

“So, what about...” The Holy Spirit

Part One: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Genesis 1:1-3 - [watch online](#)

### Summary:

The Holy Spirit is the most important and most misunderstood part of following Jesus. So who or what is the Holy Spirit? What difference can the Holy Spirit really make in our lives?

### Main Points:

01:26 The Holy Spirit is the source of the life Jesus offers.

03:04 The Holy Spirit is the most important and most misunderstood part of following Jesus.

06:45 The point isn't to UNDERSTAND the Holy Spirit but to know the Holy Spirit.

10:58 “The Spirit is the agent of God’s activity.” -Gordon Fee

12:12 The Spirit of God is the personal presence of God himself.

14:41 The Holy Spirit unleashes the life of Jesus into the darkness and chaos of the world.

17:13 This week’s goal- Be aware the Spirit is there.

18:46 God wants us to experience a life empowered by and filled with the Holy Spirit

### Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your experience and/or understanding of the Holy Spirit so far in your life?
2. What would you want to explore in regards to the Holy Spirit? What do you hope to gain from this series?
3. Read John 3:3-8. How comfortable are you with the idea of not being able to fully understand the nature of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think that is?
4. If you were able to clearly see and experience the Holy Spirit living in and with you what difference do you think that would make for you?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

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### Transcript:

**INTRO:** What comes to mind when say HS?

- So many different ideas/experiences/questions
- Same thing as Holy Ghost? Oooh are we talking about ghosts?
- Speaking in tongues/rolling down aisles/magic healing powers?

So what/who is the HS? Does it even matter? Let’s talk about it together.

**WE:** What is the difference between simply being religious/spiritual and following Jesus?

What is the difference between being a really good/kind/caring person and being a Jesus Follower?

What is the difference between knowing/memorizing the Bible and being transformed by God?

Difference between a social club studying religious texts that does community service projects and the Church?

Difference between living a mundane, get through each day kind of life... and living a life of beauty, adventure, power, joy, peace, fully alive here and now even in the midst of mundane and sorrowful?

The difference between all of those is The Holy Spirit.

This might sound heavy or dramatic, but **The Holy Spirit is the source of the life Jesus offers.**

But have the bible and we have Jesus... isn't that enough?

Question... wouldn't it be awesome to get to live with Jesus... Physically. Daily life, ask questions, listen to, be told what each scripture clearly means, really know him, and enjoy, be supported/embraced by Jesus?

- Wouldn't that completely change our lives? Allow us to really change the world for better?
- It would just be so much easier if Jesus was just sitting right here

Jesus' 1st followers thought the same... had actually experienced that exact thing... and then he sits them down and tells them right before he would be crucified and risen that he was leaving...

They were understandably bothered... **John 16:5-7**-Jesus said it was better for him to leave so that HS could come...

What? Why? The more we look into it what we find is...

**The Holy Spirit is the most important and most misunderstood part of following Jesus.**

So for the next 10 weeks or so... I want to take a journey to better know/experience who the Holy Spirit is and what it means to live a life aware of/filled/saturated by the Holy Spirit.

**JF-** To know the God who knows you. Know who you really are. What this life you've been given is really about and what is available to you. To discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers together.

**Not JF-** Why you see a difference in what you (rightly) think a JF should look like and what you see in so many who claim to be Christians. But even more, to see what you are invited into. And how to accept that invitation if you are ready.

Some introductory thoughts...

**[04:15] All have different backgrounds... extremes.**

My background is a little hands offish. Hes there/active/but usually very quiet, like a slight whisper in our hearts.

- Will do best to present as balanced as possible
- Will probably say things you disagree with... that's okay. That can be good. Gives us a chance to explore.
- Why do you disagree? Explore that.
- **SO WHAT ABOUT CARDS/EMAIL**
- Can either become a dividing or uniting point... people have left churches for less.
- But we have a motto... **We can disagree and still be in the same family.**

### **Also, Learning about God as westerners can be difficult...**

- We've been trained to think... Categories, systems, formulas, steps, answers. Uncomfortable w/ mystery of not "knowing"
- I've tried to break series down into segments that fit together logically... but
- It's like trying to mathematically calculate and graph out your love for your kids
- Or make a chart of your parents personalities
- You really can't... That's just the nature of relationships
- Our goal will not be to UNDERSTAND the HS but KNOW the HS. And have him shape our lives.
- **The point isn't to UNDERSTAND the HS but to *know* the HS.**

So I'm not going to be giving a systematic theology on the Trinity. Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

We will touch on some of that throughout all of this but as we discover more and know the HS more I think the Trinity will come to make more sense for each of us.

**Not expert...** just have the time to study and regurgitate what I've learned so hopefully others can follow along...

- I'm inviting you on this journey with me.

Ready? Let's take our first steps in this journey... What/who is the Holy Spirit?

**GOD:** Where should we start? How about at the beginning? Page 1.

**Gen 1:1** General intro. Not saying scientifically HOW... not concern...

Answering one of Humanity's fundamental questions- Who are we/ Why are we here/ Who started all of this? God

**Gen 1:2a** Chaos. Inhospitable. But who is there at this beginning? **Gen 1:2b.**

Spirit: Hebrew- *Ruach*... In Greek- *Pneuma*

(Not Hebrew Scholar- relying on Tim Mackie)

*Ruach*= Breath (hand on mouth= *Ruach*)

- Eastern Ancient mind- not talking about molecules/vapor particles
- Life... if no *Ruach*- no life dead
- Invisible, Animating Life Energy
- It's who you are/What makes you tick

Another meaning of *ruach*- Wind

- What makes those trees move?
- Some invisible animating force that we can't see but know is very real and very much here.

And all of it is sourced from/in/a part of God himself...

**V. 3** "Then God said..." he speaks- releases his ruach. His ruach is put into motion to put everything else in motion... The eternal life now brings life to everything else.

As God releases his ruach... what started as a chaotic dangerous universe is put into order with precision/ beauty/ creativity/ and new life.

Gordon Fee- "**The Spirit is the agent of God's activity**"

Then once everything is good and ready and perfect ... **Gen 2:7**

God breathed... ruachs... and *our ruach* finds its beginning in the ruach of God.

Now, so far many religions and spiritual people and even sci-fi fans are leaning in and saying yeah exactly... there is some mystical life-force in the universe... "that surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together."

Is the HS/Holy ruach a mystical/impersonal spiritual energy like the Force?

- According to the biblical writings it's so much better than that.

**The Spirit/ruach/Pneuma of God is the personal presence of God himself.**

Within God... we have 3 distinct "persons" Father, Son, Spirit... all God, all One, yet also distinct. The Spirit is as much "person" as the Father and as Jesus.

See how Jesus describes the Spirit- **John 14:15-17**... personal.

NT writers continue and shed some more light...

The Spirit knows the mind of God

Teaches Jesus Followers

Dwells among and within JF's

Gives life

Cries out from within our hearts

Leads us in the ways of God

Bears witness with our own spirits

Helps us

Intercedes for us

Works all things together for our ultimate good

Strengthens JF's

And just like I can't explain every aspect of my relationship w/ my wife/kids...

Though I can't perfectly explain it... I know I have experienced this personal presence of God in my life.

- I've seen the HS give life both in the first ruach of my kids... but I've also seen with my own eyes him bring life to a broken and searching heart.
- I've seen him teach me and others by giving me words out of the blue I've never thought of in my life

- I've felt a comfort/confidence that makes no sense in times that were far from comforting
- I've even been given joy/laughter for no reason in the most mundane moments.

The HS is the Personal God... who's role from the beginning was/is to bring/give/create life.

### **The Holy Spirit unleashes the life of Jesus into the darkness and chaos of the world.**

#### **The Holy Spirit is the source and agent of the life Jesus promises.**

The overarching message of the NT is... Through Jesus, we have been given the life/breath/spirit of God to live in us and with us to bring order to the chaos within and without by pointing us to Jesus.

- Through this process we become conduits through which God's Spirit/Ruach/Pneuma can breathe on the rest of creation.

**YOU:** So why does Jesus say it's better for him to leave and send HS?

- Simply... Jesus as human could only be one place at a time
- By sending the HS, God can be with all of us all at once.
- This is how God will bring order/peace into the chaos of the world... the chaos of our lives.
- We can experience the life Jesus offers...

Because in reality... **There is actually nothing ordinary about our lives at all.**

The same Holy Ruach of God who brought order to the chaos of the universe is the same HS who has been sent to live and with those who follow Jesus.

The HS brings the personal God into our personal daily real life now by teaching us the mind/the heart/the passions of God/of JESUS himself and transforms our minds/hearts/passions to be his.

In this first step of our journey I want all of us to understand that through the HS, (As Tim Makcie puts it) God is personally present in and among us... he is committed to bringing order out of chaos... light out of darkness. IN your life and in our world.

The Spirit of God is real. Is an actual person. Is there. Is next to you... if JF, is in you as close as the breath we breathe and will never leave.

### **This week's goal- Be aware the Spirit is there.**

Take a moment each day... set an alarm on your phone if that helps.

**Read/Memorize Romans 8:11a- *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.***

Then **take a deep breath in. Feel your ruach from God.**

**And simply say... Thank you for being with me and in me. Help me know you and see you more and more.**

Simple first steps.

If not ready for that.. Still checking this all out... **Ask what would it be like if this were true and reality?**

- **What difference might it make in your thoughts/life/relationships?**

**WE:** This might have created more questions than answers... good. This is only the beginning.

I don't know where this journey will really take us... maybe it'll simply be a better idea of what it means to follow Jesus, maybe it'll bring more comfort and peace.

Maybe it'll be something more.

What I do know... **Jesus proved God is real and wants us to personally know him.**

He isn't trying to be a secret and hide from us.

**God wants us to experience a life empowered by and filled with the Holy Spirit**

So let's have eyes, hearts, and minds open to what he wants to show us. And be ready b/c...

**There is no such thing as an ordinary life with the Holy Spirit.**