**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

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Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Holy Spirit is an intricate part of scripture. He was here at the creation of the earth hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:2) and He was with John when he wrote the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:10). He was with David when he wrote Psalms (Psalm 51:11).

Joel prophesied about the Spirits coming in the Old Testament

Joel 2:28–29 **28**“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

John the Baptist prophesied about the Spirit coming in the New Testament.

Mark 1:8 I baptize you with[a] water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

We find the Holy Spirit at work throughout the New Testament:

* Jesus was led by the Spirit (Matthew 4:1).
* Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit (Matthew 12:8).
* The Holy Spirit brings power (Acts 1:8).
* The Holy Spirit speaks (Acts 13:2).
* He spoke through the prophets of old (Acts 28:25).
* He brings joy (Romans 14:17).
* He teaches us (1Corinthians 2:13).
* He lives inside of us (1Corinthians 6:19, 2Timothy 1:14).
* Bible Prophecy was given by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

In the Old testament we don’t find as much about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but we do see mention of people who had the spirit

* Joshua was in the Spirit (Numbers 27:18)
* The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel the Judge (Judges 3:10)
* the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14)
* David declared that “the Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue” (2 Sam. 23:2).
* Ezekiel reported that “the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me” (Ezek. 2:2).

Jesus promises his disciples that he would send a helper, the Holy Spirit, after he was gone.

John 14:15-20, 25-26 “If you love me, keep my commands. 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. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.---25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 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.

It is important to realize that you are not alone, for the same Comforter that Jesus sent is still with us today. He arrived over 2000 years ago on the day of Pentecost and He is still with us today.

The word that He used for “Helper” is “Paraclete” from the Greek word parakletos meaning one who gives support, a helper, adviser, encourager, ally, comforter, someone who advocates for another / defender.

Jesus told the disciples that it was to their advantage that He went away, for where Jesus (as a human) could only be in one place at a time, the Holy Spirit could be with all of us all the time.

The disciples were sad when Jesus explained that he was going away but he gave them these words of comfort:

John 16:6–7 “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

**So who is the Comforter / Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is a distinct divine person. Jesus called Him a helper or advocate.

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

**He speaks**

Acts 1:16 and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus

Acts 10:19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you.

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.”

**He spoke through the Old testament prophets**

2 Peter 1:21 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.

Ezekiel 11:5 Then the Spirit of the Lord came on me (Ezekiel), and he told me to say: “This is what the Lord says: That is what you are saying, you leaders in Israel, but I know what is going through your mind.

# He gives instruction

# Acts 8:29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

# Acts 11:12 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them…

**He teaches**

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.

**He Knows the thoughts of God**

1 Corinthians 2:11 **11**For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

**He witnesses for Christ**

John 15:26 **6**“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 intercedes for us**

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.

**He can be grieved (Unforgivable Sin)**

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**He gives us spiritual gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.  To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Jesus described the Spirit as river of living water and like the Wind blowing

John 7:37–39 🡪 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 3: 8 🡪The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is always with us, guiding us, speaking to us, and it is His presence that you feel on you and burning within you.

Galatians 5:22-24 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such thbings there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

It is when you are acting in this way, no matter how the world is treating you, that you know the Spirit is with you.

When you have a need, it is the Holy Spirit who will prompt others to help you. When you need comfort, it is the Comforter who brings it.

All God’s work in us and through us, touching our hearts, our characters, and our conduct, is done by the Spirit. He is carrying out the orders of the Lord on Earth.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ each receive the Holy Spirit and He is the witness who guides them.

After Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit and He has never left us. So, know that you are not alone. Jesus did not leave us. The Holy Spirit surrounds us and fills us. He knows what we are going through. He knows how you feel inside and He understands your every need. He sees your pain and tears.

There is hope, for He can open the doors that we need opened. He can make a way, where there seems to be no way. As we pray and submit to God’s by saying: “May Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven”, the Holy Spirit will help make that become a reality in our own life.

Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit, to help and comfort the disciples after he went away because He knew they would need someone to comfort them. The holy Spirit is still here today to Help and Comfort us as we navigate a fallen word so we can follow a risen savior.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit/>

**See lesson: Filled with the Spirit**