



The Holy Spirit

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1. Did you grow up talking about and/or being exposed to The Holy Spirit? (Yes or No) ... And do you think this affected your ability to be 'open' and receptive to Him later on in your life as a believer?

When the person of the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Bible, it's translated from one of 2 words:

- The OT Hebrew word is **Ruach** (*roo-akh*)
- The NT Greek counterpart is **Pneuma**

The basic definition for both of these words is _____, _____, or _____.

The earliest mention of the Holy Spirit in the Bible: Genesis 1:2

The Holy Spirit clearly existed and was active in both the Old & New Testaments. However, it's important for us to understand that since the time of Jesus' resurrection and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), He works _____ than He did in every previous generation.

PRIOR TO THE DAY OF PENTECOST, the Holy Spirit 'came upon' specific people for a specific time, to enable them to carry out various specific tasks for God:

- He guided **prophets and authors of Scripture** Num 11:29, 2 Sam 23:2, 2 Peter 1:20-21
- He **moved people to trust and obey God**, including people outside the nation of Israel: Ex 18 (Jethro the Midianite), Joshua 2 (Rahab), Ruth 1-4 (Ruth the Moabite), and others.
- He came upon the primary **craftsmen** who led the design and construction of the tabernacle (Exodus 35:31 - Bezalel)
- He came upon **kings and judges** to give them special wisdom or extraordinary power: Numbers 27:18 (Joshua), Judges 3:10 (Othniel), Judges 6:34 (Gideon), Judges 15:14 (Samson), I Samuel 10:9-10 (Saul), I Samuel 16:13 (David), and many more ...
- Mary became pregnant (Matt 1:18), Simeon was led to the temple (Luke 2:25-35)
- The Holy Spirit was also active in Jesus' life and ministry! Descending on Him at baptism (Matt 3:13-17), leading Him into the wilderness to be tempted (Matt 4:1-11), empowering Him for ministry (Acts 10:38), and ultimately raising Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11).

The Holy Spirit also removed Himself from individuals – especially those who became disobedient to God:

- Saul (I Sam 16:14), Samson (Judges 16:20), David (2 Samuel, ch 11&12)
- David cries out to God; "Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalms 51:11).

SINCE THE DAY OF PENTECOST however, we have a more full experience of the Holy Spirit's presence – because He lives WITHIN those who follow Christ! (John 14:17)





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ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit is God

- Jesus Himself declared this! Matt 28:16-20, John 14:15-21 (Greek words used in vs 16 for “another Counselor” are allos (another of the same kind) and parakletos (comforter, advocate)
- Before Jesus’ ascended, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit; Acts 1:4-5
- God has always created a way to ‘dwell’ with his children. The HS is Jesus’ replacement here on earth!

The Holy Spirit is Our Guide

- Jesus didn’t leave us alone, to fend for ourselves; John 14:26, John 16:13, John 16:7
- He guides by ‘convicting the world’ about sin, righteousness & judgement; John 16:8-11
- He guides us into ALL TRUTH; John 16:12-15

----- Discussion -----

2. Think of a time, event or situation in which you felt the Holy Spirit speak to you, or felt you were clearly led by Him. How did that experience impact you?

3. When does the Holy Spirit feel most real to you? Why do you think this is the case?

The Holy Spirit is the King’s Seal on our Hearts

- A list of God’s rich blessings for the believers; Ephesians 1:3-14
- He is the down payment of the inheritance that is to come; 2 Cor 1:21-22
- His ‘stamp’ on us is Himself – His presence in our lives. And it’s irrevocable!

The Holy Spirit is The Life Giver

- We were dead in our sins (Eph 2), but He is the Life Giver; Romans 8:1-13
- This is not just a promise for the future – but HE is here to help us RIGHT NOW!; Romans 8:26-27
- What is true of the believer who has been given life through the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:28-39

The Holy Spirit Cultivates Fruit

- Jesus cursed the fig tree; Matthew 21:17
- The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-25) He is the vine, we are the branches (John 15:5)
- His presence and the evidence of fruit in our lives not only displays our status as children of God, but it’s also the primary way we display the character of Jesus Christ!

