

GOD the Holy Spirit

THE ONE YOU CAN'T SEE

The Holy Spirit is a mystery. What do we know about Him?

The apostle Paul called Him “the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30). Jesus told us to baptize people in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So the Holy Spirit is God.

Isn't the Holy Spirit invisible to us? Yes! Jesus said He is like the wind. You know the wind is there and see the trees shaking. You can't see it, but it's real. The Holy Spirit has no body and doesn't need one.

The Holy Spirit is a person. Jesus' disciples knew this. The apostle Peter told Ananias, when he tried to cheat on his offerings, that he had not lied to a human being but “to the Holy Spirit” (Acts 5:3). And then Ananias fell over dead.

The Holy Spirit has special jobs to do.

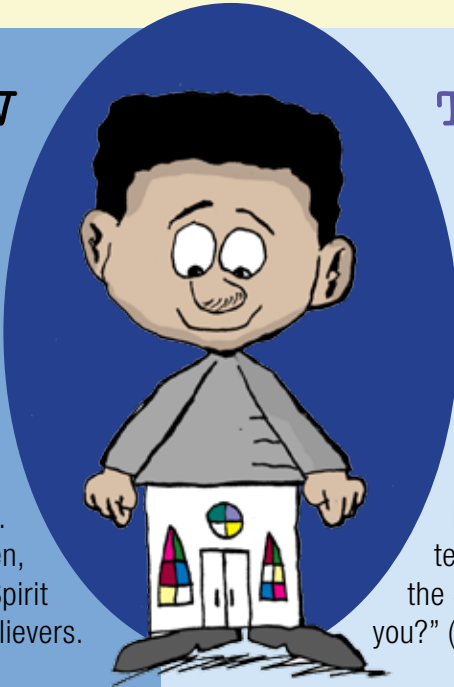
- He tries to get people to listen and obey (Genesis 6:3).
- He teaches (Luke 12:12).
- He convinces people of what is true (John 16:8).
- He directs the church in what it should do (Acts 13:2).
- He helps (Romans 8:26) and inspires (2 Peter 1:21) people.

The Holy Spirit is everywhere and can go anywhere—yes, even through platinum and diamonds. No one can hide from Him (Psalm 137:7–10).



NOW IT'S ALL DIFFERENT

The Holy Spirit was working in the world before Jesus' death, but until then, the “the Holy Spirit was not yet given [to everyone], because Jesus was not yet glorified [resurrected]” (John 7:39). After Jesus went back to heaven, He was able to send the Holy Spirit to live in all believers.



THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HOME

Believe it or not, when you accept Jesus as your Savior, you are the home of the Holy Spirit. “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16).

WHAT HAS HE BEEN DOING?

The Holy Spirit has been one of the three Beings in the Godhead forever

At Creation, the Spirit of God floated above the water and then started speaking. He made the land, the trees, and the animals to appear (Genesis 1:2). Hey, Jesus was at Creation too! All three members of the Godhead created the world.

After sin came into the world, one of the Holy Spirit's jobs was to deliver messages, using people as messengers. That's how we got the books of the Bible. The writers “spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (1 Peter 1:21).

The Holy Spirit helped certain men to do special things:

- Balaam spoke blessings on the Israelites (Numbers 24:2)
- Bezalel made art for the tabernacle (Exodus 31:3)
- Gideon called an army together (Judges 6:34)
- King Saul prophesied about God (1 Samuel 10:6)
- And many others.

Israel is blessed!

Why did I say that?



More recently, He caused Jesus to be born as a baby (Luke 1:35), visited Jesus at His baptism (Matthew 3:16), led Jesus through His ministry (Luke 4:1), and brought Jesus back to life after His crucifixion (Romans 8:11).

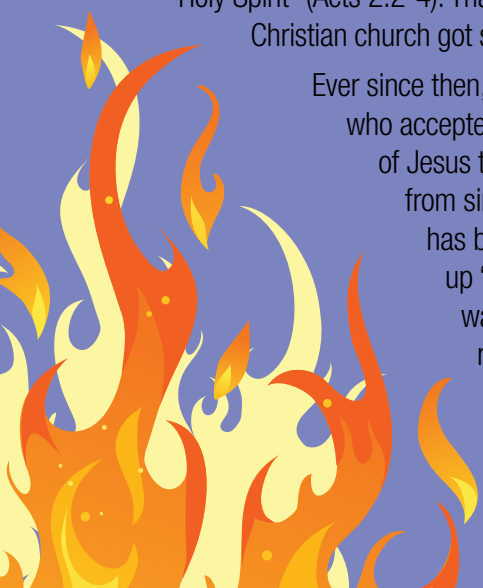
Jesus followed the directions of the Holy Spirit in His work on earth. Right at the beginning, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, . . . was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Luke 4:1). He listened every moment for the Spirit's instructions.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When Jesus was about to take off from earth, He told His disciples, “I am sending forth the promise [the Holy Spirit] of My Father upon you.” (Luke 24:49).

Fifty days after Jesus' death, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples with “a sound from heaven, like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:2-4). That's how the Christian church got started.

Ever since then, every person who accepted the death of Jesus to save them from sin and death has been cleaned up “through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).



WHAT HE DOES FOR YOU

- The first thing the Holy Spirit does is to convince you about Jesus. “No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).
- Then He helps you know how much trouble you're in, and how to fix it (John 16:8–11).
- After you're baptized in water, you are also baptized in the Holy Spirit (John 3:5). That makes a brand- new you, filled

with the love and commandments of God.

- God's truth is the only truth, and “when the [Holy] Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13).

- The Holy Spirit can do many jobs all at once, including helper, counselor, comforter, intercessor, and advocate. “Intercessor” means the Holy Spirit defends you when you're in trouble.



THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Matthew 12:32 has some harsh words for those who speak against the Holy Spirit. Most pastors believe this happens when a person decides they want nothing to do with God. If you're concerned that you may have committed this sin, then you haven't!



BIG THINGS A-COMING

This is epic. Near the end of this world's history, a time will come when the Holy Spirit's presence is stronger and more intense.

“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.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy” (Acts 2:17, 18).

How long will the Holy Spirit be with us on earth? Jesus promised, “I am with you always [through the Holy Spirit], even to the end of the age [the Second Coming]” (Matthew 28:20).