

# *The Holy Spirit* (7)

What is “the spirit?” Is it some mystical force? Is it just the atmosphere surrounding certain events? Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is more than just some essence that we can feel. The true Spirit is almighty God Himself. He isn’t just a force of nature or a feeling. He is God living inside of us and interacting with us.

Some will say that the Holy Spirit is just God’s power upon the earth, or His all-knowing presence. However, the Holy Spirit is more than this; He is the third member of the trinity. (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

## ***John 14:16-17***

***16 "I (Jesus) will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.***

- Who did Jesus promise to send? (vs. 17) \_\_\_\_\_
- God has promised to be with us forever. To this end, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. So can a believer ever be without God? \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit was not created, but was with God in the beginning during creation.

## ***Genesis 1:2***

***The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

- Who was over the water? \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Gen 1:26***

***Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;***

In verse 26, God refers to Himself in plural because He is a trinity. Since the Holy Spirit was already listed as being present in the creation process, it is logical that the Holy Spirit is one of these members. The book of Acts gives further evidence that the Holy Spirit is God.

**Acts 5:3-4**

**But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit.... You have not lied to men but to God."**

- Peter claims that lying to the Holy Spirit is the same as lying to \_\_\_\_\_
- Peter believed the Holy Spirit to be God. True \_\_\_ False \_\_\_

As God, the Holy Spirit has attributes that make Him personable: an intellect, emotions, and a will. It is because the Holy Spirit is a person that we are able to have a relationship and communicate with Him. Because of the Holy Spirit we can talk to God the Father, know Jesus, seek guidance and never be without help. Jesus made the way to a relationship with God. It is through the Holy Spirit that we actively engage Him.

The Holy Spirit is God actively engaging in a relationship with us.

The Spirit is involved in the church as well, and bears many responsibilities. Look at the following verses and see the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives individually and the church as a whole.

**1 Corinthians 3:16**

**Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

- Where is the Spirit of God? \_\_\_\_\_
- Does this change the way you look at yourself?

**John 16:13**

**"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;"**

- What will the Spirit do for you? \_\_\_\_\_

As a believer, the Holy Spirit will guide you and direct you in your life. If you need guidance, He will direct your path. If you are sinning, He will make this known to you so that you can get off the wrong path and onto the right one.

- How does the Spirit communicate with us? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, the bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit. In it we can read all of what God has for us in this life.

- How do we communicate with the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Don't forget, we can pray to God anytime and anywhere. He always hears us and will never leave us. God often speaks in a small voice. There is no thunder, and the earth will not shake. That's why it's important to have a quiet/devotional time. Jesus said, "when you pray, go into a closet and shut the door." This gives you an opportunity to intently listen to God. In everyday life, if you feel Him saying something to you (maybe that your attitude is wrong or that you should speak or do something), you should stop and pray. When we actually slow down and think about what we have read in His word, and pay attention to the promptings from His Spirit, we can understand His direction for our lives. This is how an active relationship with God takes place.

**Romans 8:26**

***In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;***

- The Spirit does what for us? \_\_\_\_\_

When we pray, the Spirit is like a megaphone. The Holy Spirit takes our normal prayers and concerns that seem so trivial to us and cries before the Father on account of them. Remember, nothing is too small to God, you are His child and He loves you. He's never too busy with "more important" stuff.

What do you understand about the work of the Holy Spirit from the following?

Titus 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:16 \_\_\_\_\_

When the Holy Spirit indwells a Christian at salvation it is permanent. Nothing you do can make Him leave. This is awesome news since we are a work in progress and bound to make mistakes. God will never abandon us, no matter what.

**Ephesians 1:13**

***In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation---having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.***

In biblical times, people would shop at an open market and purchase produce, meat, etc. for their households. Upon purchase of a certain item, it was customary to place a personal “seal” upon the item to signify who owned it. At the end of the day of shopping the owner would go through the market and collect all the items with his seal on them. In a similar way, we belong to God (purchased with the precious blood of Jesus) and have been given a “seal” – the Holy Spirit- as a sign that we are God’s.

Remember that the Holy Spirit guides us, convicts us and teaches us. Following these things allows Him to have a great influence on your life. What does a life that is influenced (or filled with) the Holy Spirit look like?

**Galatians 5:22-23**

***22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.***

Please list the fruit of the Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_

Having the fruit of the Spirit in your life is a result of allowing the Spirit of God free reign in your life. Your mind, attitude and actions all need to have the Holy Spirit’s influence and guidance. Being filled with the fruit of the Spirit will help you serve others as a child of God.

The Spirit also gives special gifts to believers to help them serve others in the body of Christ. These gifts are not to be confused with natural talents. They are Spiritual gifts that serve a great function.

**1 Corinthians 12:7**

***But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***

- How many believers get a manifestation of the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Like each body part has a specific purpose, each believer has a specific gift. In fact God actually compares the use of our gifts like the use of various parts of the human body.

All believers are members of one body: the body of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:12**

***For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.***

We all have a purpose in the body of Christ. God has given each Christian at least one or more gifts in order to serve. According to 1 Corinthians 12:7 we have been given these gifts for “*the common good.*” With gifts, the church lacks nothing. Some people are very good at serving, and others are especially good at teaching. Everyone has a purpose in this world, and your spiritual gift is directly related to where God wishes to use you for His glory.

Read Romans 12:4-8 and list the Spiritual gifts.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

These are just some of the spiritual gifts. Whatever the gift, we should do it with all our strength. Christians are to love God with all their mind, soul, heart and strength. This includes using our gifts to serve the Lord by serving others. However, a question may arise. How are we to serve others with our gifts?

**Ephesians 4:12**

***for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;***

- What are the saints (believers) equipped for? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we supposed to be building up? \_\_\_\_\_

*We need each other to grow in Christ and uplift the church.*

There are three categories of gifts:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Speaking</u>	<u>Signs</u>
Leadership	prophecy	miracles
Helps	teaching	healing
Giving	exhortation	tongues
Mercy	wisdom	interpretation
Faith discernment	knowledge	
(Pastor/Teacher)	(Evangelist)	(Apostle)

Service gifts and speaking gifts are distributed to believers as the Spirit sees fit. Sign gifts were given by the Holy Spirit when the church was brand new to show that it and its original leaders (the apostles) had authority. Sign gifts are not given anymore since the church is now established.

*The following is a short description of these gifts.*

**Service** - The divine enablement to attach spiritual value to the accomplishment of physical tasks within the Body of Christ. Ability to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs that releases other Christians for direct spiritual ministry.

**Teaching** - The divine enablement to understand and give detailed explanation of biblical truth. Ability to search out and validate truth which has been presented.

**Pastor/Teacher** - A person with this spiritual gift has the ability to lead, nourish, protect, and personally care for the needs of a "flock" of believers. Not all people with the office of pastor (elder, overseer) have or need the gift of pastoring or shepherding, and many with this gift do not have or need the office. This gift also includes teaching ability and is the only dual gift in the list.

**Administration/Leadership** - (I Corinthians 12:28) This word, like helps, appears only once in the New Testament, and it is used outside of Scripture of a helmsman who steers a ship to its destination. This suggests that the spiritual gift of administration is the ability to steer a church or Christian organization toward the fulfillment of its goals by managing its affairs and implementing necessary plans. A person may have the gift of leadership without the gift of administration.

**Exhortation** - The divine enablement to come alongside another in need of encouragement to reassure, strengthen, affirm and challenge those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith. Ability to stimulate the faith of others.

**Giving** - The divine enablement to earn money, manage it well and wisely contribute to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. Ability to entrust personal assets to others for the furtherance of their ministry.

**Evangelist** - The ability to be an unusually effective instrument in leading unbelievers to a saving knowledge of Christ. Some with this gift are most effective in personal evangelism, while others may be used by God in group evangelism or cross-cultural evangelism.

**Helps** - (I Corinthians 12:28) The ability to enhance the effectiveness of the ministry of other members of the body. This is the only use of this word in the New Testament, and it appears to be distinct from the gift of service. Some writers suggest that while the gift of service is more group-oriented, the gift of helps is more person-oriented.

**Wisdom** - (I Corinthians 12:8) The ability to apply the principles of the Word of God in a practical way to specific situations and to recommend the best course of action at the best time. The exercise of this gift skillfully distills insight and discernment into excellent advice.

**Knowledge** - (I Corinthians 12:8) The ability to discover, analyze, and systematize truth for the benefit of others. With this gift, one speaks with understanding and penetration. But “the word of knowledge” can also involve supernatural perception and discernment for the purpose of ministering to others.

**Faith** - (I Corinthians 12:9) The ability to have a vision for what God wants to be done and to believe confidently that it will be accomplished in spite of circumstances and appearances to the contrary. The gift of faith transforms vision into reality.

**Discernment** - (I Corinthians 12:10) The ability to discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (cf. I John. 4:6). With this gift, one may distinguish reality versus counterfeits, the divine versus the demonic, true versus false teaching, and in some cases, spiritual versus carnal motives.

**Prophecy** - The divine enablement to proclaim God’s truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for correction, repentance or edification. Ability to reveal God’s Word accurately.

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Above all, it must be emphasized that whatever your gift, serve God with it. Do it with love. You could sing beautiful songs or help a thousand people or

write a beautiful book, but if there's no love involved then it's useless. In fact, employing your gifts with the correct motivation of love was so important that the bible mentions it after **every** mention of gifts.

*Discussion Questions*

- 1. What do you think your life would look like if the Holy Spirit had more influence over you?*
- 2. What do you think you need to do (or let go of) to let the Spirit guide you more?*
- 3. Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need the most? Why?*
- 4. How you think you could serve the body of Christ best?*
- 5. What do you think your life would be like if you never used the gift of the Spirit, nor served God as you were designed to?*