

Journey #3

Unlocking The Mystery

Understanding Who the Holy Spirit Is and His Role in Our Lives

He walks into the dining hall with an almost dominating presence. He seems to be new on the yard, but the familiarity in his manner tells them he couldn't possibly be a freshman. The ladies are digging him, while the fellas are jealous and hoping his fame will fade out quickly. Much has been said about him, like where he's come from, what his major is, and even his extracurricular interests, but no one seems to know the facts. While all are burning with curiosity, people seem to find more pleasure in telling stories about him than finding the real truth. Why is that? Why are we satisfied with half-truths, when the full picture is more fulfilling than anything we could construct in our minds?

Many of us transfer this tendency into our spiritual lives by living with limited knowledge about Someone who is crucial to our walks with God. We hear His name thrown around occasionally, and in fact, He goes by a few titles that are often used interchangeably. Folks have a lot to say about Him, yet somehow many remain confused about His true identity. Who is He? He's the Holy Spirit, commonly known as the Third Person of the Trinity.

He is active throughout Scripture from beginning to end, so the truth is available to us. It's time that we unlock this mystery by searching the Scriptures to discover who the Holy Spirit is and what role He plays in our lives.

The 411: *In this study, you'll explore biblical truths for a better understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and His role in our lives.*

Who Is He?

"Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you." —John 14:16

God has given us His Word, the Bible, which presents a clear picture of the Holy Spirit. Let's look at the passages below and discover what Scripture has to say about Him.

Truth: John 16:4-15

Based on this passage, what are some titles that Jesus gives us about the Holy Spirit? What are some roles of the Holy Spirit?

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit is not a distant, mysterious being, hidden from God's children. He is God, the Third Person of the Trinity (1 Corinthians 2:10-14; John 16:8,13, Matthew 28:19). He lives in us, and guides us into all truth. He reveals the heart of God to us and testifies with our spirit that we belong to Him. The Holy Spirit also empowers us supernaturally to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, which brings glory to Him.

What Does He Have To Do With Me?

"All of you surely know that you are God's temple and that His Spirit lives in you." —1 Corinthians 3:16

The Holy Spirit comes and dwells in the hearts of all believers the moment they place their faith in Jesus Christ and invite Him to be their Lord and Savior. Though the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to control and empower our lives in order to grow in our relationship with God (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Truth: Ephesians 5:18

Why is it important that we be "filled" with the Holy Spirit?

Truth: John 15:1-5

What does it mean to abide in Jesus and why is it important that we do so?

When we abide in Christ, we are allowing the life of Christ to be lived out in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ is on the throne of our lives; we walk in obedience to His Word and submit to His direction. As a result, the Holy Spirit will produce fruit in our lives as Jesus mentions throughout John 15. But what does the life of a "fruitful" Christian who abides in Christ actually look like?

“Stay joined to Me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to Me.” —John 15:4

Being Fruitful In Him

As we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will find His spiritual fruit naturally being produced in our lives. We bear the fruit visibly, but He’s actually producing it. The life of a believer who is walking in the power of the Holy Spirit will bear fruit that is lasting and pleases the Lord. Only He can enable us to be fruitful.

Truth: Galatians 5:22-23

What do these verses say about the evidence you’ll see when the Holy Spirit is at work in your life?

Why is it important to bear spiritual fruit as a believer?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” —Galatians 5:22-23 (New International Version)

If you are walking in the Spirit, your life should reflect what the Spirit came to do. This should make you think a bit. Take a look at your own life. Would you say that your life is yielding the fruit Jesus refers to in Galatians 5:22-23? If so, how? If not, what areas in your life can you begin to yield to the Holy Spirit?

“But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.” —Acts 1:8

Truth: Acts 1:8

How does the Holy Spirit empower us and why is this important?

The following prayer is a way of expressing your desire to relinquish control of your life and to allow God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, so that you may be empowered and directed by Him. Remember that just as salvation came by faith, we are filled by the Holy Spirit by faith. We acknowledge **God’s command** to be filled with the Spirit and we trust **God’s promise** that if we ask anything in His name in accordance with His will, it will be done (1 John 5:14-15).

*“Dear God, I need You now. I realize that I’ve sinned by controlling my own life. I thank You because You have forgiven my sins through Jesus’ death on the cross for my mistakes. I now ask Christ to again take His rightful place on the throne of my life. God, fill me with Your Holy Spirit as You **commanded me to be filled** and as You **promised in Your Word** that You’d do if I asked in faith. Father, I pray this in the awesome name of Jesus. Amen.”*

You might recall from a previous day in our journey that giving God control of your mind, body and life is not a one time occurrence, but something that must be done continually. The Lord invites us to come to Him at any time to confess our sin, receive His forgiveness, and be filled with and empowered by His Holy Spirit that we might yield to Him rather than our flesh. As we do this, we will experience His grace and power as we are able to bear fruit and live victorious lives.

The Application

- Take a moment to examine your life. Are you running things, or are you allowing the Lord to take control of every detail of your life through His Holy Spirit?
- Read through *Satisfied*, a booklet that shares the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life, each day for the next seven days.
- During the week, record changes that you see in your life and be prepared to share one of those changes next week.