



## The Holy Spirit Who “HE” Is

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the [Trinity](#) and undoubtedly the least understood member of the Godhead.

Christians can easily identify with [God the Father](#) (Jehovah or Yahweh) and his Son, [Jesus Christ](#). The Holy Spirit, however, without a body and a personal name, seems distant to many, yet he dwells inside every true believer and is a constant companion in the walk of faith.

- **Who Is the Holy Ghost?**

Until a few decades ago, both [Catholic](#) and Protestant churches used the title Holy Ghost.

The [King James Version](#) (KJV) of the Bible, first published in 1611, uses the term Holy Ghost, but every modern translation, including the [New King James Version](#), uses Holy Spirit. Some [Pentecostal](#) denominations which use the KJV still speak of the Holy Ghost.

- **Member of the Godhead**

As God, the Holy Spirit has existed through all eternity. In the Old Testament, he is also referred to as the Spirit, the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of the Lord. In the New Testament, he is sometimes called the Spirit of Christ.

The Holy Spirit first appears in the second verse of the Bible, in the account of [creation](#):

*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 1:2, [NIV](#)).

The Holy Spirit caused the [Virgin Mary](#) to conceive ([Matthew 1:20](#)), and at the [baptism of Jesus](#), he descended on Jesus like a dove. On the [Day of Pentecost](#), he rested like tongues of fire on [the apostles](#).

In many religious paintings and church logos, he is often symbolized as a [dove](#).

Since the Hebrew word for the Spirit in the Old Testament means "breath" or "wind," Jesus breathed on his [apostles](#) after his [resurrection](#) and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22, NIV). He also commanded his followers to baptize people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The [divine works of the Holy Spirit](#), both in the open and in secret, advance God the Father's [plan of salvation](#). He participated in creation with the Father and Son, filled the prophets with the [Word of God](#), assisted Jesus and the apostles in their missions, inspired the men who wrote the Bible, guides the church, and sanctifies believers in their walk with Christ today.

He gives [spiritual gifts](#) for strengthening the body of Christ. Today he acts as Christ's presence on earth, counseling and encouraging Christians as they battle the [temptations](#) of the world and the forces of Satan.

- **Who Is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit's name describes his chief attribute: He is a perfectly holy and spotless God, free of any sin or darkness. He shares the strengths of God the Father and Jesus, such as omniscience, omnipotence, and eternity. Likewise, he is all-loving, forgiving, merciful and just.

Throughout the Bible, we see the Holy Spirit pouring his power onto (**over shadowing**) followers of God. When we think of such towering figures as [Joseph](#), [Moses](#), [David](#), [Peter](#), and [Paul](#), we may feel we have nothing in common with them, but the truth is that the Holy Spirit helped each of them change. He stands ready to help us change from the person we are today to the person we want to be, ever closer to the character of Christ.

A member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit had no beginning and has no end. With the Father and Son, he existed before creation. The Spirit dwells in [heaven](#) but also on Earth in the heart of every believer.

The Holy Spirit serves as teacher, counselor, comforter, strengthener, inspiration, revealer of the Scriptures, convincer of [sin](#), caller of ministers, and intercessor in [prayer](#).

### **References to the Holy Spirit in the Bible:**

The Holy Spirit appears in nearly every [book of the Bible](#).

### **We are Three Parts**

**Spirit, Soul, and Body We are a spirit that possesses, a soul (mind/emotions) which lives in a body.**

**It is Holy Spirit that causes Regeneration, Rebirth in us we must be born of the Spirit**

**John 3:3-6 (NKJV)** Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, 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.

Another word for *regeneration* is *rebirth*, related to the biblical phrase "born again." Our rebirth is distinguished from our first birth, when we were conceived physically and inherited our [sin nature](#). The new birth is a spiritual, holy, and heavenly birth that results in our being made alive spiritually. Man in his natural state is "dead

in trespasses and sins” until he is “made alive” (regenerated) by Christ. This happens when he places his faith in Christ ([Ephesians 2:1](#)).

Regeneration is a radical change. Just as our physical birth resulted in a new individual entering the earthly realm, our spiritual birth results in a new person entering the heavenly realm ([Ephesians 2:6](#)). After regeneration, we begin to see and hear and seek after divine things; we begin to live a life of faith and holiness. Now Christ is formed in the hearts; now we are partakers of the divine nature, having been made new creatures ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). God, not man, is the source of this transformation ([Ephesians 2:1, 8](#)). God’s great love and free gift, His rich grace and abundant mercy, are the cause of the rebirth. The mighty power of God—the power that raised Christ from the dead—is displayed in the regeneration and conversion of sinners ([Ephesians 1:19–20](#)).

**Romans 8:11 (NKJV)** But if the Spirit (**pneuma**) of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit (**pneuma**) who dwells in you.

### • Holy Spirit is The Gift Giver

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV2011)** <sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit **distributes them.** <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, **and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**

### Jesus gives the Offices

**Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV2011)** So Christ himself **gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

### Three Groups of (9) Spiritual Gifts

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, listed each of the nine gifts ([1 Corinthians 12:8-10](#)), which can be divided into three groups: revelation gifts, vocal gifts, and power gifts.

1. **Revelation gifts** include the **Word Of Wisdom**, the **Word Of Knowledge**, and **Discerning Of Spirits**.
2. **Vocal gifts** are **Tongues**, **Interpretation of Tongues**, and **Prophecy**.
3. **Power gifts** include **Faith**, **Healings**, and the **Working of Miracles**.

## **The Gifts help support the Offices**

The Scriptures emphasize that Christians are to use their gifts to minister to others and that the power to use those gifts comes from the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:7** seems to indicate that spiritual gifts are one of the manifestations, or indicators, of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of the believer.

## **The Fruit of The Spirit Galatians 5:22-23**

The body of Christ today is more knowledgeable than ever before in the area of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but we are extremely lacking in the area of understanding our spiritual "fruit." We need to make sure that we connect the "Fruit of the Spirit" with the "gifts of the Spirit."

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

## **The Gifts are given but the FRUIT is produced**

Spiritual Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit Declare the Presence of The Holy Spirit  
Dr. Larry Gilbert

**Galatians 5:22-23** tells us about the fruit of the Spirit, which are behavior patterns that result from the presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

On the other hand, the Bible passages that tell about spiritual gifts are referring to capacities given for service for Christ in the life of the believer.

**The "fruit of the Spirit" deals with attitude; gifts of the Spirit deal with action in service.**

**Both are indications that the Holy Spirit is present in a person's life.**

**Spiritual gifts should not be confused with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

**Spiritual gifts are not rewards.** Gifts are given without regard to any degree of commitment. They are given by God's grace, not our faithfulness. They have nothing to

do with how spiritual a person is. In 1 Corinthians 1:7, Paul says to the Corinthians, “you do not lack any spiritual gift.” Yet, we know the Corinthians were very unspiritual and immature.

**Spiritual gifts are not natural talent.** You are given natural talents at your natural birth and spiritual talents (spiritual gifts) at your spiritual birth. Your responsibility as a Christian is to use both in service to glorify God. Talents are available to the all people, Christians and non-Christians. Talents operate on a physical and social level. Talents alone cannot do God’s work. God did not choose talents as the primary channel through which the Holy Spirit is to work.

**Do not confuse spiritual gifts with the Christian’s role or responsibly.** For example, all Christians have been given the responsibility to tithe and reach out to others with the Gospel. Yet God has given a gift of Giving which allows some to give far beyond their tithe. Plus, the gift of Evangelism allows some to influence far more people with the Gospel than those without the gift. The danger comes when Christians use the lack of these gifts to neglect the responsibility to tithe or evangelize.

## How did the Holy Spirit come on OT saints?

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times was **selective** and **temporary**. He was nevertheless working in the lives of people to do much of the same type of thing as seen in [John 16:8-11](#), though the object of faith was different.

**John 16:8-11 (NKJV)** And when He has come, He will **convict** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup> of sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup> of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

In the Old Testament there was the **anticipation** of the coming of Christ through the tabernacle, priesthood, and sacrifices. The point is that the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of people to **enlighten, convict, and lead** people to believe the content of the message as it existed in Old Testament times. The Holy Spirit obviously had to **regenerate** people and He led them, but it was **not from the indwelling presence as it is today**.

Scripture actually does not give us a great deal of detail on this. He was obviously at work in the lives of many in a powerful way as we see, for instance in [Zechariah 4:6](#). So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,**' Says the LORD of hosts.

Another illustration that pertains to salvation for those not immediately associated with Abraham or Israel is Melchizedek. We do not know where Melchizedek got his information or how he became a priest of God, but he was a believer and even a type of Christ ([Gen. 14](#) and [Heb. 7](#)).

I have included below, a section from Ryrie's *Basic Theology* which I think will answer most of your questions.

### **III. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN RELATION TO PEOPLE**

*The Spirit's ministry to people in Old Testament times was not the same as it has been since the Day of Pentecost. Whatever it was, the Lord made it quite clear it would be different after Pentecost. Notice how repeatedly the Lord spoke of the "coming" of the Spirit (who was already present) in His conversation with the disciples in the Upper Room ([John 15:26; 16:7-8, 13](#)).*

**John 15:26 (NKJV)** "But when the Helper (**paraklētos**) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

**John 16:7-8 (NKJV)** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your **advantage** that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (**paraklētos**) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send **HIM** to you. <sup>8</sup> And when **HE** has come, **HE** will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

*AT THIS POINT I WANT TO STOP AND ADDRESS THE STATEMENT JESUS MADE; HIM, AND HE.*

*Jesus is addressing Holy Spirit as a Person. We can also see from scripture that this is true.*

*This indicates both that the Spirit was at work then and that His work would take on a different character after Pentecost. When the Lord summarized that contrast He said the Spirit "abides (present tense) with (para) you and will be (future tense) in (en) you" (14:17). **John 14:17 (NIV2011)** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **WILL BE IN YOU**.*

- **The Holy Spirit Is a Person**

The Holy Spirit is included in the [Trinity](#), which is made up of 3 distinct persons: The [Father](#), the [Son](#), and the Holy Spirit. The following verses give us a beautiful picture of the Trinity in the Bible:

#### **Matthew 3:16-17**

*As soon as Jesus (the Son) was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven (the Father) said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (NIV)*

**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, (NIV)*

**John 14:16-17**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (NIV)*

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

*May the grace of the [Lord Jesus Christ](#), and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (NIV)*

**Acts 2:32-33**

*God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. (NIV)*

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONALITY:**

- **The Holy Spirit has a Mind:**

**Romans 8:27**

*And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. (NIV)*

- **The Holy Spirit has a Will:**

**1 Corinthians 12:11**

*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (NASB)*

- **The Holy Spirit has Emotions, he grieves:**

**Isaiah 63:10**

*Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. (NIV)*

- **The Holy Spirit gives joy:**

**Luke 10: 21**

*At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to [little children](#). Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." (NIV)*



### **1 Thessalonians 1:6**

*You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*

- **He Teaches:**

### **John 14:26**

*But the Counselor, 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. (NIV)*

- **He Testifies** of Christ:

### **John 15:26**

*When the Counselor 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. (NIV)*

**He Convicts:**

### **John 16:8**

*When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt [Or will expose the guilt of the world] in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: (NIV)*

- **He Leads:**

### **Romans 8:14**

*Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (NIV)*

- **He Reveals Truth:**

### **John 16:13**

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all 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. (NIV)*

- **He Strengthens and Encourages:**

### **Acts 9:31**

*Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. (NIV)*

- **He Comforts:**

**John 14:16**

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ([KJV](#))*

- **He Helps Us in our Weakness:**

**Romans 8:26**

*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 with groans that words cannot express. (NIV)*

- **He Intercedes:**

**Romans 8:26**

*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 with groans that words cannot express. (NIV)*

- **He Searches the Deep Things of God:**

**1 Corinthians 2:11**

*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (NIV)*

- **He Sanctifies:**

**Romans 15:16**

*To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of [proclaiming the gospel](#) of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

- **He Bears Witness or Testifies:**

**Romans 8:16**

*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (KJV)*

- **He Forbids:**

**Acts 16:6-7**

*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. (NIV)*

- **He Can be Lied to:**

**Acts 5:3**

*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?" (NIV)*

- **He Can be Resisted:**

**Acts 7:51**

*"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!" (NIV)*

- **He Can be Blasphemed:**

**Matthew 12:31-32**

*And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the [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. (NIV)*

- **He Can be Quenched:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:19**

*Quench not the Spirit. [\(NKJV\)](#)*