

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: The Holy Spirit

Text: Genesis 1:1-3, Matthew 3:16-17, John 14:15-17, John 16:7-15, Acts 2:1-4

One of the great needs of the church today is a renewed understanding of the Holy Spirit.

When we speak of Holy Spirit we are referring to the third member of the **Trinity** : God the Father, Jesus the Son- the only begotten of the Father filled with grace and truth, and the Holy Spirit.

Jewish scholars claim that because we believe in the Trinity or a **Triune** God that we are actually worshiping three distinct Gods. They use God's direct command to Israel as an example.

Deut. 6:4 We believe that God exists as a unity of three distinct persons. Each one is distinct from the other two, yet identical in essence; each is fully **divine**. God is numerically one yet in three distinct persons.

- Each of the three persons is completely divine in nature, though each is not the **totality** of the Godhead.
- Each of the three persons is not the other two
- Each of the three persons is related to the other two but are **distinct** from them.

The Trinity is not a difficult thing to understand. Consider the nature of water (H²O). Water is a single compound yet it exists in three states – liquid, ice and vapor. It is made up of two parts hydrogen to one part of oxygen. Yet water is - water! Or consider an egg. An egg is made up of the white, the yoke and the shell. But it's still just one egg! **Romans 1:20**

Critics of the Trinity say that the word 'trinity' is not found in the Bible. Neither are the words Bible, rapture or omniscience, all terms used to Biblical truths.

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is a **Person**. He is not an It but a Him. He is not a **force**. (May the force be with you) He is not simply the Power of God He is God. Personal pronouns are used to describe Him in scripture. **John 14:17, John 16:13**

~ A.W. Tozer - The Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit is not only a being having another mode of existence but He is Himself a person with all the qualities and powers of personality. He is not matter but He is substance. The Holy Spirit is often thought of as a benevolent wind that blows across the church. If you think of the Holy Spirit as being literally a wind, a breath, then you think of Him as non personal and a non individual but the Holy Spirit has will and intelligence, feeling and knowledge, sympathy and ability to love. He sees, thinks hears, speaks and desires the same as any person does. Just like God does, just like Jesus does, the same is with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows how to love and to be loved. He can be grieved, He can be resisted. The truth is He can even be blasphemed. A thing does not possess feeling or character or qualities but a person does. The Holy Spirit is relational. He is knowledge, wisdom, strength, power and joy.

Most people have never developed a relationship with the Holy Spirit because they do not know Him as a person but as an it. We can only experience the amazing benefits that come with a friendship with the Holy Spirit when we completely understand that He is a person. The Holy Spirit is the part of the Godhead who fellowships with us, who talks with us and walks with us, who lives in us and with us every day.

John 14:16-17, 1 John 2:27, 1 Corinthians 3:16

The Holy Spirit is our partner. One Pastor called Him his Senior Partner. Jesus, when He walked the earth, could only be with one disciple at a time. The Holy Spirit does the same things that Jesus did except He is able to be with all of us on a daily basis.

Who is the Holy Spirit? This is a much better question than, what is the Holy Spirit? If we are going to have a relationship with Him then we must answer the question – Who is the Holy Spirit to me? The Bible tells us who the Holy Spirit is to be to us. The Greek word is “Paracletos”. Many translations use comforter, helper or counselor to describe who He is. The Amplified Bible helps define who He is more accurately. **John 14:16 (AMP), John 14:26** Helper, Comforter, Advocate (Lawyer), Intercessor—Counselor (Advice and wisdom giver), Strengthener, Standby, Encourager all describe WHO the Holy Spirit is to us.

The Key message of the Holy Spirit’s role in our life is that He is there to help us.

- The first way the Holy Spirit helps is by leading us into all truth. **John 16:12-14** The main thing the Holy Spirit will do is remind us of all that Jesus said and He will teach us to apply the words of Jesus to our lives. The truth is we don’t always remember but with the Holy Spirit we never have to forget what the Word says. He promises to lead us into all truth and help us to avoid error and lies.
 - The second way the Holy Spirit helps is by telling us things to come. The Holy Spirit will tell you the future. One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to help direct us into our future. He is not there to help us pick the winning lottery ticket but to make good decisions and to give us good direction in everything we are to do.
 - The third way the Holy Spirit helps is by empowering us the same seven ways that He did Jesus. **Isaiah 11:2**
- ~ He is the Spirit of the Lord. God is with us, we are never alone. This is amazing. One of the greatest helps we will every have is the power of presence.
- ~ He is the spirit of wisdom. He gives us the wisdom of what to do or not to do. He teaches us what to say and not to say. When to speak and when to be silent.
- ~ He is the Spirit of understanding. There are times we do not see or comprehend what is going on or how to apply God’s Word and ways to our situations. He gives us that understanding.
- ~ He is the Spirit of counsel. There are times you need to talk things through because you need direction. Sometimes you need to talk things through because you need comfort and support.
- ~ He is the Spirit of might. There are times we do not have in us the strength or power to do what we must do and what must be done. With the Holy Spirit we never need to dig deeper than our relationship with Him. **Zechariah 4:6, Acts 1:8a**

- ~ He is the Spirit of knowledge . He has all knowledge and knowhow and is there to give that to us.
- ~ He is the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. The Amplified puts it this way - the [reverential and obedient] fear of the Lord— The truth is that we are all flesh and blood. It is easy to forget that we serve a Holy God who will hold us to account for our actions and attitudes. The Holy Spirit helps us to always walk in the fear of God. Not being afraid of Him because we know we are loved by God. Perfect Love casts out all fear. The Holy Spirit helps us live in a reverent respect for who our God is.

There are also other ways the Holy Spirit helps us – **John 16:8-11**

Jesus names three areas that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of - Sin, Righteousness and Judgment.

To convict is not to indict as guilty; Jesus is talking about convincing us in the sense of belief and persuasion.

- Sin – We need to understand that when the Holy Spirit convicts lost people of sin and convinces them that sin is ruling their lives, that this is a good thing. This conviction is the only way that people become aware of the fact that they need a Savior. No one ever comes to believe in Jesus as Savior without first coming to the understanding or conviction that they need a Savior. That is the Holy Spirit's Job. **1 Corinthians 12:3**
- Righteousness – High moral standards and right behavior is not righteousness. A righteous person will have those but righteousness means “right standing” with God. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of righteousness we must be convinced that righteousness exists and that it is possible to be in right standing with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:9 (NLT)** Once we are born again, the Holy Spirit's role is to convince us that we have been made righteous and are in fact the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. This belief, this conviction, is vital to being and becoming all we ARE in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- Judgment - **John 16:11** – The Holy Spirit helps us understand that judgment has already been passed on Satan, the ruler of this world. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God’s infinite love for us but also helps us to understand that everyone will have had to choose a side and will give an accounting for their life. **Matthew 25:31-36, Matthew 12:36**

The Attributes of the Holy Spirit

As a person in the Trinity, the Holy Spirit possesses all of the attributes that God has. They help us to understand that the Holy Spirit is a person and not a thing .

- He is omniscient -or all knowing. It is the combination of two words- Omni meaning –All and science which comes from the Latin word meaning Knowledge. God simply knows everything there is to know about everything and anything or anyone. God perfectly and eternally knows all things that can be known past, present and future. **Colossians 1:17 (AMP)**

If you took all the written books articles and magazines ever written in any language from clay tablets to written instructions for furniture, every article on the internet, the collective thoughts of every human being that ever existed or will exist we would not even scratch the surface of what God knows. He has perfect knowledge and **understanding** of how all things fit together. **Psalm 147:4, Luke 12:7, Psalm 33:13** God knows the innermost thoughts of our hearts and minds.

- He is **omnipotent** which means all powerful. **Jeremiah 32:17, Luke 1:37** Not only is God powerful enough to do anything there is nothing too hard or difficult for Him. He has both power and ability to do anything. Whatever He purposes He does. **Job 42:2, Psalm 115:3** Paul speaks specifically of the Holy Spirit when He says, **Ephesians 3:20** God is able to work because He is not **idle**, inactive or dead. He is able to do what we ask because He hears us. He is able to do more than we ask or think. He knows our thoughts and goes beyond what we even dare to dream.
- He is **omnipresent** which means He is simultaneously everywhere. No place in heaven or earth is beyond Him. **Psalm 139:7-10** God not only transcends space but time as well. God is not just **everywhere** at once; He is **every when** at once as well. He knows your past and He knows the future. The Holy Spirit can warn us of impending danger and opportunities that we need to be ready to reach out and take hold of.
 - ~ There is nothing that God does not **know**, that is His omniscience
 - ~ There is no **place** that God does not exist, that is His omnipresence
 - ~ There is nothing that God cannot do, that is His omnipotence.

As a person the Holy Spirit has a **personality**. Our personality comprises three distinct areas; He is not just a Spirit but has a soul – a soul by definition is our mind, will and emotions.

- 1) The Holy Spirit has **intellect** and knowledge. The Holy Spirit has a mind of His own. **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** The Holy Spirit is able to think, reason and express Himself. We must realize that we have someone living in us that knows everything, wants you to know what He thinks about it and is willing to talk to you about it. What a resource!
God has **thoughts**. **Isaiah 55:8-9** God has thoughts which means He has both knowledge and opinions about everything. If He is going to guide us into all truth then He must know all truth. God's intelligence can't be quantified or compared because it is not measurable. **1 Corinthians 2:9** God is incapable of thinking of something that He has never thought before. Nothing has ever just occurred to God. He never has said "why did I never see that before." He knows the end from the beginning and the beginning from the end and knows where they connect. He knows everything there is to know all at once all the time.
- 2) The Holy Spirit has a **will** and He makes decisions. **Acts 16:6** The word forbidden actually a Greek word that means "to exert one's will". It is the Holy Spirit who communicates what the will of God is for our lives. **Romans 12:2, Titus 3:4-7** Because the Holy Spirit knows all things and promises to lead us into all truth, this means He has a desire, purpose, plan and opinion about everything. We just need to **ask** Him what it is. **James 1:5**

As the Spirit of Wisdom, the Holy Spirit helps us make decisions and to choose well. He will correct us and redirect us when we are out of line or need a gentle nudge. He reveals to us the schemes and plans of the enemy so that we will not be destroyed. He encourages us when we need a lift and a kind word.

- 3) The Holy Spirit has **emotions**. This comes as a great surprise to many people. God has feelings. The Bible says that He is a **jealous** God. **Exodus 20:5 (NLT)**
- ~ The Holy Spirit **loves**. **Romans 15:30**
 - ~ The Holy Spirit produces fruit in us that treats others and **feels** like He does. **Galatians 5:22-23** A tree can't be kind it, can't love. It might be alive but it doesn't experience joy. Only a person can experience peace or exert self-control. These are the characteristics of a person.
 - ~ He can be **tempted**. **Acts 5:9, Luke 4:12, Deut. 6:16** How do we tempt God? By doing things and daring God to do anything about it.
 - ~ The Holy Spirit can be **grieved**. Grieved means to make sad or sorrowful or to make a heart heavy or to disappoint. **Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV & NLT)**
For some reason there is some big mystery surrounding what it means to grieve the Holy Spirit. The word grieve comes from the Greek word lupete. The word lupete is from the word Lupe, which denotes a **pain** or grief that can only be experienced between two people who deeply love each other. This word Lupe would normally be used to picture a husband or wife who has discovered his or her mate has been unfaithful. As a result of this unfaithfulness, the betrayed spouse is shocked, devastated, hurt, wounded, and grieved because of the pain that accompanies unfaithfulness or adultery. This tells us, first of all, that the relationship that exists between us and the Holy Spirit is precious! The Holy Spirit is deeply in love with us. Just as someone in love thinks about, dreams of, and cherishes the one he loves, the Holy Spirit longs for us, thinks about us, desires to be close to us, and wants to reveal Himself to us.

To grieve the Holy Spirit means that when He looks at our life of sin there is a sense of **loss**, of intense disappointment and betrayal, just as if someone had died.

The Holy Spirit is the One who lives in us, leads us, guides us, teaches us, reminds us, comforts us, seals us, sanctifies us, empowers us, and works to produce the character of Christ in us. He has been sent to reveal the will of God, which is the mind of Christ and to give us the victory in Christ.

But when we act like the world, talk like the world, behave like the world, and respond the same way the world does, we cause the Spirit of God to feel shock, hurt, and grief. You see, when we **deliberately** do what is wrong, we drag Him right into the mire of sin with us, because He lives in us and goes wherever we go.

How do we Grieve the Holy Spirit?

- When we live like a **pagan / heathen**. **Ephesians 4:17-19**
- When we **lie**. **Ephesians 4:25**
- When we sin in our **anger**. **Ephesians 4:26-27**
- When we use foul or abusive **language**. **Ephesians 4:29**
- When we walk in bitterness or **unforgiveness**. **Ephesians 4:31-32**

Our Goal should be to allow the Holy Spirit to make us more Christ-like and Holy. Just like you and I do not like to be grieved or hurt neither does the Holy Spirit. It is interesting to note that it is only the sin of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit that will not be forgiven. **Matthew 12:31-32**

This is known as the **unpardonable** sin. Blasphemy means to insult or demean someone or something by showing contempt. The unpardonable sin is to reject God and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring you to Him. It is to have known God and the Holy Spirit and to completely reject His grace and character as evil. This is not something that can be done accidentally. It is a conscious deliberate rejection and turning away.

Some other truths regarding the Holy Spirit as a Person

- He is the master **teacher**. **John 14:26**
- He helps us to **pray**. **Romans 8:26-27**
- He is **creative**. **Genesis 1:2, Psalm 104:30, Job 33:4,**
- He is the One who **regenerates** our lives. **John 3:5-6**
- He is the One who gave us God's **Word**. **2 Peter 1:20-21**