

# Section 5

## THINGS I BELIEVE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

This area of study is often called PNEUMATOLOGY  
(the study of the Spirit)

### WHY IS A UNDERSTANDING HOLY SPIRIT STUFF DIFFICULT?

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is often more difficult to understand, partly because:

- There is less specific revelation in Scripture compared to the Father and Son
- There are no systematic discussions regarding the Holy Spirit
- In most cases, mention of the Spirit is connected with other issues
- There is a lack of concrete imagery – we have familiarity with Father and Son
- Unfortunate translations reinforce incorrect perceptions

### WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE?

The Holy Spirit is **GOD** (Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:11, cf. vs. 18)

He possesses **GOD'S ATTRIBUTES**

Eternity (*Hebrews 9:14*) Omnipresence (*Psalms 139:7-10*)  
Omniscience (*1 Cor. 2:10-11*) Omnipotence (*Luke 1:35*)

He does what only **GOD CAN DO**

Creation (*Genesis 1:2*) Regeneration (*John 3:7-8*)  
Resurrection (*Romans 8:11*)

The Holy Spirit is a **PERSON**

He has all the characteristics:

Life (John 6:63; 2 Cor 3:3,6)

Intellect (John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:11)

Will (1 Cor 12:11)

Emotions (Ephesians 4:30)

His **ACTIVITIES** reflect His “personhood”

(Speaking, Interceding, Teaching)

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a person (John 14:16-17)

## WHAT WORKS DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

He was active at **CREATION**

(Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Ps 104:29-30)

He is the author of **SCRIPTURE**

(2 Peter 1:21; John 16:12-13; 1 Cor 2:13)

He **AUTHENTICATES** what is Scripture

(2 Cor 4:3-6; 1 Thess 1:5)

He **INTERPRETS** Scripture

(1 Cor 2:10b-11; 1 John 2:20, 27)

He was involved in the **CONCEPTION** of Jesus

(Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:35)

He was active during the **EARTHLY LIFE** of Jesus

(Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:1)

He was active in the death and **RESURRECTION** of Jesus

(Heb 9:14; Romans 8:11)

## HOW HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERACTED WITH MAN?

**BEFORE** Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given temporarily, providing special empowerment to particular persons for a specific purpose.

(e.g. governing nations; military leadership; unusual strength; artistic workmanship; prophetic ministry; performance of miracles)

**AFTER** Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is given permanently, indwelling & empowering the New Testament believer for a life of holiness and for special acts of service.

## WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO IN THE CHURCH?

He creates the church (1 Cor 12:13)

He indwells the church (1 Cor 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:21-22)

He guides the church in appointing overseers & giving gifts  
(Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 12:4-11)

He unifies the church (Ephesians 4:3)

## WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO IN THE BELIEVER?

**REGENERATION** = at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature and grants new life to the believer.  
(John 3:3-7)

**SPIRIT BAPTISM** = the work of the Holy Spirit whereby He brings the believer into spiritual union with Jesus and all other believers throughout the Church age, thus making them part of the Body of Christ. (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5)

NOTE: Spirit Baptism is not Water Baptism.

Jesus baptizes with the Spirit (reality) while men baptize with water (symbol)

Spirit baptism is for true believers, water baptism is for professing believers.

Spirit baptism results in actual identification with Christ, not just public confession

The true church (body) is made up of all Spirit baptized, not water baptized

**SEALING** = the work of the Father who sets the Holy Spirit as a seal upon each believer for the purpose of proclaiming ownership and guaranteeing the completion of the work of salvation. (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5)

**INDWELLING** = the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, both corporately in the Body of Christ, the Church and individually in each believer. (John 14:17; Rom. 8:9 John 7:37-39)



**FILLING** = the controlling and empowering work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. (Eph. 5:18; Gal 5:16ff).

There are two types of experiences:

Control and empowerment for special acts of service

Control and empowerment for living the Christian life

The fullness of the Spirit is an issue of **SELF** versus the **SPIRIT**

The fullness of the Spirit will produce the **FRUIT** of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

## WHAT ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Directly related to being FILLED with the Spirit are the GIFTS of the spirit.

Spiritual gifts refer to the unique empowerment for special acts of service.

(Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11)

- These passages do not present an exhaustive list of gifts.
- Some listed gifts are viewed by many as “sign gifts” used until canon completed
- The gifts chosen to be talked about are driven by the context
- Spiritual gifts tests should only be used if their limitations are understood

## WHAT IS THE “UNPARDONABLE/UNFORGIVABLE SIN”?

Taken from Matthew 12:31-32 and Mark 3:28-30, the “unforgivable sin” is when the works Christ performed by the Holy Spirit were credited to **SATAN**

Many believe that this specific sin cannot be reproduced today, for it required Jesus’ presence on earth with Him performing miracles through the Spirit’s power.