

## We Believe in God the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17, John 14:26, John 15:26-27, John 16:8-11

### Slide 1

As we've been looking at the things we believe, these past couple of weeks we've been studying the Trinity.

We looked at God the Father, Who's God? How do we know Him? Last week we looked at God the Son, Jesus.

So today we're going to look at the third part or person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. Just Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

But first, I want to put to rest three common misconceptions about the Holy Spirit.

First, the Holy Spirit is a Person. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as to a person. Nowhere in Scripture is the Spirit of God treated as an inanimate object.

He's given names. He's given a personality. He's given jobs. He's given functions. These are not qualities of an "it," but of a living person of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit isn't something, He's someone.

Second, the Holy Spirit isn't "*The Force*" from Star Wars. Many people view the Holy Spirit according to the description Obi-Wan Kenobi gives "*The Force*" in the Star Wars movies.

They see the Holy Spirit as "something" that controls your movements but obeys your commands. They see the Holy Spirit as "something" that surrounds us and binds the galaxy together.

Acts 13:2, "*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'*"

In this passage, we see the Holy Spirit speaking to His people, making a command. The Holy Spirit commands us, we don't command Him.

Third, the Holy Spirit doesn't make you uncontrollable. There're no cases in Scripture where the Holy Spirit came upon a person and they immediately began doing things that landed them in an insane asylum.

When people began speaking in tongues at Pentecost, it was for other people's benefits. We see no case of hysterical laughter, or people needlessly running laps around a group of people, or falling faint.

Most of the time in Scripture, when someone was filled with the Holy Spirit, words of edification came from their mouth.

It's hard to cover the entire expanse of the Holy Spirit in just one sermon, since the Bible has quite a bit of information about Him.

In fact, the book of Acts has been called the "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" instead of "The Acts of the Apostles" by a number of scholars.

The Holy Spirit isn't just present here and there in the Bible, the work of the Holy Spirit and His presence can be seen throughout the entire Bible.

There're many pertinent passages in the New Testament describing the work and person of the Holy Spirit.

Much was written by Paul in Romans 8, 1 Corinthians chapters 2, 12-14, and 2 Corinthians chapter 3, and Galatians chapter 5.

Today we're going to look at what Jesus tells us about the Holy spirit as recorded by John in various verses in chapters 14, 15, and 16.

## Slide 2

Often in Scripture and in preaching, when we speak of the Holy Spirit, the words used are often inter-changeable with other words for the Trinity like, *“the Spirit of Christ”* or *“the Spirit of God”* each meaning the Holy Spirit.

We also ask for God to move in this place, or Jesus said where two or three are gathered in His name He’s with us. All this is talking about the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus’ presence in this world is through His people who possess the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Jesus within us.

John 14:16, *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.”*

*“Advocate”* used here is also translated *“Helper”* or *“Counselor.”* It comes from the Greek word *“parakletos.”* A term used for legal assistants who pleaded a cause or presented a case.

It also means *“one who comes alongside”* like when the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost to assist or help. It empowers.

But this One who comes alongside to empower us isn’t just One who shows up and leaves, but One whom Jesus says, *“He may be with you forever.”*

Those who have Jesus as their Lord and Savior have The Holy Spirit, and that Spirit is with us always.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22, *“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*

The Spirit in us is our assurance of our salvation. We were given the Holy Spirit at the moment of our conversion; to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to yield to the Spirit.

We also know the Spirit has emotions because Paul warns us about grieving the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30, *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Truth. With all that’s happening in the world today, and all the falsehoods and lies that are being put out by individuals, the media, including social media, we need to realize that if we’re filled with the Holy Spirit, we possess the Spirit of Truth.

That’s why we need to be in the habit of turning to the One of Truth, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus who resides within us, when we’re assailed by lies.

### **Slide 3**

The Spirit of Truth is the one thing that separates the true Christian, the believer, from the rest of the world.

We have the Spirit of Truth, and the those in the world can’t know the truth because they neither see nor know Him.

John 14:26, *“But the Advocate, 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.”*

Here’s where we see that the Holy Spirit leads in interpreting Scripture for us. The interesting thing is that the onus is on us to read and study the scriptures so that the Spirit can teach us.

As we study and memorize the Word, the Holy Spirit will bring to our minds, to our remembrances, the things from the Word at the very time we need it. But The Holy Spirit can't bring to remembrance things that aren't there.

So, what will the Spirit teach us? The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us, *"He will testify about Me [Jesus]."*

John 15:26–27, *"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning."*

The Spirit of Truth will testify of the One Who's the Way, The Truth, and the Life.

As the Spirit testifies to us about Jesus, we in turn bring that same testimony to others, *"and you will testify also."*

The Holy Spirit was sent to empower the Body of Christ, the Church. We are that body and it's through His people that the Holy Spirit does His work.

Acts 1:8, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

We, who possess the Holy Spirit, are called to testify or be a witness for Jesus in this world. The verbs "to testify" and "be a witness" come from the same root word in the Greek.

The Holy Spirit will teach us and lead us, and in so doing, we'll have power to say things boldly even in moments of great distress.

Luke 12:11–12, *“When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*

I’ve often wondered how I’d act or what I’d say in circumstances where I’m on trial for being a Christian. But here, Jesus tells me that the Holy Spirit will instruct me as what to say and to do in those circumstances.

I find this both amazing and reassuring. When we say that God has everything under control, this means that He, through His Holy Spirit will lead us, teach us, empower us, and embolden us to stand in the time of trial.

#### **Slide 4**

Then Jesus told His Disciples that when He leaves, He’ll send the Holy Spirit and that’s exactly what happened.

On the Day of Pentecost the Spirit came and He’s been with us ever since. But what’s the Holy Spirit doing in the world today?

John 16:8–11, *“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”*

The job of the Holy Spirit in the world today is to *“convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

He’s here because the world rejected Jesus. He’s here in place of the rejected Jesus. The Holy Spirit convicts the world by His very presence.

The Holy Spirit tells and exposes the world about their sin, their lack of righteousness, and warns of the judgment to come.

The Holy Spirit informs people of their lost-ness, but the problem is that most people fail to act on that information since there's a big gap between conviction and conversion.

Conviction is necessary for conversion, but conviction by itself isn't enough. It's not enough just to know you're lost. That's why the Holy Spirit convicts on three levels: Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment.

The biggest sin, the eternal sin that will convict people to everlasting torment and separation from God is the lack of belief in Jesus.

No one goes to hell because they smoked, drink, cuss, or carouse. They go to hell because they reject Jesus.

Belief in Jesus is different than a belief about Jesus. All other sin can be forgiven, except the sin of unbelief which is different from the "unforgivable sin." That's a subject for another time.

If the Holy Spirit is resisted and a person refuses to submit to the conviction that the Holy Spirit brings and unbelief in Jesus continues, then that person stands condemned.

*John 3:18, "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

You have to understand, the world believes in relative righteousness, i.e. I'm better than the next guy.

The Jews thought that Jesus was unrighteous, so they hung Jesus on a tree [*the cross*] and that was their proof Jesus was unrighteous.

Galatians 3:13, *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”*

The world can't stand to see pure righteousness, consider why Stephen was stoned to death. It was because he accused the Jews of resisting the Holy Spirit.

Acts 7:51, *“You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”*

This is like the world today. It doesn't want to hear about sin. People don't like being told they are sinful, not good enough, that they're lost and stand condemned before God.

Acts 7:54, *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him.”*

Stephen's words from God penetrated. This was the Holy Spirit convicting.

The Holy Spirit exposed their sin and their unrighteousness. So, what did they do? They killed the messenger but not the message.

Acts 7:57–58a, *“But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him.”*

But what about Judgment? John 16:11, *“Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”* Who's the ruler of this world? Satan is the current ruler, and he'll be taken out.

John 12:31, *“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”*



Satan was defeated at the cross and from our viewpoint, Satan is just waiting for the execution of his sentence. If you're rebellious, take notice! Fear the Lord, the one who has power to judge.

*Acts 17:30–31, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."*

When we talk of biblical judgment we're not talking about a trial. We're talking about the execution of the sentence.

The world already stands condemned. All those who haven't repented and been born again stand condemned.

## **Slide 5**

### Conclusion

So where do we stand today? Do we stand with the world, convicted of sin, condemned, waiting for the execution of our sentence to an eternal hell or have we acted on that conviction of sin.

Have we fallen on our face before the Lord in remorse and repentance, begging the Lord to save, because nothing short of God's grace can save us.

This is why believers have been given the Holy Spirit, to seal their salvation.

*Romans 8:9, "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."*

Do you have the Spirit? Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and received the Holy Spirit as the seal to your salvation?

Where do you stand today? Are you under conviction by the Holy Spirit? Don't be like the Jews who stoned Stephen and resisted Him. They covered their ears and didn't want to hear any more.

The Spirit doesn't go where He's not wanted. In fact, the Bible teaches that at some point the Spirit will no longer convict. Romans 1 says that God will give some over to a depraved mind. What a scary thought.

Hebrews 3:7-8, *"Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."*

2 Corinthians 6:2b, *"Behold, now is the Day of Salvation."*