



# The Holy Spirit – who is He?

Over the last 30 years or so there has been a shift and refocus on the reality and work of the Holy Spirit. For many generations before this, the Holy Spirit, in the main stream church, was seen as just an idea that was discussed, but there was no real expectation of a real work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. Yet when we begin to look into the Word of God, we see that the person and work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely fundamental to the life of the individual Christian, but also to the life and activity of the Church. It is no exaggeration to say that the really experience that we have of God's presence in our lives is given to us by the activity of the Spirit.

**Discuss** - (In group / or small groups)

**Q1)** What do you understand the Holy Spirit to be?

**Q2)** What are your expectations of what the Holy Spirit will do in your life / life of the church?

**Q3)** How do you think you can learn to cultivate a real relationship with the Spirit of God?

So what does Scripture teach us about the Holy Spirit

## Fact 1 - The Holy Spirit is Divine!!

The Holy Spirit is named over 100 times in the New Testament. The theology of the Spirit is that He is the third person of the trinity. Christians believe, like the Jews that there is **ONLY** one God and creator of all. But for a Christian we recognise that the Godhead (which means ONE complex divine reality,) is made up of three I's / or persons. The word person is used here in a theological sense rather than an individualistic sense. We believe that scripture teaches that God is defined as:- God the Father, God the Son (that is Jesus.) and God the Holy Spirit. In every sense the Spirit is equal in every way to the Father and the Son and yet, Just like the Father and the Son has a specific role in the Godhead. What needs to be said at this point is that, God three in one and one is three is a great mystery to us, because of how we understand personhood – However this is a mystery that Scripture teaches regarding the One True God!! An example of the interaction between the Godhead is seen at the baptism of Jesus.

Matthew 3 v 13 – 17 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15 v 26 – 27 \_\_\_\_\_

## Fact 2 - The Holy Spirit is a Person.

For many generations the Holy Spirit was defined as some divine power source or energy. Indeed many of the ideas used to define the Spirit, led people to this conclusion. Breathe of God, wind, fire etc. As this idea was developed people believed all you needed to do was learn how to tap into the Holy Spirit and you would be able to do great things. However this view of the Holy Spirit is not biblical. Jesus more than anyone else defined the Holy Spirit as a person. Jesus attributes to Him complex work, will and emotions that define the Holy Spirit as a person in every way. Even the work that He does in the life of a believer is complex, directed and personal. Things that the New Testament says about the Spirit's personhood are these:- He:- hears, speaks, convinces, testifies, prompts speech, commands, forbids, helps, intercedes with groans. In every sense the Holy Spirit is God Himself present, powerful and at work in the world today. John 16 v 5 – 15 \_\_\_\_\_

## Fact 3 - The Holy Spirit has a Will!!

As we read the New Testament we see how the Holy Spirit leads people and directs people towards or away from particular things. Far from being an impersonal energy force, the Holy Spirit has a will and a purpose in all that He says and does. The Spirit cannot be manipulated by human beings or summoned up to do our bidding. **He is the one** who both equips and directs God's people to fulfil the tasks that Jesus Himself has ordained for them. In every sense we as God's people are the one's who are at the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 4 v 1, \_\_\_\_\_ John 3 v 5 – 8, \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 2 v 10 – 16

## Fact 4 – The Holy Spirit can be Grieved.

Just like with the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit can be grieved and blasphemed. Both in the slandering of the work of the Spirit and also through active sin. The Holy Spirit can withdraw His power and blessing from individuals, meetings and even churches unless they repent of their sin. The Spirit can also be lied to when we bring false testimony and again the result is a removal of blessing and Godly discipline. It is important that we learn to cultivate a real relationship with the Spirit and allow Him room in our lives to guide and use us as He sees fit. To cultivate a relationship with the Spirit is all about inviting Him to move in our lives each day, learning to listen to Him in the different situations of our lives and being quick to repent and say sorry to God when we do something wrong or pride gets in the way. Learning to know and be obedient to the Spirit is the pathway to intimacy with God and opens the doorway to a ministry that is vibrant, powerful and anointed by God. Matthew 12 v 31 – 32, Act 5 v 1 – 11, Ephesians 4 v 25 – 30 \_\_\_\_\_

