



Discovering the Holy Spirit – Week 1

Morné Smit

Introduction

Big idea

The Holy Spirit is the very personal, life-giving and sustaining presence of the Father and of the Son.

Table Exercise:

Write the first word or reaction that comes to mind when you hear "Holy Spirit."

For some, the name creates a negative response: church background, unhelpful experiences. For others, you're like a child in a toy shop, excited and ecstatic. Both are welcome here.

Sadly, one writer make this observation – ***The Spirit of unity that Jesus gave as the bonding agent for the church has become the dividing agent of the church.***

Our aim in this course is that we all grow in relationship with Him, and that He is embraced, not confused.

Salvation story:

One of my most powerful encounters with the Holy Spirit was at my conversion.

Key Verses

John 16: 7-11

⁷ 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. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

John 14: 15-26

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, (advocate/councillor) to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (Jesus returning by the Holy Spirit)

¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. ²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ 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**

Romans 8: 14-16

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ 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!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

2 Corinthians 3: 17-18

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The essential need for the Holy Spirit

- A true, authentic and vibrant Kingdom life is impossible without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit makes the impractical, ‘practise – able’
- The Holy Spirit is a staggering improvement to a direct face to face conversation with God in the flesh.
 - God’s indwelling presence surpasses God in human form - Jesus
- To dismiss (resist/quench/grieve) the Spirit’s activity in your life is to sabotage your relationship with the Father and the Son
- To dismiss the Spirit’s activity in your life is to derail your journey of royal identity and true freedom.

Our vision as a church is dependent on the Holy Spirit

Transformed by the Spirit and transform the world by the power of the Spirit

Three Things the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is God

Genesis 1:1-2

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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.”

Psalm 139:7-8

David, praising God's greatness, asked, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there"

Matt.28:19

The baptismal formula has an even stronger implication of unity... "in the name [singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Other verses to consider:

► See: [Matthew 28:19](#); [1 Cor. 12:4–6](#); [2 Cor. 13:14](#); [Eph. 4:4–6](#); [1 Peter 1:2](#)

2. The Holy Spirit Is Personal

He hovers over creation

- **Mind** – [Romans 8:27](#)
- **Will** – [1 Corinthians 12:11](#)
- **Emotions** – [Ephesians 4:30](#); [Isaiah 63:10](#)

Illustration:

Arriving in Canary Wharf – sitting at the river side and feeling it's going to be ok.

So you learn that the Holy Spirit is very **personal**, you can have a **relationship** with Him. You learn from other **places in the Bible how He directly speaks and instructs believers**. And at other times when the **Holy Spirit's** **grieved** because someone **lies** to him.

He is not a force!

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. You see in Star Wars you can access the force to do good, but then on the other end you have Darth Vader who is also a Jedi knight but accesses the force to do Evil. **Basically, a power that has no allegiance to anything and you can use it as you wish.**

He is not a ghost!

Now this might sound like a **contradiction** because sometimes the Bible refers to Him as the Holy Ghost. But the clarification I want to bring to this is that we as a society have a **connotation to word ghost or spirit**

If you have seen the cartoon Casper, they refer to him as the friendly ghost because our natural tendency is to think that a spirit is

- **SCARY**
- **Has it's own agenda**
- **Will make you do stuff against your will**

3. The Holy Spirit was Promised

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2: 15 - 18

¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(have you been water baptised?)

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

The Holy Spirit is not primarily about spiritual gifts, but about the gift of relationship with God the Three in One!!

The Promise of the Spirit

- New Creation
- Friendship with the Father
- Empowered to bring heaven to earth

What it cost Jesus:

- Jesus was baptised with God's fire and judgement so we can be baptised with the Holy Spirit's love and power – Tim Keller
- Jesus was immersed in God's absence so we can be immersed in God's presence – Tim Keller