

# 1 • Who (or What) is the Holy Spirit?



That's a question worth diving into because it helps us get to know God better. We'll move quickly through the list below (leaving plenty of time for discussion together), but the **BIG**

idea for today's session is simple: the Holy Spirit is not a "what." The Holy Spirit is a "who." The Holy Spirit is not an "it"—some impersonal force in the universe like gravity. The Holy Spirit is a personal being—a "he" who is described in a wide variety of ways:

- ✦ The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ (**Gen 1:2**): hovering over the face of the waters
- ✦ The \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit (**Heb 9:14**): Christ offered himself through
- ✦ The \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit (**Acts 1:8**): the apostles would "receive power" when he had come upon them
- ✦ The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 16:13**): "he will guide you into all the truth"
- ✦ The \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 14:26**): sent by the Father in the name of the Son

## Okay, but what is "he" LIKE?

- ✦ He has a \_\_\_\_\_ (**Rom 8:27**): he who searches hearts knows
- ✦ He has a \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Cor 12:11**): he apportions to each one individually
- ✦ He is \_\_\_\_\_ (**Psa 139:7**): "Where shall I go from?"
- ✦ He is \_\_\_\_\_ (**Neh 9:20**): the Father gave his good Spirit to instruct

## Okay, but what does "he" DO?

- ✦ He \_\_\_\_\_ (**Rom 15:30**): "I appeal to you, brothers"
- ✦ He \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Tim 4:1**): he "expressly says"
- ✦ Bears \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 15:26**): the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father
- ✦ \_\_\_\_\_ (**Rom 8:26**): the Spirit helps us in our weakness
- ✦ \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 16:8**): concerning sin and righteousness and judgment
- ✦ \_\_\_\_\_ (**Rev 22:17**): the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

**Okay, but is this really that important?** Does the Holy Spirit really have anything to do with me? Just listen to what the Holy Spirit experiences because of what human beings do:

- ✦ He can be \_\_\_\_\_ (**Eph 4:30**): do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God
- ✦ He can be \_\_\_\_\_ (**Heb 10:29**): how much worse punishment deserved?
- ✦ He can be listened to or \_\_\_\_\_ (**Acts 7:51**): "you stiff-necked people"

Over the next few weeks, we'll dig into what we can learn about God the Father, God the Son, and especially God the Spirit. For the rest of our class time, let's explore together where we can see all three of them at work...

## For Class & Family Discussion:

▸ At various times throughout our Bibles, we can see God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, all present and active in the same scene. Let's open our Bibles and read these accounts together. What can we learn? What stands out to you? How are Father, Son, and Spirit different, but working perfectly together in what we're reading?

- **Matthew 3:16-17**: at the baptism of Jesus
- **John 3:28-36**: John's description of Jesus
- **John 14:25-26**: Jesus' promise to his apostles
- **Matthew 28:18-20**: at the heart of the "Great Commission"
- **Acts 10:36-38**: Peter's proclamation of the gospel to Cornelius and his household
- **2 Corinthians 13:14**: Paul's prayer for the saints in Corinth
- **Ephesians 2:14-18**: Paul's message of unifying peace between Jew and Gentile

What we're being shown is three distinct personalities that enjoy perfect unity and harmony.

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." (**Gen 1:26**)

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." (**Deut 6:4**)

We'll dig a little deeper into that profound idea next week.