

## Week 1: Introducing the Holy Spirit

### **John 3:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

### **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

### **John 16:7**

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

**HOLY SPIRIT** the mysterious power or presence of God that operates within individuals and communities, inspiring or empowering them with qualities they would not otherwise possess. The term “spirit” translates Hebrew ruakh and Greek pneuma, words denoting “wind,” “breath,” and, by extension, a life-giving element. With the adjective “holy,” the reference is to the divine spirit, i.e., the Spirit of God.

— *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*

**HOLY SPIRIT** the third person of the Trinity, who exercises the power of the Father and the Son in creation and redemption. Because the Holy Spirit is the power by which believers come to Christ and see with new eyes of faith, He is closer to us than we are to ourselves. Like the eyes of the body through which we see physical things, He is seldom in focus to be seen directly because He is the one through whom all else is seen in a new light. This explains why the relationship of the Father and the Son is more prominent in the gospels, because it is through the eyes of the Holy Spirit that the Father–Son relationship is viewed.

— *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

## Who is the Spirit?

### *Sovereign Grace Churches Statement of Faith*

- **Person of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal in deity, attributes, and nature with the Father and the Son, and is to be worshipped and glorified. He manifests God's active presence, giving life in creation and new creation, and making communion with God possible.
- **Work Prior to Christ's Coming:** The Spirit was present at creation, carrying out God's creative word. Under the old covenant, the Spirit consecrated, delivered, guided, and granted saving faith to God's people. He empowered prophets, appointed elders, raised up judges, anointed priests and kings, and inspired the Old Testament revelation, all pointing toward Jesus Christ.
- **Work in Christ and the New Covenant:** The Spirit's work centers on Christ and the church. He was essential in Christ's conception, in anointing for earthly ministry, in empowering His sacrifice, and in His resurrection. After Christ's ascension (at Pentecost), the Spirit ushered in a new era, indwelling believers and empowering them for life and service. He glorifies Christ, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and inspired the New Covenant revelation. To believers, he brings regeneration, illuminates God's Word, assures them of God's love, comforts, intercedes, and sanctifies them. He is the seal of salvation, the bond of union with Christ, and the guarantee of their inheritance.

### Titus 3:4-7

*<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

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### The Gospel and the Application of Salvation by the Holy Spirit

- **The Gospel:** The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension to accomplish salvation. It is an objective, historical, divine achievement that is the power of God for salvation for all who believe, providing hope and strength. Salvation is exclusively through Jesus Christ.
- **Effectual Calling, Regeneration, and Conversion:** Though God commands the gospel to be proclaimed to all, people are spiritually dead and unable to respond. Therefore, God graciously and effectually calls those He chose to save. The Holy Spirit regenerates the elect through the gospel, giving them new life and enabling them to respond in faith and repentance, which itself is a gift of God's grace.
- **Justification and Adoption:** Believers are justified in Christ, meaning God forgives their sins and declares them righteous. This is a judicial, definitive, and gracious declaration received freely by faith. The basis for justification is the righteousness of Christ (His perfect obedience and substitutionary death) imputed to them. Those justified are adopted into God's family, receiving the full status and privileges of sons, including access to God's presence and an inheritance.
- **Sanctification, Perseverance, and Glorification:** Christ sanctifies His people, cleansing them from sin and setting them apart. Sanctification is both a definitive act and a progressive work of the Holy Spirit, enabling believers to put sin to death and grow in Christ-likeness. Believers must persevere in faith, but this perseverance is a gift of God who preserves them forever. Glorification—the full conformity to Christ's image—is the ultimate goal, achieved when believers are physically raised in glory.

“... a primary reason why the Holy Spirit is called the Holy Spirit is because it is His specific task to enable followers of Christ in their quest for sanctification.”

— R.C. Sproul,  
“Who Is the Holy Spirit?”  
(Crucial Questions Series Book 13)

## The Empowering Ministry of the Spirit

- **The Filling of the Spirit:** While the Spirit regenerates and indwells all believers, He desires to continually *fill* them with increased power for Christian life and witness. Being filled means being more fully under His influence, aware of His presence, and effective in service. Christians are to continually seek this filling through living and praying, which brings a deeper knowledge of Christ, increased holiness, commitment to unity, greater fruitfulness, and deeper gratitude.
  - **The Gifts of the Spirit:** The Spirit sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts on every believer for the glory of Christ and the building up of the church. These diverse gifts, which include permanent and occasional ones, are to be exercised with faith, love, and order, in submission to Scripture. The full range of spiritual gifts remains active in the church and should be earnestly desired and practiced until Christ returns.
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## The Nature and Personhood of the Holy Spirit

- **His Deity:** Proofs that the Spirit is God (equality with the Father and Son).
  - *Scripture:* Acts 5:3-4, Matthew 28:19.
- **His Personhood:** Evidence that the Spirit is a "He," not an "it" or a "force."
  - He has a **Mind** (Romans 8:27), **Will** (1 Cor. 12:11), and **Emotions** (Ephesians 4:30).
- **Attributes:** He is eternal (Heb. 9:14), omnipotent (1 Peter 3:18), omnipresent (Ps. 139:7–10), omniscient (Isaiah 40:13), and holy (Luke 11:13).

## The Spirit in the Old Testament

The Spirit was active long before Pentecost, though His "dwelling" was often temporary or task-specific.

- **Creation:** Hovering over the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2).
- **Empowering Leaders:** Giving strength, wisdom, or skill to specific people (e.g., Samson, Bezalel, Gideon).
- **The Prophetic Promise:** The anticipation of a day when the Spirit would be "poured out" on all flesh (Joel 2:28-29, Ezekiel 36:26-27).

## The Work of the Spirit in the Life of Jesus

- **The Incarnation:** The conception of Jesus (Luke 1:35).
- **The Baptism:** The descent and anointing for ministry (Matthew 3:16).
- **The Resurrection:** The Spirit's role in raising Christ from the dead (Romans 8:11).

## The Spirit's Work in Salvation

- **Conviction:** Convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
- **Regeneration:** The "new birth" or being "born again" (Titus 3:5).
- **Indwelling & Sealing:** The Spirit as a "deposit" or "earnest money" guaranteeing our inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- **Sanctification:** The ongoing process of becoming more like Christ. (2 Thess 2:13)

## Gifts vs. Fruit

- **The Fruit of the Spirit:** The internal transformation of character (Galatians 5:22-23). *Focus: Being.*
- **The Gifts of the Spirit:** Supernatural enablements for the building up of the church (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12). *Focus: Doing.*
- **The Filling of the Spirit:** The command to be continually "under the influence" and empowered by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). *Focus: Persevering*

## Our Relationship with the Spirit

- **Walking in the Spirit:** Learning to listen and obey (Galatians 5:16).
- **Grieving the Spirit:** How sin affects our fellowship with Him (Ephesians 4:30).
- **Quenching the Spirit:** Suppressing His work or leadings (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

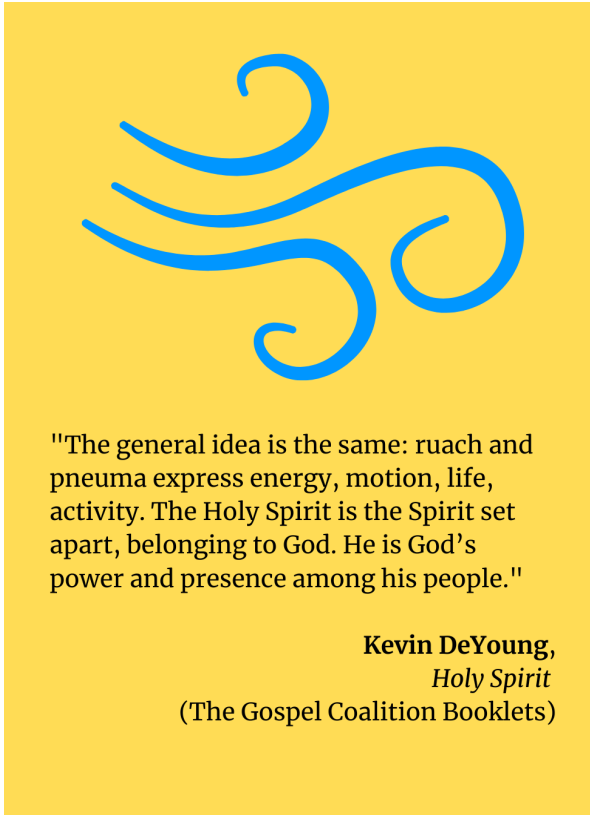


“However good an appearance we might manage on the outside, without the Holy Spirit the inside of our lives would resemble the ‘wretched man’ of Romans 7:7–25. However busy we might be in ‘the work of the Lord,’ without the Holy Spirit, our ministries would have no lasting impact for God’s kingdom. In a nutshell, any individual who follows Jesus Christ must understand and depend on the only inexhaustible power source in the universe: the Holy Spirit.”

**John D. Harvey,**  
Anointed with the Spirit and Power: The Holy Spirit’s Empowering  
Presence

## Names of the Spirit

- **The Paraclete (Comforter / Advocate / Helper):** From the Greek *Parakletos*, meaning "one called alongside to help." He is your legal advocate and personal strengthener (John 14:16, 26).



- **The Spirit of Adoption:** The One who confirms your status as a child of God and enables you to cry, "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

- **The Spirit of Grace:** He conveys God's unmerited favor and empowers the humble (Hebrews 10:29, Zechariah 12:10).

- **The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation:** He grants deep insight and "Aha!" moments regarding God's character (Ephesians 1:17).

### Symbolic Names (Metaphors)

- **The Breath / Wind (*Ruach* or *Pneuma*):** Representing His invisible but powerful influence and sovereignty (John 3:8).

- **The Living Water:** Representing satisfaction, cleansing, and the overflow of spiritual life (John 7:37-39).

- **The Anointing / Oil:** Representing being set apart for a specific task or office (1 John 2:20, 27).

- **The Seal / Deposit:** Representing ownership, security, and a down-payment on our future inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14).

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### Romans 8:15-17

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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## Four things we cannot do without the Holy Spirit

*By Jacob Crouch (2025)*

### **We cannot read the Scripture**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). Anyone who can read can read the Bible, but to read God’s word effectively, we must have the Spirit of God to teach us and bring all things to our remembrance. Jesus says later that, “when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). We need God’s Spirit to guide us into the truth, God’s word. Without the Spirit searching the deep things of God (1 Cor 2:10-12), we are hopeless to understand.



### **We cannot evangelize**

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning” (John 15:26-27). Do you see that? Jesus says that the Spirit of truth bears witness about Christ, and following that, His disciples will also bear witness. It is the Spirit who convicts the world of sin, and righteousness, and judgement (John 16:8), and it is the disciples who need to be filled with power from on high to be witnesses to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8). Apart from the witness of the Spirit we can never effectively share Christ.

### **We cannot glorify God**

“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14). What is our created purpose? It is to glorify God (Isa 43:7)! And this is the work of the Spirit. The Spirit is the One who glorifies Christ. Without the Spirit we are unable to fulfill our most basic created purpose.

### **We cannot do Anything**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Ok, this might be cheating, but really, we cannot do anything apart from the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us. We cannot produce holiness (Gal 5:22-25). We cannot pray (Rom 8:26-27). We cannot be born again (Titus 3:5). In other words, anything I hope to accomplish for God must be in and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Lakeview Christian Center**

Anointed With The Spirit And Power Week 1: Introducing the Holy Spirit

Tim Morris

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**Romans 8:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

<sup>9</sup> *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

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**Next:** *The Spirit and Israel's Leaders*