

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Scripture used: [Genesis 1:1-2 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In the third sermon in the series *Back to Basics: What Makes a Jesus Follower*, Pastor Hurmon explores the question, "Who is the Holy Spirit?". According to the Word of God and affirmed in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, the Holy Spirit is God - co-eternal and equal to the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit makes God personal to His followers. He was there at creation as seen in [Genesis 1:1-2 \(NIV\)](#) and at work in the Old Testament enabling God's people to do His work. In [1 Samuel 16:13](#), the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David when he was anointed by Samuel. In [Exodus 31:2-5](#), Bezalel, a master craftsman, was filled with the Holy Spirit to enable him to fulfill his assignment. In [Joel 2:28 \(NIV\)](#), Joel prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out onto all of God's people. Then in [Acts 2](#), God fulfills the promise at Pentecost. What do these truths found in the Bible mean to us today?

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Spiritual Intimacy:** At the end of His time on earth, Jesus told the disciples He would send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with His followers after He had ascended to Heaven. The Holy Spirit makes our bodies His temple ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#)). He moves into our lives and dwells in us. The Holy Spirit indwells, comforts, counsels, reveals, challenges, and intercedes. Because He knows us so intimately, He can work on our behalf even when we don't have the words to ask God ourselves and even when we don't realize He is at work. ([Romans 8:26 \(NIV\)](#)).
- 2) **Spiritual Empowerment (Gifts):** Jesus is known through the work of the Holy Spirit ([Acts 1:8 \(NLT\)](#)). The key to recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit is knowing God's Word. In His Word, we can find a list of the gifts that He bestows upon His believers through the Holy Spirit. In [Romans 12](#), Paul lists a few of these gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and showing kindness. In [1 Corinthians 12](#), Paul lists more of these gifts: wisdom, special knowledge, performing miracles, and discernment. In every situation of our lives, the Holy Spirit can empower us to complete our work and fulfill His purpose for our lives by giving us His gifts.
- 3) **Spiritual Transformation (Fruits):** In [1 Corinthians 13:1-2 \(NLT\)](#), Paul moves us from what we should do in the power of the Holy Spirit, to more importantly, the transformational work of the Holy Spirit in us. We can find this fruit of the Holy Spirit in [Galatians 5:22-23 \(NLT\)](#): love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To enable our transformation, the Holy Spirit uses an environment of troubles and temptation. In these moments, we can ask the Holy Spirit to empower us and transform us to produce His fruit.
- 4) **Spiritual Unity:** God's people are diverse in many ways, but in [1 Corinthians 12:13](#), Paul reminds us that all of Jesus' followers share the same Holy Spirit! We are baptized into one body through the same Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we can love across our differences and disagreements.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Pastor Hurmon told us that the Holy Spirit has come upon us to empower us to do the unique work He has for each of us. In your quiet moments, ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace that truth. How would living that truth help you with something from your past? How about with something happening right now or a future hoped-for event?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Reflect on how God has used you in the past to do His work. What gifts of the Holy Spirit have you seen demonstrated through you? What is something you do that fills you with joy? How have you seen these gifts in others? Ask God to show you what unique gifts He has for you, and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to use those gifts. Is God leading you to step forward to use your gifts in a particular way in this season of your life?
- 3) **DO** - Is there a situation in your life in which the Holy Spirit can use His fruits to transform you? How might that situation be different if you stop and take a few moments to ask the Holy Spirit to make His work fruitful in you? Please join us next week, June 18, to celebrate Father's Day.