



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Genesis 1:2

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Matthew 3:16-17

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 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.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 5:3-4

3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

LET'S OBSERVE...

Observe the *Nature* of the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1:2

- Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was _____ over the waters.
 - ***Usage:** The Hebrew verb "rachaph" primarily conveys the action of hovering or brooding, often with a sense of gentle movement or protective oversight. It is used to describe a motion that is tender and nurturing, akin to a bird hovering over its young. This word is employed in contexts that suggest care, protection, and the impartation of life or energy.
 - ***Cultural and Historical Background:** In ancient Near Eastern cultures, the imagery of a bird hovering or brooding over its nest was a powerful symbol of care and protection. This metaphor was often used to describe divine activity, suggesting a deity's nurturing and life-giving presence. The concept of "rachaph" aligns with this cultural understanding, portraying God's Spirit as actively involved in creation and sustenance.

*Resource: BibleHub.com Strong's Lexicon

Observe the Trinity in Matthew 3:16-17

- Circle Jesus
- Underline the presence of the Holy Spirit
- Draw a box around the manifestation of God the Father

Observe the Functions of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16

- And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.
 - Underline in verse 16 words that indicate the function & purpose of the Holy Spirit.

Observe Acts 5:3-4

- Verse 3 - Circle who Ananias lied to.
- Verse 4 - Circle who Ananias lied to.
 - Can we conclude that the Holy Spirit is God?
 - Or is He someone else?

Observe 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

- Further evidence that the Holy Spirit is indeed God.



CONCORDANCE ACTIVITY

Look up the following words:



Spirit: Hebrew: רוח (*ruach*)
Strong's H7307



Holy Spirit: Greek: πνεῦμα ἅγιον (*pneuma hagion*)
Strong's G4151 & G40



God: Greek: θεός (*theos*)
Strong's G2316



Spirit: Greek: πνεῦμα (*pneuma*)
Strong's G4151



Truth: Greek: ἀλήθεια (*aletheia*)
Strong's G225



Comforter: Greek: παράκλητος (*parakletos*)
Strong's G3875



ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITY

Observe Acts 1:8

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for Acts 1:8, and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Greek"
 - Scroll down & read each word's Greek definition.
 - Feel free to click on *Power* - Strong's 1411 dynamin (for more detailed info).

Acts 1:8 Bible

Enter Reference or Keyword

Bible Hub App | Login

NIV NLT ESV BSB KJV NKJ NAS A

PAR STU AUD VIS COM INT GRK LE

PopVerse: Free Chrome Extension

◀ Acts 1:8 ▶

Audio Cross Study Comm Greek

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

New Living Translation
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout



LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.

NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

The Holy Spirit is not just a force or an influence—He is God, active and present in our lives. From the very beginning, Genesis 1:2 shows us that the Spirit was there, hovering over the waters, bringing order to chaos. The word used in this passage gives the image of a bird brooding over its nest, protecting and preparing for life to emerge. This is the nature of the Holy Spirit—He covers, nurtures, and brings life where there was none. Even today, He moves in our lives in the same way, stirring our hearts, shaping us, and guiding us toward God's purpose.

Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit as our Advocate (John 14:16-17), someone who walks with us, speaks for us, and stands by us when we feel lost or alone. An advocate isn't just a distant helper but someone who is deeply involved, fighting for us, interceding, and reminding us of what is true. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended on Him like a dove (Matthew 3:16-17), a symbol of both peace and divine approval. This same Spirit is given to us, not just to comfort us but to empower us. Jesus told His followers in Acts 1:8 that the Holy Spirit would give them power—a strength that isn't their own but comes directly from God to accomplish what they never could on their own.

In Acts 5:3-4, Peter made it clear that lying to the Holy Spirit is the same as lying to God, emphasizing that the Spirit isn't just a part of God but is fully God Himself. This means He isn't just an add-on to our faith but the very presence of God within us. Paul reinforces this in 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, saying, "The Lord is the Spirit," and where the Spirit is, there is freedom. The Holy Spirit transforms us, taking us from who we were to who we are meant to be, shaping us into the image of Christ.

At His core, the Holy Spirit is deeply personal. He hovers over the chaos of our hearts, brings clarity where there's confusion, and strengthens us when we feel weak. He isn't distant or impersonal; He is the God who stays, who protects, who speaks life. Whether we feel ready or not, He is always at work, leading us into something greater than we could imagine.

The presence of the Holy Spirit isn't just a theological concept—it's a reality that changes how we live every day. He is the One who nudges us when we're about to go the wrong way, who brings peace when life feels overwhelming, and who empowers us to step into God's calling with boldness. Just like He hovered over the waters in Genesis, He hovers over our lives, shaping us, leading us, and reminding us that we are never alone. His work isn't just about moments of deep worship or big spiritual experiences; it's about walking with us in the ordinary, transforming us little by little until we reflect the image of Christ more fully.



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Where in your life do you sense the Holy Spirit hovering, bringing order to chaos, or calling you to trust Him more deeply?
- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit as your Advocate—whether through guidance, conviction, or comfort in difficult moments?
- Since the Holy Spirit empowers believers to live out God’s purpose, what is one area where you need to rely on His strength rather than your own?
- In what areas of your life do you need to invite the Holy Spirit to bring transformation or renewal?
- How can you be more intentional about recognizing and responding to the Holy Spirit’s presence and guidance in your daily life?

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I invite You to move in my life as You hovered over the waters in the beginning. Where there is chaos, bring peace. Where there is confusion, bring clarity. You are my Advocate, my Helper, the One who walks with me and strengthens me when I feel weak. Remind me that I am never alone, that You are always present, guiding me into truth and transforming me to reflect Christ. Soften my heart to hear Your voice, to respond when You lead, and to trust that You are working even when I don’t see it.

Fill me with Your power, Lord, so I don’t rely on my own strength but on Yours. Give me courage to walk in faith, wisdom to discern Your direction, and love to reflect Your heart in all I do. Help me surrender the areas of my life that I try to control, knowing that You are faithful to lead me where I need to go. Shape me, mold me, and use me for Your glory. Thank You for Your presence, Your comfort, and Your unfailing love. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.



Homework:

Read:
Matthew 28:19
John 16:13-15
1 Corinthians 2:10-12

Next Week: We will study the Holy Spirit in the Trinity.