (Mark 13:11)

“For the **Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**” (Luke 12:12)

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.** (Acts 4:31)

Luke the author of the book of Acts mentions the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the **comfort of the Holy Spirit**, they were multiplied. (Acts 9:31)

Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit teaching us because we have received the Spirit of God.

¹² Now **we have received**, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God**, that **we might know** the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the **Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)

Gods love is given to us and shared with others through the Holy Spirit.

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5)

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me. (Romans 15:30)

The Holy Spirit is essential in the work of salvation, making us holy, dwelling or living within us, making us part of the body of Christ (**His** Church) and keeping us until the day of salvation.

⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:5-6)

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:14-16)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:16)

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are. (1 Corinthians 3:16,17)

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body----whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free----and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (2 Corinthians 1:22)

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (2 Corinthians 5:5)

In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:13)

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

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5)

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (1 John 3:24)

The Holy Spirit is the power of God and our source of power.

And the angel answered and said to her, “*The **Holy Spirit*** will come upon you, and the **power of the Highest** will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued with power** from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

“But you **shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the **power of the Holy Spirit**. (Romans 15:13)

And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**. (1 Corinthians 2:4)

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the **power of the Holy Spirit**. (Romans 15:13)

“But if I **cast out demons by the Spirit of God**, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:28)

Then Jesus returned in the **power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. (Luke 4:14)

In **mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God**, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. (Romans 15:19)

And God both raised up the Lord and will also **raise us up by His power**. (1 Corinthians 6: 14)

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit** who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)

God the Father gives us the Holy Spirit through Jesus.

“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Jesus] poured out this which you now see and hear.” (Acts 2:33)

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom **He poured out** on us abundantly **through Jesus Christ our Savior**. (Titus 3: 4-6)

The Holy Spirit is now identified as the Spirit of Christ in a few verses.

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the **Spirit of Christ** who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (1 Peter 1:10,11)

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” (Galatians 4:6)

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he is not His. (Romans 8:9)

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the **Spirit of Jesus Christ**. (Philippians 1:19)

Receiving the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the Christian life. Before Jesus crucifixion He assured His Disciples he would not leave them alone but would send the Helper (Advocate, Comforter, and Counselor), the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth to be with them and aid them. The Holy Spirit will do the same for us also.

16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever----17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16,17)

“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 things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

7 “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 depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you. 16 A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” (John 16:7-16)

The Holy Spirit had not been given previously because Jesus was not yet glorified.

³⁸ “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him **would receive**; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:38,39)

The aid of the Spirit is so necessary, the Disciples were told by Jesus to wait in Luke 24:49 and Acts chapter one for the promise of His Father.

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.” (Acts 1:4,5)

“But you shall receive power when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

On the day of Pentecost Peter told the crowd that came together that the resurrected and exalted Jesus having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father was responsible for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they witnessed.

“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having **received** from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. (Acts 2:33)

Receiving the Holy Spirit, being baptized with the Holy Spirit and having the Holy Spirit come upon or fall upon are all terms used to describe this experience. All four Gospels state Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

“I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8)

John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Luke 3:16)

“I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” (John 1:33)

Receiving the Holy Spirit is part of the “Believers Package.” In Acts chapter 19 Paul came upon a group of disciples who had accepted John the Baptists message of repentance and the one who was to follow him (i.e. Jesus). Paul must have noticed something was lacking so he asked them, “Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?”

¹ And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ² he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” ⁵ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. ⁷ Now the men were about twelve in all. (Acts 19:1-7)

In Acts chapter 8, the Samaritans accepted the good news concerning the kingdom of God and the message of Jesus Christ and were baptized. It was not until after Peter and John came and prayed for them that they received the Holy Spirit.

¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.....¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:12,14-17)

In Acts chapter 9, Saul (Later known as Paul) received the Holy Spirit three days after he became a believer in the resurrected Jesus.

⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.....¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. (Acts 9:9,17,18)

In Acts chapter 10, Peter began sharing with a group of Gentiles in the house of Cornelius how Jesus was killed and resurrected and that through believing in him we receive forgiveness or pardon from sin. As he was still speaking they received the Holy Spirit.

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. (Acts 10:44-48)

These incidents show the baptism or receiving of the Holy Spirit does not necessarily happen when one first believes and is often a separate experience. **You will know if you have received the Holy Spirit.**

The early churches message was simple, repent, (turn away from sin toward God) believe in Christ and receive the Holy Spirit.

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Receiving the Holy Spirit brings us into a personal relationship with God. As sons and daughters of God we cry out, “Father!”

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 **And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”** 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Galatians 4:4-7)

Paul says if anyone doesn’t have the Spirit he does not belong to God.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he is not His. (Romans 8:9)

In the Book of Acts we saw that once a person became a believer in Christ if they didn’t receive the Holy Spirit, someone prayed for them or was sent to them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit! God has promised and wants to give us the Holy Spirit.

9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**” (Luke 11:9-13)

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” (Acts 2:33)

38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and **you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39 **For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.**” (Acts 2:38,39)

Paul desired we be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ dwell in our hearts by faith.

16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through **His Spirit in the inner man**, 17 that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:16,17)

In 1 John 3:24 John says we **know** Jesus dwells in us because of the Spirit which he has given us.

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. **And by this we know that He [Jesus] abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.** (1 John 3:24)

In 1 John 4:12-15 John says we **know** God abides in us because of the Spirit which he has given us.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, **God abides in us**, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 **By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.** 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (1 John 4:12-15)

Do you have that assurance? Have you received the Holy Spirit? If you ask, God is more than willing to give you the Holy Spirit. Ask God for his Holy Spirit, ask now! He wants to give you the Holy Spirit.

¹¹ “If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:11-13)