

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

When we look at what the whole Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit, we see that He is the third person of the Trinity. *Trinity* is a word we use to describe who God is. He is one God in three persons. The three persons of the Godhead are the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

Even though it is easy to neglect the Holy Spirit when we study the Bible, and just focus on the Father or Jesus, Scripture teaches us that the Holy Spirit is also God. When Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about money, Peter said they “*have not lied to man but to God*” (Acts 5:4).

Also, at the end of 2 Corinthians, Paul blessed the church in this way: “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*” Paul blessed the church in the name of the Father (God), the Son (Christ), and the Holy Spirit. This teaches us again that the Holy Spirit is truly God.

The fact that the Holy Spirit is God means that He is just as worthy of our study as the Father and Son are. Even though the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all have the same attributes, each person shows these attributes in different ways. Take the love of God as an example. The Father loves us by sending His Son to save us, Jesus loves us by dying for us, and the Spirit loves us by bringing that love to our hearts. When we study each person of the Trinity, we get a clearer picture of who God is.

Not only is the Holy Spirit worthy of our study, but because He is God, He is also worthy of our worship. If we only study what Scripture says about the Father and the Son, we will not worship God as much as He deserves. But the more we learn about the Spirit, the more faithfully we will be able to love, praise, and obey our great God.

As we study who the Holy Spirit is and what He has done, let us pray that God would reveal to us more of His glory so that we can worship Him more!



Prayer: Triune God, thank You for revealing to us Your glory as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person of the Godhead is equally worthy of our love, adoration, and obedience. As we study the glory of who the Holy Spirit is and what He has done, please increase our love for Him. Please give us a greater glimpse of Your glory so that we can worship You more faithfully. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Song: *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* (SH 865)

Hymn: *What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright*, verse 6

To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise!

Theology Question 1: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Answer: He is the third person of the Trinity and is worthy of study and worship.

The Spirit of the Father

When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

MATTHEW 10:19–20

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

JOHN 14:26

When Scripture talks about the Holy Spirit, it shows us that He is intimately connected to the Father in both being and purpose. The Father and the Spirit are one God, and they are both focused on the same goal.

Matthew 10:19–20 shows us the connection between the Father and the Spirit. *“When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

Jesus says that the one who will help the disciples know what to speak is the *“Spirit of your Father.”* When Jesus says this, He is showing the close connection between the Spirit and the Father—they are one.

But the Spirit is not only one with the Father; He is also sent by the Father to accomplish His purposes. Scripture teaches us that God the Father is the one who planned the redemption of His people. Then He sends the Son in Jesus to accomplish our redemption by living, dying, and rising again. After Jesus accomplishes our redemption, the Father sends the Spirit to bring what Christ accomplished to His people.

We see the Father sending the Spirit in John 14:26. Jesus says to His disciples, *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I*

have said to you.” The Father sends the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus to give the blessings that Jesus earned to His people.

The Holy Spirit is one with the Father in being and in purpose. They desire to redeem a people who will worship God forever. The role of the Spirit in this plan is bringing the promised blessing of God to His people.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are the sovereign Lord who has planned the redemption of Your people. Through the work of the Spirit, You bring the blessings that Jesus won to the people You have chosen. We praise You and we praise the Spirit for Your oneness of being and purpose. Please help us to worship the Spirit for carrying out Your great plan. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Song: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* (SH 870)

Hymn: An Original Poetic Verse

Spirit of the only Father,
One in purpose and desire.
Father send Your Spirit down,
Spread your blessings all around.

Theology Question 2: How are the Holy Spirit and the Father one in purpose?

Answer: The Father sends the Spirit to bring His blessings to His people.

The Spirit of Christ

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

ROMANS 8:9

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

JOHN 16:13-15

Scripture not only speaks about the close connection between the Holy Spirit and the Father in being and purpose, but it shows us the same with the Spirit and Jesus. In Romans 8:9, Paul says, “*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*”

When Paul says that the Spirit of God is the “*Spirit of Christ*,” He is showing us the unity of the Spirit and Jesus. Just like the Father and the Spirit are one being, so too the Spirit and Jesus are one.

This oneness between the Spirit and Jesus is also seen in how they work together for the redemption of God’s people. As we saw last time, the Son accomplishes the work of redemption that God gave Him to do by living, dying, and rising again in the person of Jesus. When Jesus did this, He earned all of the blessings God planned to give to His people.

But the blessings didn’t just need to be secured, they needed to be given to God’s people. This is the job of the Holy Spirit. He takes the blessings that Jesus earned and pours them out on God’s people. In John 16:14 Jesus says that the Spirit “*will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*”

The role of the Spirit is to take all of the blessings that are Jesus' and give them to His people. As the Spirit does this, He brings glory to Jesus by pointing believers to who Jesus is and what He has done.

When Scripture calls the Holy Spirit the "*Spirit of Christ*," it is teaching us that Jesus and the Spirit are one in being and in purpose. Jesus earns the blessings of the Father and sends the Spirit to give those blessings to His people. Let us praise the Spirit for glorifying Christ and giving us His gifts!



Prayer: Gracious Father, thank You for the oneness of the Spirit and Jesus. They are one in being and in purpose. We praise Jesus for earning Your blessings through His life, death, and resurrection. We praise the Spirit for taking the blessings Christ earned and bestowing them on us. As we meditate on these truths, please increase our love, praise, and obedience. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Song: *The Risen Christ* (SH 330)

Hymn: *Whatever Prompts the Soul to Pride*, verse 2

That blessed Spirit omits to speak
Of what Himself has done,
And bids the enlightened sinner seek
Salvation in the Son.

Theology Question 3: How are the Holy Spirit and Jesus one in purpose?

Answer: Jesus sends the Spirit to give the blessings He earned to His people.

The Helper

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

JOHN 14:16-17

When Scripture teaches us about Jesus, it uses different names or titles to communicate His characteristics or roles. Jesus is called *Immanuel*, which means God with us. He is the great Prophet, Priest, and King. He is the Christ, the promised Messiah.

Scripture does the same when it teaches us about the Holy Spirit. One of the names given to the Spirit is “*Helper*.” In John 14:16, Jesus says, “*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.*”

There are many ways that the Spirit is our Helper. He defends us against the attacks of the world and the devil. He helps us understand God’s Word. He leads us and empowers us to live a life that is pleasing to God. There are many other ways the Spirit helps us that we will see as we continue our study.

But Jesus points out something special about the Spirit that makes Him the best Helper of all. In John 14:17, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit “*dwells with you and will be in you.*” Jesus says that the Spirit lives inside of every one of His people.

People who are the best helpers are the ones who are closest to us and know us the most. When you think about those in your life who can help you the most, you probably think about a family member. Maybe it’s your parents, a brother or sister, or a grandparent.

Our family can be great helpers to us, but they can only help us so much because they can only know us so much. But the Holy Spirit is the greatest Helper because He knows us completely and He lives inside of us.

There is no part of us that is hidden from Him. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

The Holy Spirit is the greatest Helper that God has given to us because He lives within us and knows us completely. May we learn to seek the Spirit for help more than we do anyone else!



Prayer: Father, we praise You for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is the greatest Helper of all because He lives within us. There is no part of us that is hidden from Him; He knows us completely. Thank You for knowing our weakness and providing just what we need to love, praise, and obey You. Please give us grace to seek the Spirit more and to trust Him as our greatest Helper. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

Song: *Come Down, O Love Divine* (SH 862)

Hymn: *The Holy Ghost Is Here*, verse 3

He dwells within our soul,
An ever welcome Guest;
He reigns with absolute control,
As Monarch in the breast.

Theology Question 4: Why is the Holy Spirit the greatest Helper God has given to us?

Answer: He lives within us and knows us completely.