



*The*  
**JOURNEY**  
STEP FOUR

---

WHO IS THE  
HOLY SPIRIT

---

DIG DEEPER

# WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## The Holy Spirit Is A Person

In the Bible, a spiritual being is always a personal being. The Holy Spirit is fully a spiritual person, just like God the Father and Jesus Christ (God the Son).

Jesus also called the Spirit “allos parakletos” (“another Helper”). The “allos” refers to “another of the same kind” as Jesus Himself. The word “parakletos” refers to a “counselor for the defense,” which is equivalent to an attorney, which in itself is a personal concept. Thus the Holy Spirit must be personal, like Jesus.

The Bible portrays the Holy Spirit as a person by including Him in groups alongside other persons (Matthew 28:19, Acts 15:28). Additionally, the Holy Spirit is shown performing actions typical of persons: demonstrating intellectual activity (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11), making decisions (Acts 13:2; 15:28; 16:6-7; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:11), speaking (John 16:13-14; Acts 8:29; 13:2; 1 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 2:7), teaching (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13), and expressing emotions or feelings (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 4:30; Isaiah 63:10).

Finally, in the Bible the Holy Spirit is treated as a person. He can be lied to (Acts 5:3), tempted (Acts 5:9), blasphemed (Matt 12:31), and insulted (Heb 10:29).

Since the Holy Spirit is a person, we should never refer to Him as an object. We should never refer to Him as “it,” but should always use the personal pronouns “He,” “His,” and “Him.”

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,”

Romans 8:26-27 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

- Acts 13:2, “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”
- 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.”
- Romans 15:30, “I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.”

- Acts 5:3,9, "Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?' Peter said to her, 'How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.'"
- Matthew 12:31, "And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."
- Hebrews 10:29, "How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"
- John 15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me."

## The Holy Spirit Is A Divine Person

The Holy Spirit is not only a person; He is divine. He is the third person of the Trinity, equal with the Father and the Son (Jesus). He also shares their divine characteristics, such as being omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, etc.

Interestingly, Jesus says that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the worst of all sins and is unforgivable. This would not be possible unless the Holy Spirit were divine. Also, in Acts 5, the Holy Spirit is specifically referred to as God.

It is important to note that the Holy Spirit is not the person of God the Father simply appearing in a different way. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are persons who are distinct from one another (as seen at Jesus' baptism, The Great Commission, Acts 2, Romans 8, etc.). They are distinct, yet share the same essence (see lesson 1).

Because the Holy Spirit is divine, it is proper to worship Him along with the Father and the Son. However, it is worth pointing out that there are no biblical examples or precedents for addressing the Holy Spirit directly in praise or prayer.

- 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 Peter 1:2, *"who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:"*
- Hebrew 9:14, *"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"*

- Matthew 12:31-32, *“And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”*
- Acts 5:1-4, *“Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet.  
Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.’”*
- Romans 8:26-27, *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”*
- 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.”*

## WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

### The Holy Spirit Working in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit was active in the initial creation (Genesis 1:2) and in the creation of mankind (Genesis 1:26). The Spirit is also active in God’s providential control (how God governs and oversees the world according to His purposes and plans) of the world (Genesis 6:3) and especially in the history of Israel (Nehemiah 9:20, 30; Isaiah 63:10-11; Zechariah 4:6).

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit gave people special abilities to do important jobs for all of Israel (Judges 15:14).

- Prophecy was the most frequent gift.
- The Holy Spirit also helped Moses, Joshua, and various judges and kings of Israel lead the people of Israel (Numbers 11:17,25; 1 Samuel 16:14; 1 Samuel 10:9-10; 1 Samuel 16:13).
- The Spirit also gave many people the skill to craft things, such as building the tabernacle (Ex 31:2-6; 35:30-35).
- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not seem to give moral or spiritual strength directly. Instead, the Spirit worked on them and through them, rather than inside them.

The Holy Spirit's gifts in the Old Testament were temporary and not permanent. He was not given to all (or many) of God's people (1 Samuel 10:10; 16:14; Psalm 51:11).

One did not even always need to be a believer (or in right standing with God) to receive the Holy Spirit's power. The Spirit was given as needed, worked through whomever was needed, for the time needed (Balaam in Numbers 24:2; Saul in 1 Samuel 19:20-24).

Fascinatingly, the Holy Spirit showed through prophecy how He would work differently in the New Testament (Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:33).

- 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."*
- Genesis 1:26, *"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"*
- Genesis 6:3, *"Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.'"*
- Nehemiah 9:20,30, *"You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst." "For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you gave them into the hands of the neighboring peoples."*
- Isaiah 63:10-11, *"Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people— where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them?"*
- Zechariah 4:6, *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."*
- Numbers 11:17, 25, *"I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone." "Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again."*
- 1 Samuel 16:14, *"Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him."*
- 1 Samuel 10:9-10, *"As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying."*

- 1 Samuel 16:13-14, *"So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him."*
- Psalm 51:11, *"Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me."*
- Numbers 24:2, *"When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him"*
- Isaiah 44:3, *"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;*
- *I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."*
- Ezekiel 36:27, *"And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."*
- Joel 2:28-32, *"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls."*

## The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives

### During Conversation

During conversion, the Holy Spirit performs the work of regeneration (taking us from spiritual death to spiritual life) upon our hearts. This happens at the same time as justification—being now right with God. Justification has been described as God seeing us as "just-as-if-I'd never sinned" because we are now covered with the blood of Christ.

Regeneration means being brought back to life spiritually (John 5:24-25; Romans 6:4-11; Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 2:11-13; 1 John 3:14). It is like being born again into a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5). The Holy Spirit makes our hearts new and fresh (Titus 3:5). This is different from what anyone in the Old Testament experienced.

This regenerating work of the Holy Spirit is what the Bible calls being saved (brought about by the baptism of the Holy Spirit in regeneration). It is a serious error to connect the baptism of the Spirit with the miraculous manifestations that in the Bible sometimes accompanied it as signs (Acts 2; Acts 10). In 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul affirms that all were baptized by the one Spirit into the body of Christ.

- John 5:24-25, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and*

*those who hear will live."*

- Romans 6:4-11
- Ephesians 2:5, *"made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."*
- Colossians 2:11-13, *"In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."*
- 1 John 3:14, *"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death."*
- John 6:63, *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life."*
- Romans 8:2,6,11,13, *"because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." "The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace." "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you." "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."*
- 1 Corinthians 15:45, *"So it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit."*
- John 3:5, *"Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.'"*
- Titus 3:5, *"he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,"*
- Acts 2 and Acts 10
- 1 Corinthians 12:13, *"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*

### **After Conversation**

The Holy Spirit "indwells us" (lives in us personally and directly) in order to give us moral power to live a holy life that is pleasing to God. This is His work of sanctification, which is a continuation of what began in regeneration. This was prophesied in Ezekiel 36:27 and John 7:38. It is confirmed throughout the New Testament in Romans 8:9-11; 2 Timothy 1:14; 2 Corinthians 1:22, and 1 Corinthians 6:19.

The Holy Spirit indwells us not to impart special knowledge or the ability to perform miracles, but for power—the power to overcome sin and to live according to God's holy will. We also believe that God does miracles (small and large) every day!

The Holy Spirit provides the power to live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of holiness in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23). When we ignore, stifle, or disregard His sanctifying power and continue in sin, we quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30).

This indwelling should not be equated with simple divine omnipresence, nor should we limit it to the fact that the Word of God dwells in our hearts. The Holy Spirit Himself actually, personally, and uniquely dwells within the hearts and bodies of the New Testament saints. We do not know HOW this occurs, but we do know WHY. It is not for the purpose of knowledge, but for power. This is the power to overcome sin and to live according to God's holy will (Romans 8:13; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Galatians 5:22-23). This is how He leads us (Romans 8:4,14; Galatians 5:16) and fills us (Ephesians 5:18).

The Holy Spirit also equips Christians for service by giving them spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11). The purpose of these spiritual gifts is to equip individual Christians to meet the needs of the church as a whole (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12; Ephesians 4:12-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11). This is different from the Holy Spirit's sanctifying presence in an individual believer which is for the spiritual benefit of that particular believer.

The New Testament has four lists of Spiritual gifts:

- *Romans 12:3-8*
- *Ephesians 4:11*
- *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*
- *1 Corinthians 12:28-30*

These lists are not necessarily all-inclusive. The Spirit may give abilities such as the ones specifically named or others such as counseling or computer expertise. He may give abilities where none existed before, or He may enhance natural talents and direct them toward service to the body of Christ as a whole. Just as gifts of craftsmanship were given in the Old Testament, so today the necessary gifts are given to enable us all to live together and build up the body of Christ.

### **Other Roles of the Holy Spirit in the Lives of Believers**

The Holy Spirit "indwells us" (lives in us personally and directly) in order to give us moral power to live a holy life that is pleasing to God.

- **Advocates** (Helps, teaches, counsels, reminds)

*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."*

- **Convicts**

*John 16:8, "When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness"*



and judgment:”

- Brings joy

1 Thessalonians 1:6, *“You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.”*

- Seals and is a deposit guarantee

Ephesians 1:13-14, *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”*

- Intercedes on our behalf

Romans 8:26-27, *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”*

- Guides

John 16:13, *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

- Leads

Acts 16:6-10, *“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”*

- Matthew 4:1, *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”*

## **The Holy Spirit’s is the Ultimate Author of the Bible**

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is presented as the source of oral or spoken prophecy, and He is likewise cited as the source of the written Word, the Bible.

The Bible continually portrays the Holy Spirit as the person of the Trinity who was the principal agent in

transmitting God's own words to the biblical writers and in guaranteeing that everything they wrote was accurate and complete. This is why we may speak of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate source of the Bible.

We do not have to understand the mechanics of how the Holy Spirit accomplished this; what is important is simply the result of the Spirit's work of revelation and inspiration, which is a permanent, errorless record of God's works, will for us, and His message of hope for our salvation and eternal life.

In fact, one of the most important things the Holy Spirit ever did for us was to give us the Bible. As believers, we are so familiar with the role of the Scriptures as the answer-book for tough questions that we can easily take it for granted, and we can forget what a blessed gift of knowledge the Spirit has given us.

- 2 Samuel 23:2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue."
- Acts 1:16 "and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.'"
- 2 Peter 1:21 "For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
- John 16:13 "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."

## **An Encouragement and a Caution**

The Holy Spirit has preserved and given us the Bible. Therefore, it is good and appropriate to pray before you read the Bible and ask for help in understanding God's Word.

However, many have prayed for this and arrived at different answers and conclusions. Often, the same person, later in their life, will come up with something totally different and contradictory to what they saw when they were younger. We know that God does not lie or contradict Himself.

While it is good to pray and ask for help in understanding the Word, we should not assume that praying before reading our Bibles will always result in a correct and complete interpretation.

- We should not expect the answer to this prayer to be a direct feeding of complete and fully accurate knowledge into our minds.
- Our prayers are more likely to be answered by providing us with the means to achieve a correct understanding through personal study. This might include a sharpened mental process, a clearer mind, fewer distractions, better concentration, and recall of other Scripture to help interpret the

one you are studying.

**NOTE 1:** The verses are all in the NIV. The Bible is the ultimate source of knowing who God is.

**NOTE 2:** For more commentary on who the Holy Spirit is, see Dr. Jack Cottrell's "The Faith Once for All," particularly chapter 15. We're grateful to have a grounding for many of the above thoughts and insights from not only this work, but from many others.

## BASIC DISCIPLESHIP STEP FOUR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Ice Breaker Questions

Have you thought any more about Jesus from Step 3? Any further questions?

Growing up, who was the Holy Spirit to you?

#### **Question 1** - *Who is the Holy Spirit?*

Is it harder to understand who the Holy Spirit is compared to God the Father or Jesus (God the Son)?

Why or why not?

#### **Question 2** - *The Holy Spirit Working in the Old Testament*

Have you ever thought about the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament?

#### **Question 3** - *The Holy Spirit Working in the Old Testament*

Would it change things if you had to worry about the Holy Spirit leaving you or being temporary in your life?

#### **Question 4** - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives*

Does it make sense that going from death to life isn't a feeling (or emotion) as much as it is a change in relationship with God and a work God does in you?

#### **Question 5** - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives*

Now that you have the Holy Spirit, do you ever have to sin or give into temptation again?

#### **Question 6** - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives*

What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit? How do you know when it's God vs. just what you want to do?

#### **Question 7** - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives*

Can a Christian live most (or all) of their life not listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

#### **Question 8** - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives*

Do you know your spirit gift(s)? Who are they for, and have you put them to use yet?

#### **Question 9** - *The Holy Spirit is the Ultimate Author of the Bible*

Was it important that the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the Bible? Why or why not?



26600 Westheimer Parkway

Katy TX 77494

281-395-4722 | [www.currentchristian.org](http://www.currentchristian.org)

*Copyright 2025 - Current - A Christian Church*