

English Transcript

Foundations of the Christian Faith – Course 1

Lesson 7 – God the Holy Spirit

Welcome back to Foundations of the Christian Faith, Course 1.
This is Lesson 7, God the Holy Spirit.
We will continue on page 45 in your handout.

We have discussed the doctrine of the Bible, we call that Bibliology. The doctrine of God, we call that Theology. The doctrine of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, we call this Christology. Our study of the Holy Spirit in this lesson is called Pneumatology.

The Holy Spirit is a member of the Triune God and is frequently tasked with carrying out God's work in the world. Although this is true in the Old Testament (Genesis 1:2 and many others), it is particularly true in the New Testament age (Acts 10:38; 2:4, 17–18; Romans 8:3, 12–13).

Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

Acts 2:4 "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Romans 8:12–13 "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

There are theological truths related to the Holy Spirit. First, let us consider the nature of the Holy Spirit.

- He is God. In Acts 5:3–4, Ananias was accused of lying to the Holy Spirit who is God; In 2 Corinthians 3:17–18 spiritual transformation comes through the Holy Spirit who is the Lord (God).
- He is a person not a force. He possesses Intellect (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11), Emotion (Ephesians 4:30), and Will (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; Acts 13:2). The Holy Spirit also speaks (Acts 13:2), teaches (John 14:26), distributes gifts (1 Cor 12:11), searches (1 Cor 2:10), testifies (John 15:26), guides (Acts 16:6–7), He can be grieved (Eph 4:30), He can be resisted (Acts 7:51), and He can be obeyed (Acts 10:19–21)

-
- He has attributes of Deity. Omniscience (Is 40:13-14), Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7), Eternal (Hebrews 9:14), Truth (I John 5:6-7, John 16:13)

There are also theological truths revealed in the work of the Holy Spirit.

- He is the Co-Creator of the world (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 104:29-30)
"When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground."
- He is the Creator of mankind (Job 33:4)
"The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."
- He Inspired the writing of the Bible (II Peter 1:20-21)
"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
- He is our Helper (John 14:16-17)
"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and 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."
- He Convicts of the world of sin before salvation (John 16:7-11)
"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."
- He regenerates, baptizes, and indwells believers at moment of salvation (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5-6; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13)
"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior."
- He seals us after salvation (Ephesians 1:13; II Corinthians 1:22)
"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."
- He empowers us for his service (Acts 1:8)

- He teaches believers (I Corinthians 2:12-13)
- He Sanctifies at salvation and continually over time (I Peter 1:2)
“who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood.”

Read Acts 1:8

BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU,
 AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO
 THE END OF THE EARTH.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon believers, not just be with us but indwell us, and empower us for service and many other things. The work of God the Holy Spirit can be categorized into a few distinct ways.

1. Empowers
2. Purifies
3. Reveals
4. Unifies

Let us discuss each of these ways that the Holy Spirit works in us.

The Holy Spirit Empowers

- **The Holy Spirit gives life.**
 The Holy Spirit grants us new spiritual life in Christ (John 3:6-7). It was the Holy Spirit that conceived Jesus in the womb of Mary, his mother (Matthew 1:18), and when Jesus returns, it will be the Holy Spirit that brings resurrection life to the mortal bodies of all who have died in Christ (Romans 8:11).

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”

- **The Holy Spirit gives power to serve God.**
 In the days of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit empowered Joshua with leadership skills. *So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him. (Numbers 27:18)*
 He empowered Judges such as Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and others to deliver Israel. He also empowered the kings of Israel (I Samuel 11:6; 16:13 and many others). His ministry was limited in many respects and he did not permanently indwell his people.

In the New Testament era, the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus (Matthew 3:16), and empowers his disciples (Acts 1:8). His work among early Christians involved miracles

associated with the preaching of the gospel (Acts 6:5, 8). He also empowered their preaching (Acts 4:8).

Today, the Holy Spirit grants spiritual gifts to equip Christians for ministry (I Corinthians 12:7, 11) *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”*

He Helps to make our prayers powerful and effective (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 through wordless groans.”*

The Holy Spirit also empowers believers to overcome spiritual opposition to the gospel and God’s work in our lives (Matthew 12:22-29).

The Holy Spirit Purifies

- **The Holy Spirit cleanses believers and sets us apart from sin, so we can live righteously (I Corinthians 6:11, I Peter 1:2 Titus 3:4-7).**

“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

This means he does the initial cleansing work in new believers causing them to break their former patterns (I Corinthians 6:11). He also produces ‘the fruit of the Spirit’ within us (Galatians 5:22-23). He transforms us progressively causing us to increasingly reflect the image of God (2 Corinthians 3:18).

- **The Holy Spirit also has a restraining influence in the world, inhibiting sin from being fully expressed (II Thessalonians 2:7).**

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.”

The Holy Spirit Reveals

The revealing ministry of the Holy Spirit can be described in seven general areas:

- **He gave revelation to the prophets and apostles.**
He spoke to and through the Old Testament prophets. Many of his revelations to

those prophets became the Old Testament itself. He also spoke to the apostles who wrote most of the New Testament (II Peter 1:21). Others such as Zechariah (Luke 1:67), Elisabeth (Luke 1:41) and others were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke or sang words which became part of the New Testament.

- **He gives evidence of God's presence.**

The Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus (John 15:26) *"When the Advocate 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."*

He also makes himself known by phenomena that indicate his activity in both the Old and New Testament periods. He came upon the 70 elders with Moses who then prophesied (Numbers 11:25-26). He empowered the judges to do mighty deeds. He also empowered kings in Israel and revealed His will to the prophets. He made his presence visible when He came upon Jesus (John 1:32). He manifested Himself as the sound of rushing wind and tongues of flame when the first Christian believers were indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-3). During the apostolic era, he revealed Himself through the exercise of miraculous gifts as well as other signs and wonders (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6).

- **He reveals scriptural truths to the hearts of believers.**

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit within us would be like a river of living water flowing out of us (John 7:38-39).

"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16). He provides a guarantee or a down payment of our future fellowship with Him in heaven (II Corinthians 1:22; 5:5) He reveals his desires to us so that we can be led by those desires and follow them (Romans. 8:4–16; Galatians. 5:16–25). Finally, He gives gifts that manifest his presence (I Corinthians 12:7–11).

- **He guides God's people.**

Scripture gives many examples of direct guidance from the Holy Spirit. He led Jesus into the wilderness where He was tempted (Matthew 4:1).

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."

- **He recreates Christians in godliness.**

He brings about a God-like atmosphere wherever He is active. Thus, in the lives of believers He brings conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11), pours God's love into our hearts (Romans 5:5), *"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*

The Holy Spirit brings us peace, joy, and clarity (I Corinthians 14:33), bears Christlike fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23) and helps us to grasp all the various truths taught in Scripture concerning salvation. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

- **He gives God’s people assurance.**

The Holy Spirit bears witness “with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:16), and gives evidence of the work of God within us (I John 3:24; I John 4:13).

“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”

- **He teaches and illumines.**

Jesus promised this teaching function especially to his disciples (John 14:26; 16:13). He also promised that when His disciples were put on trial because of persecution, the Holy Spirit would teach them what to say (Luke 12:12; cf. Matt. 10:20; Mark 13:11).

“Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.”

The illuminating work of the Holy Spirit enables us to understand spiritual truth (I Cor. 2:12).

“What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.”

The Holy Spirit Unifies

In the event of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit created a new community called the Church. The community was marked by unprecedented unity (Acts 2:42-47). Paul blessed the Corinthian church by seeking the unifying fellowship of the Holy Spirit for all of them (2 Corinthians 13:14). Paul appealed for unity in the Philippian church referring to the unifying work of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:1–2).

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”

He reminded the Ephesian believers of the unity which can be brought about through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:3). The Holy Spirit even unifies Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:18, 22).

Jesus prays for oneness/unity within His church (John 17:20-23).

The Apostle Paul emphasizes the unity of the church in Ephesians 4:1-6.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Our response to the Holy Spirit matters!

Many biblical examples show that the Holy Spirit will bestow or withdraw blessing based on the will and behavior of the people involved. **He never removes His presence though from believers under the New Covenant!**

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came mightily upon Samson and others several times (Judg. 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14), but ultimately left him when he persisted in sin (Judg. 16:20).
- Paul warns, “Do not *grieve the Holy Spirit of God*” (Eph. 4:30) and “Do not *quench the Spirit*” (I Thess. 5:19). This represents discipline but not departure of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul warned Christians against sexual sin due to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians. 6:19–20).

On the other hand, in the life of Christians whose conduct is pleasing to God brings great blessing, by God’s grace.

- We can experience close fellowship and partnership with the Holy Spirit in our lives (II Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1).
- He entrusts to us gifts (I Cor. 12:11) and truth (II Tim. 1:14) and ministries (Acts 20:28).
- Jesus promised that the life given us by the Spirit would overflow like “rivers of living water” (John 7:38–39).
- The presence of the Holy Spirit rests especially on those who suffer for the sake of Christ (I Peter 4:14).

Lesson Review

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer. God is permanently with each of us. He meets all of our spiritual needs. He empowers us with spiritual life and the ability to serve God. He purifies us and restrains sin in the world. He reveals God's presence to us and teaches us through the Scriptures all that we need to know enabling us to obey it and granting us assurance of our salvation. He brings unity to his people in the place of jealousy, suspicion and hatred.

The chart on the next page of the transcript can be used as a helpful review to summarize key doctrinal truths related to God the Holy Spirit. Let us walk through them as we consider the doctrinal truth and its meaning. I will read the truth and then pause briefly, giving you an opportunity to respond with your definition or description of each truth. Then I will read the meaning provided in the handout. Take note of the key Scripture references for each truth as well. As you become more familiar with each truth, you will be able to at least summarize the point and context of each passage, if not eventually quote many of these verses from memory.

Are you ready? Turn to page

Pneumatology: the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit		
TRUTH	PASSAGES	MEANING
Deity of the Holy Spirit	1 Cor. 2:11 Rom. 8:9-11 Eph. 4:4	The titles, attributes, and works of the Holy Spirit each attest to His deity as the third person of the Trinity.
Personality of the Holy Spirit	Rom. 8:27 Eph. 4:30 Acts 16:6-11	As a member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit has the attributes of a person: intellect, emotions, and will.
Work of the Holy Spirit in OT	Ps. 51:11 Gen. 41:38 Judg. 3:10 Jn. 14:16-17	In the OT, the Holy Spirit's ministry was selective, being temporary and transitory, meaning that His work was limited in extent, duration, and effect.
Regeneration of the Holy Spirit	Titus 3:5 Rom. 6:20 2 Cor. 5:17	Regeneration is the act by which God, through the Holy Spirit, grants eternal life to each believer, resulting in a new nature.
Baptism of the Holy Spirit	1 Cor. 12:13 Eph. 4:5 Mark 1:7-8	Through the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit, each believer is placed eternally into the body of Christ. Baptism is <i>not</i> equal to filling.
Sealing of the Holy Spirit	2 Cor. 1:22 Eph. 1:14; 4:30	The gift of the Holy Spirit is a guarantee (security) of the believer's salvation.
Indwelling of the Holy Spirit	Jn. 16:5-15 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19 2 Cor. 5:5	Each believer is given the Holy Spirit as a gift, residing <i>in</i> Him to lead him to truth and righteousness.
Filling of the Holy Spirit	Eph. 5:18 Acts 2:4; 4:31 Col. 3:16	Through filling, the Holy Spirit's ministries are worked in and through the believer. Unlike regeneration, baptism, sealing and indwelling, this is a repeated activity.
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Rom. 12:4-8 1 Cor. 12 Eph. 4:11-13 1 Pt. 4:7-11	The Holy Spirit equips believers with a gift(s) to build up the body of Christ.
Fruit of the Holy Spirit	Gal. 5:22-23	As a result of filling, the Holy Spirit's work will be realized and recognized in the life of the believer.

This concludes Lesson 7 on God the Holy Spirit. Our final lesson for this course will focus on a summary of doctrinal truths related to the Trinity. This will bring together much of what we have discussed in Lesson 2 through 7 on God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.