

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Message 01 of the series "The Third Person"

1. The Holy Spirit is a person.

Note: The Holy Spirit is a "He" not an "It".

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth... He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you... He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me." John 14:16-17a, 26, 15:26(NLT)

a. The Holy Spirit has a mind.

"And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." Romans 8:27 (NIV)

b. The Holy Spirit has a will.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all... It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."
1 Corinthians 12:4,11 (NLT)

c. The Holy Spirit has emotions.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God..." Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)

"...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

Life Application: The Holy Spirit is a person we can know, NOT a force we can control.

"The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you." John 14:17b (NLT)

2. The Holy Spirit is God.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters."
Genesis 1:1-2 (NLT)

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

a. God has revealed to us through the Bible that He is one God eternally existing in three persons.

Note: This is the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)

"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'" Matthew 3:16-17 (NLT)

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

"God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:2 (NLT)

b. It's not possible for us to fully explain God.

"The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions." Deuteronomy 29:29 (NLT)

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

Life Application: We must surrender control of our minds to the Holy Spirit.

“So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)” Romans 8:6-9 (NLT)

3. The Holy Spirit is living in me.

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.” Romans 8:11 (NLT)

a. I have unlimited access to God.

“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)

b. The Holy Spirit is working in and through me.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”
Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

c. I can understand spiritual truths.

“No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit’s words to explain spiritual truths. But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.” 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 (NLT)

Life Application: I can confidently proclaim the Good News of Jesus to a lost and dying world.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

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Resources:

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit, by Francis Chan, David C. Cook Publishers / 2009

How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

by: A. W. Tozer (1897–1963) Moody Publishers; Reprint edition (February 2, 2016)

Wild Goose Chase, Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God

by: Mark Batterson, Multnomah (August 19, 2008)

Connect Group Questions:

1. *Growing up what was your viewpoint of the Holy Spirit? How well do you feel like you know the Holy Spirit today?*

2. *What goes through your mind when you read this quote by John Schmidt, “The Holy Spirit is a person we can know, not a force we can control”?*

3. *Read John 14:26. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our understanding of the Bible?*

4. *Read Galatians 5:16-26. In your opinion, how does the Holy Spirit help us become more like Christ?*

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9. In your opinion, what does it look like to have the Holy Spirit living in you? Looking at verse 5, how would you interpret "They will reject the power that could make them godly"?

6. Read John 3:1-8. What role does the Holy Spirit play when it comes to someone's salvation?

7. Take the time to pray and thank God for the Holy Spirit:

- That He gives us unlimited access to God
- That He works in and through us
- That He helps us understand spiritual truths