

# Holy Spirit

## (The forgotten Person of the Trinity)

Is the Holy Spirit a forgotten Person of the Trinity? Maybe by some. God's Holy Spirit is an equal Person of the Trinity, and is often not fully appreciated for Who He is and what He does. The following is a brief study of the Holy Spirit as an encouragement to fully embrace Him and to allow Him to have His way in our lives, for God's glory, and for the blessings God has for us. For more on the "Trinity," see the study on the Trinity.

### First, a few terms defined:

1. **Person** - a living being with:
  - An intellect / ability to reason (Psalm 139:1-6) (or the potential to do so as in the case of an infant or disabled adult). Believers get the "mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:15-16)
  - A free will. (Joshua 24:15 as an example)
  - Feelings / emotions. (Exodus 34:6; 1 Corinthians 10:22; Ephesians 4:30; James 4:5 exemplify some of God's emotions and feelings)
  - Relational / capacity to love (even if that capacity is or has been damaged or relinquished as in the case of Satan and demons). (Genesis 2:18; John 13:34; Hebrews 13:1; 1 John 4:19)
2. **Trinity** (although the term is not used in the Bible)
  - One God in three Persons with the same nature or essence (permanent and unchangeable attributes).
  - The expression of each Person of God never compromises the common essence or nature of God.
  - The three Persons of the Trinity have distinct roles and purposes without compromising the value or importance of each Person; all are eternal and equal in value, while working together in perfect harmony.
  - Some verses that describe the Trinity: Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 3:18-22; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Acts 2:31-33; Romans 1:2-4; Ephesians 1:17; 2:18-22; 4:4-7; Galatians 4:6-7; John 14:15-17; 15:26.

### What and Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The third Person of the Trinity of God (look again at Matthew 28:19 and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

### What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

- He counsels and teaches us (John 14:26)
- He testifies to us about Jesus. (John 15:26)
- He convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgement. (John 16:7-11)
- He guides us into truth. (John 16:13)
- He directs us. (as he did with Paul in Acts:16:6-7)
- He intercedes and helps us in our weakness with "groans" that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26-27)
- He seals us, guaranteeing God's ownership of us, and what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)
- He gives us freedom and transforms us into His likeness. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)
- He restores the "oneness" we had with Him before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Sin separated our spirits from His Spirit and we spiritually died (Ephesians 2:1-5) in addition to our physical death (Genesis 3:19). Receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior causes His Spirit to dwell in us (Romans 8:10-17). We now have access to the Father by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).
- He comforts us. 2 Corinthians 1:5 mentions God the Father and Jesus Christ. However, the reference to "God of all comfort in verse 3 and 4 uses the word "Theos" which means "Deity" not referring to any one Person of the Trinity. Here, the Holy Spirit is certainly involved without being mentioned personally.

### What are practical ways we can grow in our love for, and likeness of the Lord with the Holy Spirit?

- First, we must accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior to receive the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 3:1-5)
- Set your mind on what the Spirit desires to control your life and give you peace. (Romans 8:5-9). This involves a transforming of the mind (Romans 12:2) through practice and discipline as to how we train our thoughts (Philippians 4:8-9).
- Don't "put out the Spirit's fire," but always be joyful, pray continually, giving thanks in all circumstances, test everything, and avoid every kind of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22).
- Be in God's Word regularly (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Be in fellowship with others who love Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:23-25), avoid bad company (1 Corinthians 15:33) and intimate relationships with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14-15). Why?

**Key Verse:** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV84)