

Why We Need the Holy Spirit



*"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, **the Advocate** [the Holy Spirit] won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."* John 16:7 NLT

- What comes to your mind when you hear the name - the Holy Spirit?

The early disciples were just average, hard-working men. They did not have higher education, special training, specialized skills, or the personalities that would qualify them to be the leaders of a movement that would impact the world. Yet these ordinary men, the disciples of Jesus Christ, were said to have **turned their world upside down** (cf. Acts 17:6 NLT, KJT). They were ordinary people who accomplished the extraordinary.

How did they do it? They had inside help. They had the power of the Holy Spirit working *in* and *through* them. They were able to take on the world because of the Holy Spirit in their lives. *The Holy Spirit wants to work in and through you, too.*

The Central Lesson

The Holy Spirit empowers ordinary people to live on an extraordinary level. Invite Him to control your life.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

1. He Is a **PERSON** - He Has Intellect, Emotions, Will, and Personality.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future." John 16:13 NLT

He has intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-11), feelings (Eph. 4:30), and will (1 Cor. 12:11). He teaches (John 14:26), guides (Rom. 8:14), commissions/sends (Acts 13:2-4), commands (Acts 8:29), restrains/strives/contends (Gen. 6:3), intercedes (Rom. 8:26), and speaks/testifies (John 15:26; 2 Pet. 1:21). He can be obeyed (Acts 10:19-23), lied to (Acts 5:3), resisted (Acts 7:51), blasphemed/slandered (Matt. 12:31), grieved (Eph. 4:30), and insulted (Heb. 10:29).

2. He Is the **THIRD** Person of the **TRINITY** - Equal with the Father and the Son.

"³ Then Peter said, 'Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit.... ⁴ ...How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!'" Acts 5:3-5 NLT

He is called God (Acts 5:3-4); He is listed in scripture as an equal with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19). NOTE: *the word "name" is singular.* Also cf. 2 Cor. 13:14; He has the divine attributes of God: All-knowing (1 Cor. 2:10-11), All-present (Psalm 139:7), All-powerful (Gen. 1:2), Holiness (Luke 11:13) Truth (1 John 5:6), Life (Rom. 8:2), and Wisdom (Isaiah 40:13).

3. He Is the **SPIRIT** of **JESUS** - Jesus Dwells in Every Christ Follower's Heart by the Holy Spirit.

"And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father.'" Acts 16:7 NLT

The Holy Spirit is called "*the Spirit of his Son*" (Gal. 4:6), "*the Spirit of Jesus*" (Acts 16:7), "*the Spirit of Christ*" (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Peter 1:11). The Bible also teaches that Jesus dwells within **every** Christian (Colossians 1:27). Also cf. Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 13:5; Rom. 8:10; John 14:20).

4. He **INDWELLS** Every Follower of Christ and Makes Them His **TEMPLE** (Rom. 8:9, 11. 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Tim. 1:14; John 14:17).

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?...." 1 Corinthians 6:19 NLT

Not only are there clear statements that say the Holy Spirit dwells "in" the follower of Christ, but Paul explains the believer's body is "*...the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you....*" (1 Cor. 6:19). In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God dwelt in the physical tabernacle and later the temple of Solomon. However, after the birth of the Church during Pentecost (Acts 2), the individual **physical bodies of every believer** have become **the temple** (Greek: "**the Holy of Holies**") where the Holy Spirit dwells. Wherever you go, the Holy Spirit goes with you, because He lives in you!

5. He Is the **REPLACEMENT** of the Physical Bodily **PRESENCE** of Jesus in the World Today. (16:7; 14:26).

"...it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate [the Holy Spirit] won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you." John 16:7 NLT

Jesus is now in heaven. However, the Holy Spirit is on the earth **today** (John 16:7; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 7:39). Christ's presence on earth was **limited to one place at a time**. His leaving to ascend into heaven and sending the Holy Spirit meant he could be present **to the whole world** through the Holy Spirit.

NLT Illustrated Study Bible explains: "On four occasions, Jesus used an unusual word... 'advocate'... to describe the Holy Spirit (14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). The same term occurs in Greek literature, where it refers to a **legal advocate** - someone who speaks in a person's defense and provides legal counsel. 'Counselor' is a popular translation of this term, but the therapeutic connotations of this word in contemporary English are misleading; the older legal meaning of a lawyer **providing advice or counsel** is closer... Comforter' is another popular translation, but this is also misleading; the older English meaning of someone who **strengthens** (an 'encourager') is more accurate to the NT concept..." "Jesus described the Spirit as *another* Advocate (14:16). Jesus, who is the first advocate (see 1 Jn 2:1), sent a second Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Every task of the Spirit in John 14:1-16:33 is a task Jesus undertook elsewhere in the Gospel. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to **encourage, instruct, and strengthen** his followers... The Spirit now continues the work of Jesus and his presence in the life of believers (14:16-24)."

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

He will **never leave** the believer (14:16). He **leads** the believer into all truth (14:17) and **lives "in"** the believer (14:17). He will **teach** and **remind** the believer of God's Word and teachings (14:26). He **testifies** about Jesus (15:26) and **helps** the believer to **testify** about Christ (15:27). He **convicts** of sin, God's righteousness, and coming judgment (16:8). He **guides** the believer into all truth and about the future (16:13). He **glorifies** Jesus (16:15).

The Holy Spirit empowers ordinary people to live on an extraordinary level. Invite Him to control your life.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.