

Holy Spirit: Week One.



THE GRAND THING the church wants in this time is God's Holy Spirit. You all get up plans and say, 'Now if the church were altered a little bit, it would go on better.' You think that if there were different ministers, or different church order, or something different, then all would be well. No, dear friends, it is not there that the mistake lies; it is that we want more of the Spirit ... That is the church's great want, and until that want be supplied, we may reform, and reform, and still be just the same. All we want is the Spirit of God.

That could well be a tract for our times.

In fact, it was written by Charles Spurgeon on 31st August 1857.

In every age the Holy Spirit is indispensable to the life and health of the church.

Another quote says, "We are not going to move this world by criticism of it, nor conformity to it, but by the combustion with it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God." (Vance Hayner).

You may well know that the church was born of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, as described in Acts 2.

Before that date the disciples had certainly known spiritual fellowship with Christ and with one another; they had experienced the illumination and power of the Spirit on a variety of occasions.

They had been specifically taught about the Spirit and had been promised God's gracious Gift of the Spirit for themselves.

Yet, although the Spirit had clearly been with them before Pentecost, he was not abiding *in* them.

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His action had been as in Old Testament days: coming upon certain people at certain times for certain occasions.

It was only at **Pentecost** that the prophecy of Joel was fulfilled, when God poured out his spirit '**upon all flesh**', sons and daughters, young men and old men, menservants and maidservants. '**For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are afar off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.**' **Acts 2:39.**

From that moment on, the church learnt to live and move and pray in the Spirit.

We need to see however that the early church had none of the what we think are essentials for success today...buildings money political influence social status...the list goes on...and yet the church won multitudes to Christ and saw many churches established throughout the Roman world.

Why? Because the church had the power of the Holy Spirit energizing its ministry. **They were a people who were ignited by the Spirit of God**'.

And that same Holy Spirit is available to us today, to make us more effective witnesses for Christ...

More of that later:

But I am aware that in many circles the Word Holy Spirit has in some cases been misused, certainly miss taught and is viewed with suspicion...

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If you move within certain churches that you see **two themes**, one of which is a powerful move of the Holy Spirit....such as the Azusa Street, Various Revivals world-wide, and more recently the Toronto Blessings...and so on.

The other side of this equation, because of some misunderstanding of biblical text, there is an element of hurt, of folk being offended by leadership and the like...

And there are many reasons for this, and perhaps we will come to some of them in the next few weeks.

(Chat) And if I am honest, I fall into both categories...I have been blessed in abundance by the Holy Spirit in my life...

I have also been very hurt on occasions by misuse of the Spiritual Gifts, within leadership.... (Chat)

My aim in this first part of the (I think 5 weeks) series on The Holy Spirit, (like to resume the covenant we started at beginning of the year) is to give you as best I understand it, the theory, the biblical, examples and offer you a (I hope) balanced view of the Holy Spirit...and then Next year, (God willing) to discuss/ share and pray about the move of the Spirit in our lives and church and so on...

I am not going to cover all aspects of the Holy Spirit.

Not possible to do that...in the time allowed....so if you would like to know more about some aspect of The Spirit...*then do please ask*

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me...of better still ask the *Holy Spirit himself*...and you will get a reply.....

So, who of what is the Holy Spirit...? The Holy Spirit is not an “it.”
The Holy Spirit is a Person.

The Bible says that He is not something, He is Someone. He is God.
There are three Persons in the Trinity—**God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit**. We speak of them as the Trinity.

It may help to remember that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have all existed from eternity.

The work of creation was given to the Son and we are told that, “All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

But when you read the second verse of the first chapter of Genesis, you will find that the Holy Spirit was also there, moving upon the face of His creation.

In time, the Son of God came into the world as a man, to redeem the world which He had created.

After His death on the cross, and His resurrection, He went back to the Father in heaven.

When He went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to exercise a worldwide ministry.

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Today the Holy Spirit (despite our attempt to limit Him in many ways...) He illuminates the minds of people, makes us yearn for God, and takes spiritual truth and makes it understandable to us.

All over the world the Holy Spirit is wooing men to Christ, and He lives in the hearts of believers and helps us each day.

To be Spirit-filled Christians is to be the kind of Christians that God wants us to be.

Invisible, perhaps, but real.

The Holy Spirit is probably the least understood person of the Trinity.

Among the myths and the mistaken concepts that are shared, He has been described as a force, a ghost, and a second-class or replacement god.

He is confused with the manifestations themselves and has even been presented as an incidental figure that appears momentarily.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is vital for the church to know the Spirit, learn to relate to Him, and understand how He manifests Himself.

Question: "Is the Holy Spirit God?"

Answer: The short answer to this question is, yes, the [Holy Spirit](#) as described in the Bible is fully God. Along with God the Father and God the Son (Jesus Christ), God the Spirit is the third member of the Godhead or the [Trinity](#).

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(OHP) The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as a person, not a mere force. He can be grieved ([Ephesians 4:30](#)). He has a will ([1 Corinthians 12:4-7](#)). He uses His mind to search the deep things of God ([1 Corinthians 2:10](#)). And He has fellowship with believers ([2 Corinthians 13:14](#)).

Clearly, the Spirit is a person, just as the Father and the Son are persons.

The Spirit of God was present at and involved in the creation ([Genesis 1:2](#); [Psalm 33:6](#)). The Holy Spirit moved the prophets of God with the words of God ([2 Peter 1:21](#)).

The bodies of those in Christ are described as temples of God because the Holy Spirit is in us ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#)). Jesus was clear that to be “born again,” to become a Christian, one must be born “of the Spirit” ([John 3:5](#)).

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit, the Helper, was different from Himself.

The Father would send the Helper, the Spirit of truth, after Christ departed. The Spirit would speak through them about Jesus ([John 14:25–26](#); [15:26–27](#); [16:7–15](#))

All three Persons Jesus mentions are God while being distinct from each other within the Trinity.

The three members of the Trinity show up, together yet distinct, at Jesus’ baptism.

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As Jesus comes up from the water, the Spirit descends on Him like a dove while the voice of the Father is heard from heaven saying that He is pleased with His beloved Son ([Mark 1:10–11](#))

Indeed, the Bible is unequivocal that the Holy Spirit is, in fact, God, just as Jesus Christ and the Father are God.

(Chat) And we used to sit on a three-legged stool. (OHP)

Brilliant invention the three-legged stool.

It would never collapse, no matter how I sat of it; it was always sturdy and safe.

Also great for protecting myself from a **wayward sheep ram, or an angry cow or annoyed sheep dog.**

Now in church sense, a **three-legged** stool analogy is great.

**One leg is the God
One Leg is Jesus
And one Leg is the Holy Spirit.**



Another analogy is the **triquetra (OHP)**

We have seen previously that Jesus Christ, the Son of God and second person of the Trinity, was involved with God the Father in the creation of everything ([John 1:1–3](#)).

Now, in Genesis 1:2, we see that the “Spirit of God” was also involved in creation. When you get into the Greek behind that, the Greek word is *pneuma*, which again means "a current of air," "breath," or a "breeze, " and again by analogy, "a spirit."

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The Hebrew word for “Spirit” is often translated as “wind” or “breath” in the Old Testament is *ruach*. and it means "air in motion."

It is the same word for "breath."

It also means "life."

By resemblance to **So both the Hebrew and the Greek word are talking about breath. Its talking about wind.**

breath and air in motion, it means "spirit."

That’s where we get the translation, and the Hebrew word contains all those different meanings. If we just leave it with our English word "spirit," were not getting the full attributes of what the Bible is trying to describe.

It’s trying to describe that there’s a breath involved.

The same word is found in [Psalm 33:6](#), where we again catch a glimpse of the Spirit’s work in creation: **“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath [Spirit] of His mouth.”**

The next verse of this psalm continues, “He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses” ([Psalm 33:7](#)).

Certainly, this should remind us of how “the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” in [Genesis 1:2](#).

If we look closer at the word “**hovering**,” we find that it conveys the idea of a bird sitting in a nest, hovering and brooding over her eggs, caring for the new lives.

The same word is used to describe how “an eagle stirs up its nest, [and] hovers over its young” in [Deuteronomy 32:11](#).

What a beautiful picture of God preparing to bring life into the world through His Spirit!

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God designed all of creation for life—our life. “By His Spirit [God] adorned the heavens” ([Job 26:13](#)), and they were designed with us in mind:

For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens . . . who formed the earth and made it . . . he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited! (Isaiah 45:18, ESV, emphasis added).

On this fascinating topic, we should also note that Scripture describes a similar “**hovering**” of the Holy Spirit in one of the greatest miracles of all time—the miraculous conception of Jesus Christ: “**And the angel answered and said to [Mary], ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you’” (Luke 1:35).**

Just as God worked through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to bring life into the dark, formless world at Creation, **so also He now offers eternal life to any who repent and believe through the Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ (John 3:5, 6:63).**

And as we read the Old Testament, we see the work of God: e,g Parting of the Red Sea as the work of God Holy Spirit.

But there is an important difference between the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and The New.

*In the OT, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to **individuals** chosen by God, (Moses, Abraham, David etc). to proclaim His message, to further His work.*

Going back to that first and second chapter in Genesis, we see the spirit of God hovering as a wind or over the creation...

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We see that again in chapter two.... just as God created man, he breathed life into his newly created body and he lived...

We can also see, that as he formed the waters, and divided them up into the various rivers, then we can also see the Spirit being used to form the waters...and running through the land...

The Holy spirit is also a river ...

if the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep, and then God said, "**Let there be light,**" when you speak, it's through your breath that the words take form. Just imagine that: God speaking, His breath comes out, and there you have the Word of God, "Let there be light."

That is where the Gospel of John says, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**"

They are all separate, but at the same time, they are all one, just as when you breathe and you speak, your words can be one with you.

Let's take this into the New Testament because we have almost the same thing where Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit. He says, "**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'**"

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3: NKJV).

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Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit, and He's saying it is like wind.

When you get into the Greek behind that, the Greek word is *pneuma*, which again means "a current of air," "breath," or a "breeze, " and again by analogy, "a spirit."

So both the Hebrew and the Greek word are talking about breath. Its talking about wind.

The same thing happens when we are born of the Spirit. When we are re-born, it is from the breath of God.

In the Gospel of John, where He is giving to His disciples the Holy Spirit, just as God breathed on Adam and gave him the breath of life, Jesus breathed on His disciples in John chapter 20: "Peace to you! As the Father sent me, I also send you.'

And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:21-22, NKJV). . **It was a baptism of power ("dunamis," from which we get our English word dynamite). That power was essential to their success.**

The Holy Spirit, the breath of God.

When you get into that kind of analogy, you now understand better what the attributes are.

It's no longer something spooky, but its something very close to you. Its as close to you as your very breath.

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The Bible says, "**In Him we live and move and have our being.**" I love the current praise song that says "**You are the air I breathe, Your holy Presence in me.**" We can literally breathe in the Presence of God and be filled with the Holy Spirit with our breath.

Jesus didn't just breathe on the disciples 2,000 years ago.

Every time we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, it is Gods breath on us.

Just imagine that. It is not a one-time thing. I think Christians today have gotten into the baptism of the Holy Spirit as some kind of one event.

We have got that in Acts chapter 2, but we fail to look forward to Acts chapter 4 where they get baptized in the Holy Spirit again.

It says very clearly in Acts chapter 4 they were all filled with the Holy Spirit as they were in a prayer meeting: "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly." So it is not just in Acts chapter 2; it is also in Acts chapter 4. This means we can be filled with the Spirit continually.

Acts 2:42 tells us that the early church was devoted to **four essentials** for any healthy church - **teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.**

I desire to strive to make sure these four essentials are a part of Fellowship here in Wivey:

We shall have great emphasis on teaching the Word of God.

And we do not just teach from the Word, but through the Word.

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And my desire is that you catch the Holy Spirit, perhaps for the first time...

*The major difference for us today, and in the N Testament, is that after Pentecost **all** now have the Blessings of the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Sprit was imparted on all flesh : Acts 2 17 :

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*17 "In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'* [c]