

THE **HOLY SPIRIT**

AN INTRODUCTION

JOHN BEVERE

WITH ADDISON BEVERE

Preview

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The Holy Spirit: An Introduction

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About This Interactive Book

This book may be read cover to cover, just like any other book. However, we encourage you to explore the optional interactive elements for a more personalized experience:

Each chapter of this book is divided into five suggested daily readings with corresponding devotions at the end of the chapter. You can choose to complete one reading and one devotion per day, or you can adapt these elements to your preference. We suggest that those participating in a group study complete the reading and devotions for one chapter per week.

If you are reading this book as part of the Messenger Series study on *The Holy Spirit: An Introduction*, we recommend that you watch or listen to each week's teaching session and answer the discussion questions as a group. Then, read the chapter in the book and complete the devotions. There is one teaching session for each chapter in this book. Discussion questions for each chapter are located after the daily devotions.

Enjoy!

Introduction

When my dad first asked me to help him with this book, I was immediately struck by a sense of disbelief. I thought, *He probably hasn't prayed about this yet*. Frankly I did not see myself as a worthy candidate. In fact, thinking about his request caused my stomach to flare like it was in the middle of a breakdancing competition.

I respectfully asked my dad to consider a few alternatives and to spend some serious time praying over the matter (maybe a year or two). Yet after a day of prayer, he was confident that I was the one for the task. It is important to him that the Holy Spirit does not become taboo amongst the younger generations, and he values my input as someone in his mid-twenties. My father and I know that many people—both young and old—will avoid this topic if they don't understand who the Spirit is and how He functions.

So, despite my apprehensions, how could I refuse my father's request? I was compelled to agree. What then transpired can only be described as a life-transforming journey. I began to see the Scriptures in a new light as God opened my eyes to many wonders of His Spirit. I soon discovered that the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood Person in the Church. Countless labels and stereotypes have been assigned to Him, but too few of us know Him as He really is.

The purpose of this book is to facilitate an introduction to the Person of the Holy Spirit by taking you on a journey through the Scriptures. Aspects of this book may be challenging, but I promise you that the journey is worth your time and energy.

As you read the words on these pages, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. He will remove any beliefs that are not grounded in His Word. You will discover that He does not “belong” to a denomination or a movement—and that He cannot be confined to a generation or

an age. He has been sent to reveal Jesus and empower the entire Body of Christ. He has made our hearts His home, and He has promised to make good out of our lives. All we have to do is give Him control.

A better friend and companion cannot be found. The Holy Spirit will faithfully accompany you through all of life's struggles and joys. He has promised to never leave or forsake you because you are His passion and delight. Get ready to discover the One who is the definition of awesome!

—Addison Bevere, COO, Messenger International

Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

(Ephesians 2:18 NLT)

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

*But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), **the Holy Spirit**, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.*

—John 14:26 AMP

Day 1

It was the eve of a new year. An urge to fast and pray stirred within. I asked the Lord, “What book of the Bible should I read?” To my surprise I heard, “The book of Acts.”

Why was I surprised? Because my previous time of extended fasting and prayer had also been met with this exact directive: “Read the book of Acts.” During my previous fast, what stood out in Acts was a conflict of purpose and direction in the life of the apostle Paul, and its resulting consequences of hardship. Allow me to explain.

Paul was chosen by God to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. He said, “I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles” (2 Timothy 1:11). This is a specific and focused directive. He repeated this mandate several times throughout the course of his life. Early in his first apostolic journey he stated to the Jews, “We turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles’” (Acts 13:46-47). During his second journey, he boldly

stated, “From now on I will go to the Gentiles” (Acts 18:6). To the Romans he wrote, “I am an apostle to the Gentiles” (11:13). These statements continue throughout his writings.

However, out of his love and desire to see his Jewish countrymen saved, he repeatedly sought out the synagogues in almost every city he visited. He habitually approached the Jews before attempting to reach the Gentiles; in fact, it was often the Jewish rejection of his message that drove him to the Gentiles. As it turned out, the Jews were the source of Paul’s greatest persecution and trouble. They stirred up the populace and created animosity between the apostle and the Gentile leaders. Their divisive schemes were behind most of the riots, arrests, beatings, and trials Paul faced. An important note: God cares deeply for the Jews. This is why James, Peter, and John were sent to them: “James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church...encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews” (Galatians 2:9 NLT).

The message revealed to me during my previous fast was abundantly clear: “Son, stay within the sphere of grace that I’ve called you to walk in. Don’t allow your natural affections or love to pull you away from the divine assignment on your life.” Remembering this encounter with such clarity, it was surprising that God asked me to read through Acts again. After all, there were sixty-five other books to choose from!

I’m so glad I obeyed, for this time as I journeyed through Acts, something completely different stood out to me (demonstrating that the Word of God is truly alive). This time, what jumped off the pages was how much the leaders and members of the early Church looked to, interacted with, depended on, and spoke of the Holy Spirit. He was a vital part of their lives and involved in everything they did. He was preeminent in their ministry outreaches, team gatherings, and strategy meetings, and He was always involved in their activities. Here’s a sampling of the statements that stood out:

- “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?” (Acts 5:3)
- “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?” (Acts 5:9)
- “We are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 5:32)
- “You always resist the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 7:51)
- “The Spirit told me to go with them.” (Acts 11:12)
- “One of them...showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine...” (Acts 11:28)
- “Being sent out by the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 13:4)
- “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us...” (Acts 15:28)
- “They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.” (Acts 16:6)
- “They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.” (Acts 16:7)
- “Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified...” (Acts 18:5)
- “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2)
- “Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia.” (Acts 19:21 NLT)
- “The Holy Spirit tells me in city after city...” (Acts 20:23 NLT)
- “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” (Acts 20:28)

Words like these jumped off the pages repeatedly. What became painfully clear is the reality that we are not seeing this same pattern in the Church today. What was common among the believers in Acts seems rare now. I am not just addressing this lack in the lives of others, but first and foremost the lack in my own life. As I read, I realized I had

drawn back from enjoying, seeking out, and depending on the leadership, camaraderie, interaction, and powerful influence of the Spirit of God. Once this became clear to me, how could I keep from sharing it with you?

Upfront Statements

Allow me to make some upfront statements that will become clearer the more we delve into this important discussion:

First, there is virtually no Christian life without the Holy Spirit.

- Without the Holy Spirit, Christianity is dry, monotonous, and mundane.
- Without the Holy Spirit, our labor is draining and wearisome.
- Without the Holy Spirit, there is no fellowship with God.

Remove the Holy Spirit from a church and one of two things will happen:

- It will morph into a social club.
- It will become a religious institution.

The truth is...

- There is no revelation without the Holy Spirit. In fact, without the Spirit Scripture becomes lethal; for we are told, “the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).
- There is no vision without the Holy Spirit.
- There is no joy without Him.
- There is no peace without Him.
- There is no freedom without the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT)

Look at the words “wherever the Spirit of the Lord is.” Let’s think this through. God’s Spirit is omnipresent—He’s everywhere at all times. David states, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” (Psalm 139:7). The answer is emphatically, *nowhere*. David continues to write, “If I climb to the sky, you’re there! If I go underground, you’re there! If I flew on morning’s wings to the far western horizon, you’d find me in a minute—you’re already there waiting!” (Psalm 139:8-10 The Message). It’s crystal clear, He is *everywhere* at all times.

So the next question we must ask is, “Is there freedom *everywhere*?” Look again at Paul’s words: “Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” We have proven that He is *everywhere*; so again, is there freedom *everywhere*? The answer to this is, absolutely no. There isn’t freedom in brothels, bars, prisons, and hospitals. I’ve been to neighborhoods, schools, homes, and even churches where there is no freedom. So what is Scripture declaring here? I suggest that this would be a more accurate translation:

Wherever the Spirit is *Lord*, that’s where there is freedom.
(2 Corinthians 3:17, author’s paraphrase)

The Greek word *lord* is *kyrios*. It is defined as “supreme in authority.”¹ The Holy Spirit is not permitted to be in authority in most bars, prisons, hospitals, or homes, and even in many churches. Where He is welcomed as supreme in authority, that is where you will find freedom and justice for all.

The Purpose of This Message

The purpose of this message is to introduce you to the *Person* of the Holy Spirit. Volumes and volumes could be written about Him. Days, months, even years could be spent speaking of Him.

I have been married to my wife, Lisa, for over thirty years. As well as I know her, I am still discovering aspects of her personality, interests, desires, and mannerisms I have never known. Recently we spent a few days alone together celebrating our thirtieth wedding anniversary. During that time, I learned aspects of her dreams, preferences, and even abilities that I never knew existed.

In regard to abilities, I had no idea how naturally talented Lisa is in golf. She knows how much I enjoy the sport, so she offered to accompany me on the back nine of a beautiful golf course. (I only played one round because it was our time together.) There was a huge chasm on the seventeenth hole. My wife always loves a good challenge, so I asked her if she wanted to attempt to get the ball over. It would take a 150-yard shot to clear the 200-foot deep chasm; if the shot fell short, the ball would be lost in the ocean. I found an old ball for Lisa to use (because I didn't think I would ever see it again). She stood up on the tee box and cracked it 175 yards into the fairway on the other side. Alas, after thirty years of marriage, a new talent had been discovered.

During our dinner each night, Lisa shared knowledge, wisdom, interests, and longings that she had not shared with me before. In short, I was in awe of how much depth there is to this amazing woman whom I get to call my wife.

It would be impossible to share the full knowledge of Lisa in a few short chapters. It couldn't be done in volumes. However, what I can do is tell you how to contact and converse with her. I can share what she enjoys, her interests, and how to work and interact with her. I can tell

you her strengths, weaknesses, and what she loves or doesn't care for. This introductory knowledge would serve as a catalyst to a great relationship with her.

If it's impossible to completely tell you about Lisa, who's only decades old, then how could I come close to fully telling you about the Holy Spirit, when He is from everlasting to everlasting? I simply could not! But what I can do is introduce you to who He is. I can tell you about His personality, what interests Him, and what He loves. I can define our relationship with Him and share some ways that we can engage and interact with Him. I can tell you why our relationship with the Holy Spirit is so important and how He empowers us to fulfill God's desires for our lives. These basic insights could propel you into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Him.

Day 2

A Serious Misconception

There is an error that many make: they have attempted to understand the *work* and *power* of the Holy Spirit without first coming to know Him as a *Person*.

It is crucial that we establish in our hearts and minds whether we believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person—One who is infinitely holy, infinitely wise, and infinitely mighty, yet wonderfully tender, sensitive, and compassionate. Do we believe He is One who is worthy to receive our reverence, affection, faith, love, devotion, and complete surrender? Or do we instead believe that the Holy Spirit is simply an influence proceeding from God—some sort of divine mystical power, not unlike what we think of when we refer to “the spirit of generosity” or “the spirit of competition”?

This latter view is shallow, crude, and even cultic. If we believe this way, we are easily susceptible to spiritual haughtiness or pride, which would lead us to strut about as if we belong to some higher order of Christianity.

However, if we see Him as infinite in majesty, glory, splendor, wisdom, knowledge, and holiness, and if we believe that He, as a Person, has an accord with the Father and Son to take possession of our lives and make good out of them, then we will fall on our faces in holy awe.

Someone who sees God's Spirit as an influence or supreme power will constantly say, "I want more of the Spirit." On the contrary, someone who sees Him as a wonderful Person will say, "How can I give more of myself to Him?"

Our Perception of Him

One of the reasons many perceive the Spirit of God as a mere influence, rather than as a Person, is the way He's been spoken of. Have you ever heard anyone refer to the Holy Spirit as an "it"? I have been in ministry for thirty years; if I were given a dollar for each time I've heard the Spirit of God referred to as an "it," I would be very wealthy. Unfortunately, so many of us miss out on the fullness of the Spirit's presence because we refuse to honor Him as a Person. The Spirit of God will not manifest where He's not honored (see Matthew 13:54-58; Psalm 89:7).

I want to note that in calling the Holy Spirit a "Person," I am not calling Him human. What I am simply saying is that He possesses attributes of what we would consider to be personality. The Holy Spirit is Deity, not a human being. But we must remember, humans were created in God's image. So He's not like us; rather, we are like Him.

As a Church, we've chosen to view Him as a "holy entity" rather

than as One who is *most holy*. His desire is to be our closest friend, yet we have limited His involvement in our lives. The sad truth is we have inadvertently rejected the most fulfilling relationship available to us.

Let's take a look at some scriptures that will perfectly illustrate the personality of the Holy Spirit:

- He has a mind (see Romans 8:27).
- He has a will (see 1 Corinthians 12:11).
- He has emotions, such as love and joy (see Romans 15:30; Galatians 5:22).
- He comforts (see Acts 9:31).
- He speaks (see Hebrews 3:7); in fact, He speaks clearly (see 1 Timothy 4:1).
- He teaches (see 1 Corinthians 2:13).
- He can be made to feel sorrow (see Ephesians 4:30).
- He can be insulted (see Hebrews 10:29).
- He can be resisted (see Acts 7:51).
- He can be lied to (see Acts 5:1-11).

If these attributes are so apparent in Scripture, then we must ask, why is the Holy Spirit so misunderstood?

The Dove

When many people think of the Holy Spirit, their minds immediately draw an association with a dove. Why is this often the first association? Did the Holy Spirit ever manifest as a dove? The answer is an emphatic *no*. In all four Gospels we read that the Spirit of God descended on Jesus *like a dove* (see Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32).

But don't we often make comments like "she runs like the wind" or "he is strong like an ox"? If I say that my son is strong like an ox, does that make him a four-footed animal? Absolutely not! Similarly, to say that the Spirit descended like a dove is not to say that He is a dove.

Someone might say, "Yes, but John, He's represented as flames before the throne of God" (see Revelation 4:5). Yes, this is the case, but the Bible also says, "I looked, and behold...in the midst of the elders, stood a lamb as though it had been slain..." (Revelation 5:6). This is John's description of Jesus. You and I both know that Jesus is certainly not a four-footed animal. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is not a mystical fire burning in front of God's throne.

So, Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Bible makes it very clear that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead. Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let *Us* make man in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness.'" Notice that God did not say, "Let *Me* make man." The drama of creation required three distinct Actors playing three distinct parts; God was referring to Himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at Acts 10:38 to see the distinct identification of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God anointed *Jesus* of Nazareth with the *Holy Spirit* and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for *God* was with Him.

In this verse, we witness the *Father* anointing *Jesus* with the *Holy Spirit*—three distinct Persons working together for one common purpose.

Let's look at another example:

When He had been baptized, *Jesus* came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the *Spirit of God* descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly *a voice* came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:16-17)

In this account of Jesus' baptism, you will notice once again the members of the Godhead manifest as three distinct Persons. First, *Jesus* was baptized by John, then the *Spirit of God* descended on Him, and finally *God the Father* declared from heaven, "This is My beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased." Again, all three members working together for the same purpose.

Let me offer a basic example that will help illustrate this truth. Water (H₂O) can manifest as three different forms. Temperature determines whether H₂O will appear as a solid, liquid, or gas. Water's substance—its molecular structure—never changes one iota, but its expression will change based on its environment (the temperature). In the same way, God's central makeup doesn't change. When you see the Son, you see the Father; and the Spirit was sent to reveal the Son to us (see John 17:21; Ephesians 1:17-18). God is one in purpose, and yet He has three expressions (Persons) who perform unique functions. Though there are three Persons, there is only one God. Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one!" Romans 3:30 says, "There is one God who will justify." James 2:19 likewise says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well." This truth is a cornerstone for the rest of the book: there are three distinct divine Persons, but only one God.

Day 3

The First Person

The Holy Spirit is actually the first member of the Godhead who appears in the Bible. Genesis chapter one reads, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (verse 1). Now, let’s look at verse two: “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” The Spirit shows up right here in Genesis 1:2; He is the first member of the Godhead to be mentioned by name.

The question could be asked, “But John, in verse one it says, ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’ How can you say the Holy Spirit is the first member of the Godhead mentioned in Scripture if the first verse mentions God the Father?” That’s an excellent question. But remember, God said, “Let Us create man in Our image.” The reference to God in verse one refers to the Godhead, not to a specific member of the Godhead. Therefore, the first member of the Godhead identified by function is actually the Holy Spirit. In verse two we read that “the Spirit of God [the Holy Spirit] was hovering over the face of the waters.”

Again, let’s go back to our original question: who is the Holy Spirit? I can attest that He is the most amazing, wonderful, kind, tender, sensitive, mighty Person on the face of the earth. You may reply, “John, on the face of the earth?” Oh yes, on the face of the earth. What we have to understand is that the Father is not here on the earth; He’s on His throne in heaven. Likewise, Jesus is not here on the earth. I hear people say all the time, “Jesus is in my heart,” yet Scripture makes it very clear that He is seated at the right hand of God (see Mark 16:19). In Acts 1:9-11 we read:

While [the disciples] watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked...to-ward heaven...two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

The two men, who were actually angels, made it clear to the disciples that Jesus would return in the same way He left. In other words, He’s not going to return to earth until He comes in the clouds. Has Jesus returned in the clouds yet? The answer is clearly no. This means presently Jesus is still at the right hand of God in heaven.

Think about the time when Stephen was stoned. We read in Acts 7:55-56, “But [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’” Try to imagine Jesus in all His glory standing in honor of His martyr, anticipating this sacred moment that would be recounted for generations to come. While this story is a beautiful depiction of a glorious reunion, it also serves as a reminder of the irrefutable fact that Jesus currently resides at His Father’s side.

The truth is that Jesus has been in this position of glory for approximately two thousand years. He’s not here on the earth. I know we like to say He lives in our hearts, but in reality, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, is the One who makes our hearts His dwelling place.

It is important for us to recognize that the Holy Spirit is referred to as both the Spirit of God the Father and the Spirit of Jesus Christ (the Son). Let’s take a look at some examples of this.

In Philippians 1:19 Paul states, “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of *the Spirit of Jesus Christ*.” Jesus made it abundantly clear that He would have to leave so that the Holy Spirit could come in His place. Paul is clearly referring to the Holy Spirit (the Helper) here, not to the incarnate Jesus, because Jesus is no longer on the earth.

In Matthew 10:20 Jesus declares, “For it is not you who speak, but *the Spirit of your Father* who speaks in you.” Jesus was speaking of the time to come when His disciples would be persecuted and tried for the gospel’s sake. The Spirit of the Father (the Holy Spirit) would guide them and put the right words in their mouths.

Even now, as I write, these words are not the result of my intellect or experience. The Spirit of my Father is teaching through me. I have tried to teach out of my own strength; trust me, it only ends in miserable failure. It is by His grace, the empowerment of His Holy Spirit, that I am what I am. The good news is He has never left me high and dry—He always shows up. When I yield in humility to the Spirit of grace (see Hebrews 10:29), He is faithful to turn my weakness into strength.

How Do the Three Work?

This “three in one” concept can be very difficult to grasp because it defies our human understanding. First Corinthians 12:5-7 offers some insight into how the Three work together as One.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God
which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is
given to every man to profit withal. (1 Corinthians 12:5-7 KJV)

As we read this passage, we discover that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all serve different roles. The Father operates or initiates (verse 6), the Son administrates (verse 5), and the Holy Spirit manifests (verse 7); yet all of them work together for the same purpose.

If you and I were going to build a house, what would we need to do? Well, we would need to hire an architect, a foreman, and workers (subcontractors) to actually build the house. In this illustration, God the Father is the architect, Jesus is the foreman, and the Holy Spirit is represented by the workers who build the house—He’s the “*manifestester*” of creation. All three roles are essential to the construction of any house.

The Finger of God

Let’s take a look at two different scriptural accounts of the same incident. Jesus has just healed a demon-possessed man. The people are astonished, but the Pharisees think to themselves, *He is only casting out demons by the devil himself* (see Matthew 12:23-24). In verse 28 we read Jesus’ response to their thoughts: “If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you” (KJV).

Luke also provides a record of this declaration, but his account differs slightly from Matthew’s. Luke 11:20 states, “But if I *with the finger of God* cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you” (KJV). Both Luke and Matthew are referring to the Holy Spirit. As writers often do, Luke is describing the Holy Spirit’s function as opposed to His Person. Therefore we can deduce that the Holy Spirit can be described as the “finger of God.”

Not only is the Holy Spirit’s function identified as the finger of God, but also the *hand of God*, and the *arm of God*. Scripture states that God delivered His people “with a strong hand and an outstretched

arm” (Psalm 136:12 NASB). Psalm 8:3 declares, “When I consider Your heavens, *the work of Your fingers*, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained...” Most believers don’t realize that the Holy Spirit is the One who actually put the stars and the planets in the heavens; He’s the One who manifested all of creation. Remember, in Genesis 1:2 we read, “...the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” He was waiting for the Father to initiate. The Son then had to administrate by saying, “Light be,” because Jesus is the Word of God. When “light be” was spoken, the Son administered the Father’s will and the Holy Spirit created that which was spoken.

One of my favorite passages on the magnitude and glory of the Spirit of God is Isaiah 40:12-15. It reads:

Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? Has the Lord ever needed anyone’s advice? Does he need instruction about what is good? Did someone teach him what is right or show him the path of justice? No, for all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand. (Isaiah 40:12-15 NLT)

In verse twelve we read, “Who has measured off the heavens with His fingers?” So you can see the Holy Spirit is being identified by His function. And think about it. The Spirit of the Lord held the entire ocean. Do you see how mighty He is? And yet He has humbled Himself

by agreeing with the Father and the Son to come and make His residence in us. What an amazing, awe-inspiring reality!

Day 4

The Holy Spirit Is God

Let's take a look at the role the Holy Spirit played during the creation of man. We read, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7). The Holy Spirit is the One who actually formed Adam and breathed life into his nostrils. How do I know this to be true? Job 33:4 states, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." The Holy Spirit not only formed and breathed life into Adam's nostrils, He also formed and breathed life into you and me. Psalm 139:13 says, "You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb." In fact, the Spirit of God formed everything we see, for Proverbs 26:10 says, "The great God who formed everything..." The creation we see was manifested because the Holy Spirit enacted the creative desire of the Father.

I hope it is evident to you that the Holy Spirit is God. Let's take a look at some of the different names used for Him in scripture. He's called:

- Holy Spirit (96 times)
- Spirit of the Lord (28 times)
- Spirit of God (26 times)
- Eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)
- Helper (4 times by Jesus in John's Gospel)

- Comforter (used throughout the *Amplified Bible*)
- Holy One (Psalm 78:41)
- The Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- Spirit of truth (4 times)
- Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11)
- Spirit of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:19)
- Spirit of counsel (Isaiah 11:2)
- Spirit of knowledge (Isaiah 11:2)
- Spirit of might (Isaiah 11:2)
- Spirit of understanding (Isaiah 11:2)
- Spirit of wisdom (Isaiah 11:2)
- Spirit of the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2)
- Spirit of your Father (Matthew 10:20)
- Spirit of glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- Spirit of grace (Zechariah 12:10; Hebrews 10:29)
- Spirit of judgment (Isaiah 4:4)
- Spirit of burning (Isaiah 4:4)
- Spirit of life (Romans 8:2)
- Spirit of love (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Spirit of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10)
- Spirit of revelation (Ephesians 1:17)
- Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4)
- Spirit of the Holy God (4 times in Daniel)

He is worthy, He is mighty, and He is awesome!

Jesus Totally Depended on the Holy Spirit

Jesus was completely dependent on the Holy Spirit. He was conceived by the Spirit, He was taught by the Spirit, He was empowered by the Spirit at the Jordan river, and He didn't do one miracle until He was baptized with the Spirit (see John's account of the first miracle Jesus did in Canaan of Galilee: John 1:29-34 and 2:1-11). He was led by the Spirit, and He only spoke what He heard the Spirit speaking.

In John 14:10 Jesus says, "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." Notice Jesus did not say "the Father in heaven." He said "the Father who dwells in Me."

Wait a minute, John, do you mean Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit as His Father? Well, why wouldn't He? Listen to what the angel said to Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20 NLT). Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, so it makes sense that He would refer to the Holy Spirit as "the Father who dwells in Me."

The truth is, Jesus and the Holy Spirit always worked together during Jesus' time on earth. In fact, Jesus made this statement: "The Son can do nothing by Himself" (John 5:19 NLT). If Jesus—the Son of God Himself—needed this ongoing partnership with the Holy Spirit to complete His mission, how much more do we need the Spirit to help us complete our missions?

No one knows the Holy Spirit better than Jesus, so let's take a look at what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit's role, personality, attributes, power, and other abilities in our lives. In John 14:15-18, Jesus declares:

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may

abide with you forever—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. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

There are so many nuggets in this passage. First, you'll notice Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." It's interesting that Jesus prefaces His comments about the Holy Spirit with a reminder to recognize Jesus' supreme authority, His lordship. He places a huge emphasis on our obedience in keeping His commandments. Peter confirms this truth: "We are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit *whom God has given to those who obey Him*" (Acts 5:32). God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.

Now notice that Jesus says in John 14:16, "I will pray the Father, and He will give you *another* Helper." Let's take a look at the Greek word for *another*. There are two Greek words that are translated into our English word *another* throughout the New Testament. These Greek words are *heteros* and *allos*. *Heteros* means "another of a *different* sort." *Allos* means "another of the *same* kind."² The question we have to ask is, which word is Jesus using here?

Before I give you the answer, let me provide an example that will illustrate the difference between these two Greek words. Imagine this scenario: I hand you a piece of fruit, an apple for instance. After you have eaten the apple, I ask you, "Would you like another piece of fruit?"

Now if you reply, "Yes," and I proceed to give you an orange, I gave you "another." However, I gave you *another of a different sort*. An orange is a type of fruit, but it is a different sort of fruit than an apple. This is an example of *heteros*.

Now if you asked for another piece of fruit and I gave you a second apple, then you would say I gave you *another of the same kind*. This is an example of *allos*.

So let's return to the original question. When Jesus says the Father will give us "another" Helper, which word is He using? He is using the word *allos*. So He is saying, "The Father is going to give you another Helper who is just like Me." In other words, Jesus is saying that He and the Holy Spirit are of the same kind.

Day 5

Our Lifelong Companion

Another word Jesus uses in John 14:16 is the word *Helper*. The Greek word for *helper* here is *parakletos*. Jesus is also referred to as *parakletos* in an Epistle of John: "My little children...we have an Advocate [*parakletos*] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit perform this role of helper or *parakletos*. So what does this Greek word mean? In the vernacular of the day, it was used to describe a lawyer who pled someone's case.³ It was also used to describe a personal counselor or a coach—a life coach.

Parakletos is a compound word of two Greek words, *para* and *kaleo*. *Para* means "very close."⁴ Paul used this word to describe his relationship with Timothy. There was nobody closer to Paul than the apostle Timothy (see Philippians 2:20). My wife, Lisa, is *para* to me. There is nobody on the face of the earth who is closer to me than she is. I would use that word in describing my relationship with her.

The second Greek word, *kaleo*, means "to beckon or to call."⁵ This word was frequently used in Scripture when the apostles were describing their callings. For example, when Paul said, "I am *called* an apostle to the Gentiles," he was using the Greek word *kaleo*. The concept of a "call" invokes thoughts of destiny and action.

When we put these two Greek words together, we get a much better understanding of what Jesus is communicating. Essentially, He

is saying that *the Holy Spirit is permanently called closely alongside each of us to provide coaching, direction, instruction, and counsel in our life journey.* This is His calling, or assignment, and He perpetually journeys with us to help, never tiring! Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would abide with us forever (John 14:16). He will never leave nor forsake us. What an amazing promise! Jesus is essentially saying that the Holy Spirit will be a continuation of His (Jesus') exact work and mission in our lives.

Frequently I hear people say, "Oh, if only I could have walked with Jesus, I would have asked Him so many questions." Why not present those questions to the Holy Spirit? This is a crucial area where our perceptions of the Holy Spirit come into play. If we simply perceive Him as an ambiguous entity, we will not approach Him as One who is capable of teaching or coaching us. The Holy Spirit is Deity, not an entity. If we truly believe He is who the Word of God says He is, we will approach Him in reverence knowing that He is the all-knowing and all-powerful One who is willing and able to teach, help, and coach us. Yes, He longs to speak intimately with us.

Sadly, the Holy Spirit is probably the most ignored Person in the Church. How many times are we gathered together and He is not honored or even mentioned? How often do we go through our morning, afternoon, evening, or even entire day and not say one word to the One who is permanently called to reside in us and walk with us?

A Startling Statement

Jesus made a mind-blowing statement in John 16:7: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth..."

Before we continue with this passage, let me take a moment to paint a picture for you. This is Jesus speaking to His disciples. He has been

with these guys for over three years. Everything He has ever said has come to pass. He said, “Wind be still,” and it was still. He said, “You’re going to find a donkey in a certain place” and sure enough, the donkey was there. He knew there was a traitor on his staff before the traitor ever manifested. He told a fig tree to die, and it shriveled up within twenty-four hours. Everything that Jesus said had come to pass, and yet He had to preface this statement with, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth.” Basically, what Jesus was about to say was going to blow His disciples’ minds, so He had to make sure they knew He was telling them the truth.

So what does Jesus go on to say? “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [*parakletos*] will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7). The New Living Translation reads, “It is best for you that I go away.”

Put yourself in the disciples’ shoes. Your leader, who you know to be the Son of God, has just told you that He needs to leave you—and that His departure is for your benefit. That would sound crazy to me. If He is God, wouldn’t it be most to your benefit for Him to stay? I’m sure the disciples were thinking the same thing. For this exact reason, Jesus prefaced this statement with, “I tell you the truth.”

So why was it best for the disciples and the generations of believers to come—including you and me—that Jesus went away? Consider this. If Jesus never left the earth, then the Holy Spirit would never have come alongside us. If I wanted to receive something from Jesus, I would have to travel many miles just to see Him. My journey would probably begin with a flight to Tel Aviv (which would be the busiest airport in the world). I would then need to rent a car, drive to Galilee, and hope to find some kind of decent accommodation (the hotels would be completely full). Then I’d have to find Jesus. It wouldn’t be hard because millions of people would be waiting to speak with Him. After finding

Him, I'd have to wade through the most complex system of lines ever known to mankind, because everyone would want to ask Jesus a question or present Him with a request.

Since there would be such a long line, I would probably be limited to a maximum of sixty seconds with Jesus, so I would definitely need to have my questions or requests ready. And remember, He would need to sleep and eat, so He would have maybe a good fourteen hours per day to give to the masses. At this rate, Jesus would be able to see 840 people a day if he spent 60 seconds with each person. It would therefore take Jesus 1,190 days (3.26 years) to see a million people. But keep in mind that new people would constantly be joining the stream—and what if there were a “fast pass” line for those with really urgent needs and requests? These people would always be going in front of me, right? I think we can surmise that getting to Jesus would be nearly impossible and definitely improbable.

The good news is the Holy Spirit is *always* there for us. He doesn't have to sleep or eat. He can carry on billions of conversations at the same time with billions of different people. When we allow our understanding of the Holy Spirit to be radically transformed by the Word of God, we will begin to understand why Jesus could say, “It is better for you that I go away.”

Remember, the Holy Spirit is just like Jesus: He teaches like Jesus, He amplifies the things of God like Jesus, and He is here with us! Are you starting to see how amazing He is? Even as I am writing this, the Spirit is opening my eyes to ways I have limited His voice and presence in my life. Again, He is our guide, counselor, protector, and coach—we need Him actively involved in our lives!

In the next chapter, we will dive into what it means to be intimate with our awesome God.

GET TO KNOW THE SPIRIT

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter
(Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby),
that He may remain with you forever—The Spirit of Truth....*

—John 14:16-17 AMP

The Holy Spirit is truly amazing! Next to our salvation through Christ, He is the best gift we will ever receive. Who is the Holy Spirit? Seasoned author and lifelong pastor A.W. Tozer shares...

“The Holy Spirit is not enthusiasm...He is a Person. Put that down in capital letters—that the Holy Spirit is not only a Being having another mode of existence, but He is Himself a Person, with all the qualities and powers of personality. He is not matter, but He is substance.... The Holy Spirit has will and intelligence and feeling and knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think and hear and speak and desire the same as any person has.”¹

Before you began this study, who did you understand the Holy Spirit to be? How has this chapter expanded your understanding of who He is to you personally?

Carefully meditate on the list of names used for the Holy Spirit in Scripture (see page 17). What do these names show you about who He is?

26 THE HOLY SPIRIT

Knowing that the Holy Spirit is a Person equal to the Father and the Son is vital to developing a healthy relationship with God. Tozer continues...

"...All that the Son is the Holy Ghost is, and all that the Father is the Holy Ghost is, and the Holy Ghost is in His Church. What will we find Him to be like? He will be exactly like Jesus. You have read your New Testament, and you know what Jesus is like, and the Holy Spirit is exactly like Jesus, for Jesus was God and the Spirit is God, and the Father is exactly like the Son; and you can know what Jesus is like by knowing what the Father is like, and you can know what the Spirit is like by knowing what Jesus is like."²

Are you seeing the Holy Spirit in a new way? How do these different facets of His character encourage you and motivate you to involve Him more in your life?

For Further Study...

John 12:44-45; 14:8-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15-19;
Hebrews 1:3.

HE IS DEITY, NOT AN ENTITY

*The Lord and the Spirit are **one and the same**....*

—2 Corinthians 3:17 CEV

As God's child, you have been given His precious, promised gift: the gift of His Holy Spirit (see Galatians 4:6). His Spirit is not just a mystical power or force that moves throughout the galaxy. His Holy Spirit is *Him*—the fullness of who He is, nothing held back.

Andrew Murray, nineteenth century minister and author of over 200 books, said that the Holy Spirit is "one with the Father and the Son" and that He brings "the full and perfect revelation" of God's glory. He continues:

"All that in the Old Covenant had been promised by God, all that had been manifested and brought nigh to us of Divine grace in Jesus, **the Holy Spirit** is now to make our very own. *Through Him all the promises of God are fulfilled, all grace and salvation in Christ become a personal possession and experience.*"³

Did you catch that? Through the Holy Spirit, all God's promises are fulfilled and become a personal possession and experience. This is not just one man's opinion; it's the truth of Scripture. Carefully read and meditate on these passages.

May blessing (praise, laudation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us in Christ with every *spiritual* (given by the Holy Spirit) *blessing* in the heavenly realm!

—Ephesians 1:3 AMP

Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God [the Holy Spirit]. The best invitation we ever received!

—2 Peter 1:3 The Message
{Words in brackets added for clarity.}

28 THE HOLY SPIRIT

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him". But God has, *through the Spirit*, let us share his secret. For nothing is hidden from the Spirit, not even the deep wisdom of God.

—1 Corinthians 2:9-10 J.B. Phillips

What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you through these verses?

Are you limiting the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life by your perception of who He is? *Pause and pray.* Ask Him to show you where you may need Him to change your perspective. Write what He reveals.

For Further Study...

Do an online search of the phrases "by the Spirit," "through the Spirit," and "from the Spirit" (www.biblia.com). Also consider 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Galatians 5:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

HE IS THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has
set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

—Romans 8:2 NASB

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of life! Wow, what a name! Think about it. Life is *everything*. It encompasses all aspects of health, growth, freshness, energy, vim, and vigor. There is no shadow of death operating in the Spirit of life—no sickness or disease, no weariness or fatigue, no staleness or decay—no form of death whatsoever.

The Spirit of life was present at the time of creation, breathing life into every area of the earth. International missionary and evangelist **Lester Sumrall** confirms this, stating,

“The first place in recorded Scripture where we see activity of the Holy Spirit is in Genesis 1:2. It is remarkable that the first page and second verse of the Bible shows the activity of the Holy Spirit. ...It was the act of bringing cosmos, *beauty*, and loveliness out of chaos. The earth was without form and void. God was involved in His creative masterpiece, and the Holy Spirit moved to help Him. The Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters, and *cosmos came out of the chaos*.”⁴

Where in your life do you sense a void or see chaos? Where do you need the Holy Spirit of life to bring *beauty*, *order*, and *freedom*? Pray and ask Him to show you. Surrender these areas to Him in prayer, asking Him to move over them and bring order, just as He did at creation.

Check out Philippians 4:6-8; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 37:4-6.

30 THE HOLY SPIRIT

Are you worn out from the busyness of routine? The Spirit of life wants to strengthen you with His might. As you spend time with Him and get to know Him, He will renew your strength. Take a moment and meditate on these powerful promises from God:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and making it to abound].

—Isaiah 40:28-29 AMP

It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

—Romans 8:11 The Message

I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me...].

—Philippians 4:13 AMP

What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through these verses? **Write a prayer** asking the Spirit of life to *infuse you with inner strength* and make you as alive as Jesus when He walked the earth.

For Further Study...

Genesis 1:2; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 40:12-15; Psalm 8:3-9;
104:24-30; Job 33:4

WE MUST TOTALLY DEPEND ON HIM

*...You won't succeed by might or by power, but by my Spirit,
says the LORD of Armies.*

—Zechariah 4:6 GW

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was totally dependent on the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father. Everything about Him, from His conception to His resurrection, was a result of the Spirit's work. Scripture says...

He was conceived by the Spirit – **Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:31-35.**

He was led by the Spirit – **Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1.**

He was empowered by the Spirit – **Luke 4:14, 18-19; John 3:34.**

He was taught by the Spirit and obeyed Him – **John 5:19-20, 30; 14:10.**

Jesus said to the Jews, "I can guarantee this truth: The Son cannot do anything on his own. He can do only what he sees the Father doing. Indeed, the Son does exactly what the Father does. The Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing.... I can't do anything on my own. As I listen to the Father, I make my judgments. My judgments are right because I don't try to do what I want but what the one who sent me wants.

—John 5:19-20, 30 GW

Carefully meditate on Jesus' declaration of dependence in John 5 (above). What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you about Jesus' relationship with Him? How does this challenge and motivate you?

32 THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read Acts 5:32; Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 3:24 and 4:13. What two recurring truths about the Holy Spirit and our relationship with Him can you identify?

Like the early believers at the church of Galatia, we sometimes forget just how much we need the Holy Spirit. Carefully read Galatians 3:2-9, along with Luke 11:13. What lessons about receiving the ongoing help of the Holy Spirit can you learn and apply in your own life?

HE'S YOUR FOREVER FRIEND!

I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth.

—John 14:16-17 The Message

The Holy Spirit wants to be your best friend! He wants to be your side-by-side, forever Helper twenty-four/seven. Scripture declares, “The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love” (James 4:5 AMP).

True friendship with the Holy Spirit is priceless. His presence and power provide everlasting satisfaction that is unsurpassed. Speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, “but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life” (John 4:14 GNT). Expounding on this verse, evangelist and educator **R.A. Torrey** stated,

“Water here means the Holy Spirit. The world can never satisfy. Of every worldly joy it must be said: ‘Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again.’ But *the Holy Spirit has power to satisfy every longing of the soul*. The Holy Spirit and He alone can satisfy the human heart.

If you give yourself up to the Holy Spirit’s inflowing or upspringing in your heart, you will never thirst. Oh, with what joy unutterable and satisfaction indescribable the Holy Spirit has poured forth His living water in many souls. Have you this living fountain within? Is the spring unchoked? Is it springing up into everlasting life?”⁵

Ponder the question presented by Torrey: “Have I this living fountain within? Am I experiencing the indescribable satisfaction of the Spirit? If not, why?” Then ask the Holy Spirit to show you what you can do to daily and more freely abandon yourself to His friendship. Write what He reveals.

34 THE HOLY SPIRIT

Get quiet before the Lord (who is the Holy Spirit). Ask Him to make Himself real to you—more real than ever before. Ask Him to shower you with His love, acceptance, and peace. Don't rush. Be still and know by experience that He is God. Write anything He speaks to you.

You're free to be yourself with the Holy Spirit. He knows you inside and out. When you can't seem to "find yourself," He can tell you exactly where you are. He permanently abides in you to strengthen, encourage, and guide. Go to Him anytime, anywhere. You cannot weary Him or wear out your welcome. He is your best friend!

Prayer

Holy Spirit, radically expand my understanding of who You are. Help me see Your personality and role as my Helper like never before. Help me to never again limit Your presence, power, or voice in my life. I pray this for myself, my family, and Your entire Church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you are using this book as part of the Messenger Series on the Holy Spirit, please refer to video session 1.

- 1 | Our Christian life *without* the Holy Spirit becomes dry, monotonous, and powerless. So what should our lives be like *with* the Holy Spirit? Name as many positive manifestations and aspects as you can think of.

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

—2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT

- 2 | The Holy Spirit is not an “it” or a divine, mystical power. He is the Person of the Godhead who carries the *fullness* of God the Father and the Son. What are some of the consequences of seeing the Holy Spirit as just an “it” or mystical power? What are the positive results of seeing Him as He really is: fully God?
- 3 | The involvement of the Holy Spirit was common among early believers, but it is rarer among believers today. What do you think are some reasons we have drawn back from enjoying, seeking out, and depending on the leadership and powerful influence of the Spirit of God?
- 4 | Where is the Person of Jesus right now? As a believer, is He living in your heart? What is a better, more accurate way of describing our salvation experience and the mystery of how God makes your heart His home?

Leaders: Have your class check out Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12-13 for the first part of question and Romans 8:9-10; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 1 John 3:24 for the remainder.

36 THE HOLY SPIRIT

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."

—John 14:23

- 5 | The Lord our God is One, and yet He has three distinct expressions—*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. Describe the major functions of each member of the Godhead and how they work together to accomplish God's will.

Leaders: Have your class check out 1 Corinthians 12:5-7 plus the account of creation in Genesis 1 and Jesus' words in John 5:17, 19-20.

The Spirit of God the Father = the Spirit of Christ = the Holy Spirit

- 6 | Jesus said the Holy Spirit is our Helper—our *parakletos*. This means He is "*permanently* called alongside us to coach and counsel us in our daily walk with God." In what ways does this knowledge motivate and encourage you in your daily relationship with Him?
- 7 | What new characteristics of the Person of the Holy Spirit do you now see that you didn't see before? How has this opened your eyes and enriched your understanding of who He is in your life?

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

CHAPTER SUMMARY:

- The **Holy Spirit** is a member of the Godhead who carries the fullness of God the Father and the Son.
- He is not an “it” or a mystical power; He is God.
- He is not limited by time or space; He can communicate with and assist an unlimited number of people all at the same time.
- He was intimately involved in the lives of early believers, and He yearns to be involved in every area of our lives today.
- There is virtually no Christian life without Him, but there is an abundant life of adventure to those who embrace His awesome fellowship.
- Get to know Him personally!

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Messinger International exists to help individuals, families, churches,
and nations realize and experience the transforming power of God's Word.
This realization will result in lives empowered, communities transformed,
and a dynamic response to the injustices plaguing our world.

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YOU KNOW OF HIM- BUT DO YOU KNOW HIM?

For three years the disciples had been with Jesus, walking with Him and hearing everything He had to say. Yet Jesus told His closest friends that He needed to leave them so that the Holy Spirit could come - and that they would be better off because of it (John 16:7, 13-14). If this was true of the disciples, who spent every day with Jesus, how much more do we need the Holy Spirit actively involved in our lives today?

Sadly, the Spirit is frequently misunderstood, leaving many clueless about who He is and how He expresses Himself to us. The Holy Spirit is often portrayed as something "weird." But the Bible makes it clear that the Spirit is not *something*. He is *someone* - a person who has promised to never leave your side. In this interactive book, John Bevere invites you into a personal discovery of the most ignored and misunderstood person in the Church: the Holy Spirit.

Don't miss out on this amazing introduction.

Interactive book includes:

- Daily devotions
- Group discussion questions
- Bonus chapter with answers to some of the toughest questions about the Holy Spirit



JOHN BEVERE and his wife Lisa are the founders of Messenger International. A minister and best-selling author, John delivers messages of uncompromising truth with boldness and passion. His desire is to support the local church and resource leaders regardless of location, language, or financial position. To this end, his resources have been translated into over 60 languages. When he's home, John tries to convince Lisa to take up golf and spends time with his four sons, daughter-in-law, and grandbabies.

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