

The Holy Spirit

Part 1



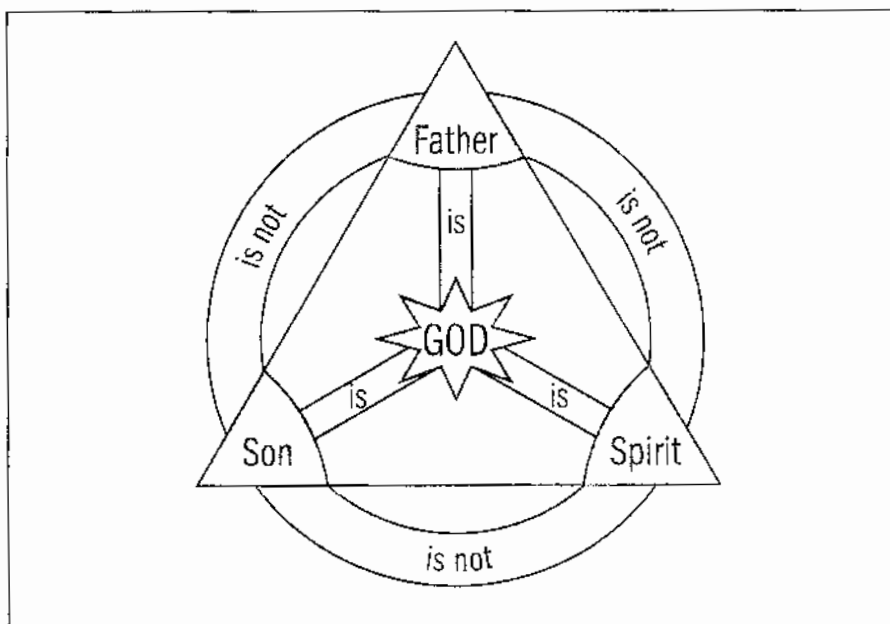
Life Change Objectives

- To experience a new sense of security in your relationship with God based on the presence of his Spirit in your life.
- To see with eyes of faith how the Holy Spirit is at work in your life.

To most of us, the Holy Spirit seems mysterious. We can't fit him into a human form. The symbols used to represent him in Scripture (oil, fire, wind, dove) help much. The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit, like God the Father and God the Son, is to be worshiped, loved, and obeyed. We can get to know him personally.

Review of truths about God:

1. God relates to us as a Trinity, three persons in one being.
2. God is one, he is not three gods, but one God (Deut. 6:4).
3. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God.
4. The three are distinct from one another, separate but one.



Historical Background

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon people at _____ times for _____ purposes. He never indwelt anyone _____.

Time Line		
Old Testament	New Testament	
Joel 2:28	John 16:7 and Acts 1:5 come together in Acts 2	1 Corinthians 12:13

What Is the Role of the Holy Spirit Today?

The Holy Spirit _____ **me.**

Definition: _____

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

—John 3:3

He saved us. It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us.

—Titus 3:5 (GNT)

Before I came to Christ, I was _____.

Now I am _____ through the new birth.

What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit.

—John 6:63 (GNT)

The Holy Spirit _____ **me.**

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the placing of the Christian into the _____ and into _____.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

—1 Corinthians 12:13

There are 150 New Testament references to our being “in Christ” (Eph. 1:13).

2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a _____ occurring at the moment of salvation.

3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a _____ for believers.

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

—Galatians 3:26-27

For we were all baptized . . . we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

—1 Corinthians 12:13

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a universal gift to believers. Nowhere in the Bible are Christians instructed to desire or seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We should not pray for it, seek it, or try to achieve it. We already have it.

Note: Much of the confusion over the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes about because of the failure to make a distinction between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is something God does for us in establishing our relationship with Jesus Christ. The filling of the Holy Spirit is the daily experience of our yielding to the Holy Spirit's control. We will discuss the filling of the Holy Spirit in detail in the next session.

The Holy Spirit _____ me.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

—1 Corinthians 6:19

The Holy Spirit came to live in our lives!

The Holy Spirit _____ me.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

—Ephesians 1:13

Sealing implies _____ and _____.

The Holy Spirit is

... who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

—Ephesians 1:14

Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

—2 Corinthians 5:5

If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

—2 Timothy 2:13

Discussion Questions

1. It's easy to focus in our Christian growth on how far we have to go rather than on how far we have come. Share with others in your group one or two evidences of God's work in your life.
2. Why do you think we fall into thinking of the Holy Spirit as an impersonal (rather than a personal) and even sometimes as a "lesser" part of the Trinity?
3. Look again at John 3:1–16. Why do you think it was so difficult for a religious man like Nicodemus to understand spiritual rebirth? Do Jesus' words to him help you to better grasp what it means to be born of the Spirit?
4. The word *baptized* literally means "totally immersed." What does it mean for you to be totally immersed in the Spirit of God? Does it affect your perspective on other believers when you realize that we're all totally immersed in the Spirit of God?
5. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is a tremendous source of security in our lives as believers. What is one of the areas of your life where you regularly need to draw on that security account?
6. Second Corinthians 3:3 reminds us:

You show that you are a letter from Christ, . . . written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

—2 Corinthians 3:3

How do you see God "writing on the hearts" of those who are in your group? Take some time to make this a personal expression of encouragement.

Go around the circle in your group and share with each person, one at a time, "This is one way I see God's Spirit in your life." At least two or three should share with each person. This may feel a little uncomfortable at first, but if we cheer someone for hitting a home run or applaud their getting a promotion at work, how much more important is it to recognize God's work in the lives of others.