

Lesson 5 Handout – The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

"The Trinity is the foundational Christian belief that God is one Being who exists in three Persons." The word *Trinity* means *three-in-one*. It's a mystery the Bible teaches. A beautiful mystery. The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Simply stated, God is one in essence and three in person. When we break this definition down we get three crucial truths:

- (1) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons,
- (2) each Person is fully God,
- (3) there is only one God.

(Ref: <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/core-christian-beliefs/understanding-the-trinity.html>)

This lesson will look at who the Holy Spirit is and introduce an opportunity for you to examine more closely in what particular ways God has shaped you to fit into his body, the church and how to help.

MEET THE HOLY SPIRIT

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Bible uses personal pronouns for the Holy Spirit

1. **He is a person** with whom we are called to have a personal relationship with, not an object or inanimate thing. **He is God** and has been in existence from before the beginning of Creation where He is talked about as brooding over the vapours of the earth in Genesis 1.

In Acts 5 Peter tells Ananias firstly that he was lying to the Holy Spirit in verse 3 and then reframes **the Holy Spirit as God** in verse 4.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

In Corinthians God and the Spirit are spoken of as one: **2 Cor. 3: 16 *The Lord is the Spirit who gives life.***

The New Testament tells us not to sin against the Holy Spirit, not to resist the Holy Spirit and not to grieve the Holy Spirit. He is set forth as a person whom we may either please or offend, who can love and be loved.

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

Mark 3:28–30: *"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but **whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin***

Acts 7:51 *"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"*

Jesus commanded baptism to be administered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and so declared that they are One God.

In **Matt 28:19** Jesus said, *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

2. The Holy Spirit is Everywhere –Omnipresent.

Psalms 139:7-8 *Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven you are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

(Note that in the above scripture the presence of the Holy Spirit is identified with the presence of God.)

3. The Holy Spirit is All- Knowing – Omniscient

1 Cor. 2:10-11 *The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 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.*

4. The Holy Spirit is All –Powerful – Omnipotent. He is Life Giving

The Holy Spirit authored the life of Jesus in Mary's womb: Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you: therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God".*

The Holy Spirit is the power source for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead:

Rom 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

5. The Holy Spirit is a gift for each of us to receive upon repenting and being baptised, Joel 2:28 speaking of a time when the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all of God's people – both men and women.

Acts 2: 38 *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit is described by Jesus as someone who would come to earth upon Jesus' own exit, in order to give us, his disciples, the assistance we would need to live in obedience to him, reminding us of everything Jesus has taught us and teaching us himself all that we need to know (John 14).

John 14 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^[a] in you.

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.

2 Cor. 3 18 *And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us we become more and more like him.*

John 15 13 *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.*

The Holy Spirit teaches us, comforts us, guides us and encourages us.

He gives us the power to:

- **be bold** - *2 Tim 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*
- **witness for Jesus** – *Acts 1:8 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.*
- **exercise supernatural gifts** – *1 Cor. 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*
- **produce good qualities in our lives** – *Gal 5: 22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- **receive God's love** – *Rom. 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*
- **understand God's word** – *John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*
- **pray** – *Rom 8:26 The Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't even know what we should pray for nor how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows of course what the Spirit is saying as he pleads for us in harmony with God's will.*

If you wish now to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, simply invite Him into your life to do all that is promised above. If you are working through this lesson with a mentor, he or she can pray in agreement with you. God promises in Luke 11:13: that

Luke 11: 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Part two of this lesson is to do with examining how it is that you might be best able to serve others in God's church. It is very relevant that this lesson follows on from our look at the person of the HS because it is the HS who enables us to have and to use the special gifts that God has given each one of us.

We have already read through 1 Cor 12: 7-11 above which lists some of the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us to help and serve one another with. Other gifts which are mentioned in the NT can include administration, encouragement, helps, hospitality, evangelism, giving, teaching and leadership.

Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback church in America has developed a great online tool for revealing what your gift may be. He has called it SHAPE:

S – Spiritual Gifts – What God has gifted you supernaturally to do

H - Heart – What you have a passion for and love to do

A - Abilities – What natural talents and skills you have

P – Personality – Where does your personality best suit you to serve

E – Experiences – What educational, ministry, spiritual, painful experiences you may have had.

Please follow the link below to this assessment, and together with your mentor discuss your results. If you are working through this material on your own, then one of the Pastors here at SCF would be more than happy to discuss your results with you.

<https://daybreak-academy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/S.H.A.P.E-Assessment-DA.pdf>