

The Holy Spirit

Chapter 2

God has not left us alone in this world. He has sent us His Holy Spirit who lives and dwells within us.

Read through John 14:15-27

In this passage Jesus is talking to His disciples about his death, He tells his disciples that although he will no longer be there, He will send them the Holy Spirit who will be with them forever.

What other names does Jesus use for the Holy Spirit in this Passage ?

The Holy Spirit is a person

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. He is a person who we can come to know and trust.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead or Trinity. The Trinity is God in three persons (not three Gods). God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three are individual persons but they are all one God.

This can be hard to understand but this is part of the mystery of God. Our minds can't always fully comprehend everything about God. He is much bigger than our minds.

The Holy Spirit is represented in different ways in the Bible. He is represented by:

Fire:	brings purity, holiness
Water:	brings refreshing
Dove:	peace, gentleness
Oil:	anointing and consecration
Wind:	comes in power

The Bible also tells us of the traits of the Holy Spirit, which shows us that He is a person not a force.

Look up the following scriptures and write the personality trait described next to each one

1 Corinthians 2:10-11	<i>e.g. He Knows</i>
1 Corinthians 12:11	_____
Acts 8:29, Acts 13:2	_____
Ephesians 4:30	_____

What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit does many things in our lives and there are many scriptures in the Bible that highlight the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as children of God.

Some are listed in the table below. Look up the scriptures and discover some of the ways in which the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives.

1 Corinthians 3:16	_____
Romans 8:26	_____
John 14:26	_____
Romans 8:16	_____
John 16:8	_____
Acts 1:8	_____

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

When we become a Christian, the Holy Spirit begins to dwell within us from the point of our salvation. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

There is another dimension to the Holy Spirit however and that is what is known as the baptism of the Holy Spirit or being filled with the Spirit.

All Christians have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them but not all Christians are baptized in (or filled with), the Holy Spirit. This is something we have to ask God for, it is a gift he freely gives to all who desire it.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to all believers (Acts 2:38-39) and its purpose is to empower us in our Christian life. When we minister or serve in the Kingdom of God it should be through the empowering of the Holy Spirit not our own natural ability.

How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

There are three things that are needed in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit. These are outlined in John 7:37-39.

- We need to desire it (thirst)
- We need to ask God for it (come)
- We need to receive it by faith (drink)

The Holy Spirit will not force himself upon you, He will only fill those who desire to have Him as part of their lives. Repentance is also important. God can only fill clean vessels so repent of any known sin in your life before asking God to fill you with His Spirit.

Often God uses another believer to impart the filling of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. You can ask another mature believer such as a Pastor or your Lifegroup leader or the person doing this booklet with you, to pray for you to be filled with the Spirit.

As that person is praying for you receive what God is giving you through faith. Don't wait for feelings or emotions or a special experience. These may happen but not always. Receive in faith, believing in the promise of the Holy Spirit. If you do your part, through repentance, asking and being open to receive, trust God to do His.

Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit that he is giving you. Tell Him you receive it. Be open to what God wants to do in you. An outward sign of being filled with the Spirit is the ability to speak in tongues. Let this new language flow out from you as you are filled. It may happen quickly but sometimes it can take time to develop. The Bible tells us in Psalm 81:10 that if we open our mouth, God will fill it.

A continuous experience

Being filled with the Spirit is something that needs to be a continuous part of our Christian life. We are baptized in the Spirit only once but being filled with the Spirit is something that is ongoing. The fullness of the Spirit can be lost through sin and disobedience, through relying on ourselves rather than God. We are also leaky vessels; we need to continually abide in God to maintain the fullness of His Spirit. We need to come before God often and ask Him to refill us with His Spirit. We should never expect one filling to last us forever.

The more we have of the Spirit of God the more we will thirst for even more and the more he uses us through the power of His Spirit in our lives the more of Him we need!

Questions:

How do you think being filled with the Spirit can make a difference to your life as a Christian?

Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Yes / No

If yes, share how and when this happened with the person you are doing this book with.

Do you desire to be filled with, or baptized in, the Holy Spirit?

Yes / I don't feel ready yet

If not, what do you feel is holding you back from taking this step?

The person doing this booklet with you can pray with you about this.

Spend time this week learning the memory verse at the beginning of the chapter.



If you feel you are ready to receive the Holy Spirit now you can ask the person doing this booklet to pray with you.