

## **Week 11: The Holy Spirit**

### **God is Spirit: Always been here**

It's easy to say the Holy Spirit. We hear that in many different types of church circles. Some say in the name of the Holy Spirit. Others pray in the name of the Spirit. There are those who say they have power to heal, and do miracles in the name of the Holy Spirit. Yet, I believe we have little knowledge about this Spirit. This is just something we say like hello. Maybe it's tradition.

This entity could also be called the Holy Ghost. Is God one God? Is God split up into a trinity called: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? This entity has been called on for power. The power to heal, give strength, and reveal God to people. I can understand how Jesus could be a person. Is God the Father a Spirit or a person? Then we have this Holy Ghost. How can a Ghost be a real person?

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

1. Is the Holy Spirit real?
2. What do you think?

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The Holy Spirit is not just a New Testament idea. The term Holy Ghost is not used these days. We call it Spirit. I know the Spirit is used in the Old Testament. I knew the favorite spots. I also thought there were about five of them maybe if you're lucky. In my study, I realized there are tons of spirit quotes in the old scriptures. They knew the Holy Ghost.

**Genesis 1:2** *"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

**Judges 6:34** *"Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him."*

1. What is your picture of this Holy Ghost?
2. What do you call it and how does it work?

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I have been prayed over. They have laid hands on me in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This has been for direction, healing, and anointing for ministry. I have witnessed people speaking in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit. I have felt the Spirit. The Christian life is supposed to be Spirit filled. In the old scriptures, they believed that too. There is talk about “by” the Spirit; “through” the Spirit; and “in” the name of the Spirit. God is Spirit. God also came as fire and could be heard walking in Eden. Nobody has seen God. Is God spirit? If so then who and what is the Holy Spirit?

**John 4:24** *“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

**Acts 2:38** *“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

Over the centuries, men have debated who this Spirit is. Does it come from the Father? Is it God? Does it come from or through Jesus? Churches have split and wars have been fought over the true interpretation of the Spirit. Creeds have been formed and doctrines made because of the nature of this God as either one person, two persons, or three. It says in the beginning the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. In Acts 2 it says the Spirit filled the room like tongues of fire. What it means is that the Spirit has always been there silently doing the Job God the Father designed.

**1 Samael 10:6** *“The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.”*

**1 John 4:13** *“This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.”*

1. I wanted to put this set of verses below, first because they let you know that the New Testament Bible writers believed in and knew the Spirit. This is not just a new age thing. The writers split up the God into the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit (Ghost). This portion points to one God. Yet, it also skitters around one, Son, and one Spirit. If you think of the Spirit as a person, then Genesis 1:2 has new meaning. Is the Spirit of God part of creating this world? There is the other side. The Spirit is also the essence or love of God. This Spirit thing complicates our perception of God.

Christianity is all about the Trinity. That word will come up plenty in Christian circles. It refers to a triune God. Three persons in one essence called God. It’s not easy to explain but here it goes. You are the sum of your body. Your arms do not care what the eye or leg does. They work together as one body, but they have separate functions. God works that way. The will of the Father, through the Son (Jesus), and by his Spirit. They are equal, distinct, yet one body.

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

2. Right from the very beginning of recorded time there is this Spirit. Some translations say this Spirit brooded over the waters. I love that description. It's as if God took time and was methodically creating. It's like my Dad being distracted watching a game. God was distracted by his creating. There are so many scriptures talking about the Spirit resting on people. In the Old testament, the Spirit is seen as resting "on" as opposed to the New Testament resting "in" a person. This Spirit helps people accomplish great things for God. There is power, discernment, and ability acted out through the Old Testament Spirit.

The New Spirit is the old Spirit. The mighty acts of God now come through people rather than through divine acts. That does not mean God has abandoned divine acts. We have tongues of fire coming down in Acts 2. In Acts 28 Paul is bitten by a poisonous snake but does not die. There are several acts of God in the end of times written in Revelation. This Spirit movement is however different. Men now discern the world. They pray for others directly to God. They understand and teach the Word of God. The Spirit movement is stealth, but not stealth all rolled into one. God moved through many things and people like Jesus, prophets, and fire.

**Genesis 1:2** *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

**Zechariah 4:6** *"Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, 'This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts."*

**Romans 8:5** *"Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."*

3. There was an understanding in the Old testament of who the Spirit was. They knew it's role. I'm not sure they thought of this Ghost in personal terms but they believed it existed. I like many verses on the Spirit but this one in Job sums up the old thinking. The Spirit was breathed into us. This Spirit was part of making me. God breathing life into man was real in their eyes. The Spirit hovering over the waters made sense to them. Job is so cool because there is a discussion between God and Satan, three men, and God and Job. The writer believes in the divine world and how it interacts with this physical world. The debate rages on even then about who is God.

**Job 33:4** *"The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."*

**1 Corinthians 3:16** *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"*

4. I love Nehemiah 9 because it reminds us of the history we share with God. Not only do Biblical historians retell the tale of how we got to this point but they work in how it was done. The Spirit taught them. The Spirit guided them. This Spirit also spoke through people to them. There is history and there is how, why, and who made it happen. In Nehemiah, they are rebuilding a wall. I feel that they were given strength and purpose to do a gutsy thing in those days. In Bible history people died for God. How do you convince yourself to die for the cause of an invisible spirit or divine being? I feel it's because those who have met the Spirit of God know it was more than a spiritual encounter. That was true back then as it is today.

**Nehemiah 9:20** *"You gave your good spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and gave them water for their thirst."*

**Nehemiah 9:30** *"Many years you were patient with them, and warned them by your spirit through your prophets; yet they would not listen. Therefore, you handed them over to the peoples of the lands."*

### **The Jesus connection**

There are people who say that the Bible is just a book. Throughout this study I wanted to show you connections. This book is not just a very big book. This is not just a book called the Bible. It's even more than just God's word. Why? Anyone could tell you those things. Are they true? I feel the connections make this book real. The interwoven words, themes, and purpose are amazing.

I feel the Holy Spirit binds this book together. Right from the second verse we find the Spirit working. This Spirit is sprinkled all throughout the Bible. So, what does Jesus have to do with it? You see, if Jesus did not come to earth then there was no need for a Spirit filling within people. Jesus had to die so that this Spirit could come in place of Jesus. This Spirit is the essence of God. It knows God. The verses below help point out that without Jesus, the Holy Spirit would remain elusive rather than prominent in our lives. That is the Jesus connection.

**John 16:7** *"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."*

**John 14:11** *"Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves."*

**John 14:20** *"On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."*

**John 14:26** *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*