

# The Holy Spirit

March 7, 2010 - Lesson 4



## Who is the Holy Spirit?

1. *“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)*
2. *“This is the word of the Lord. . . ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (Zechariah 4:6)*
3. *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)*

### We can see the Holy Spirit in different Images—such as: Air, Breath and Fire

**Air:** **Read:** John 3:8—the Holy Spirit is compared to the Wind. *That is how the Holy Spirit is. Just like the wind you can’t see it but you have faith to know it is there.*

**Breath:** In the Bible, the word “breath” is the same as the word for “spirit.” Maybe if we understood our breathing it would help us better understand how God created us as human beings. Our breath gives us life.

- **Read:** Genesis 2:7 *God breathed life into us.*

**Fire:** God’s spirit is a flame. It has great power. It is not material with substance or mass, but it is real. If you look at a United Methodist logo, often times it will have a cross with a flame—which represents the Holy Spirit. The two points of the flame represent the coming together of the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church in 1969 to create the United Methodist Church.

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The third person of the Trinity, who exercises the power of the Father and the Son in creation and redemption. (John 14:16-17)
- The Holy Spirit has been around since the beginning. (Genesis 1:1-2)
- The Holy Spirit gave birth to the Church. (Acts 1:8)
- The Holy Spirit is at work in our lives and gives us power to do His works.
- The Holy Spirit assists us in prayer and intercedes for us. The Holy Spirit searches our hearts and minds for the praise, confession, thanksgiving, and requests that we are unable to say on our own.

### **Roles of the Holy Spirit:**

- Counselor
- Teacher
- Gives us power
- Guides us
- Convicts us of sin
- Comforter in times of need
- Peace giver
- Transforms (changes) us into God's likeness (fruits of the Holy Spirit)
- Equips us with gifts

### **The Holy Spirit Guides You:**

The Holy Spirit empowers and guides you to live the Christian life. In order to have the power of God working in our lives, we must surrender and submit ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit of God. Even before Jesus left He told His disciples that He would leave us with someone to guide us—The Holy Spirit.

**Read John 16:5-16:** Why do you think Jesus placed so much importance on the sending of someone after He went back to Heaven? Don't feel like you have to know all the answers about the Holy Spirit. God is pleased when we seek answers.

### ***Ask your student about the Fruits of the Spirit Activity***

We use our senses to identify different things—our sense of taste and smell. Today we are talking about a different kind of fruit—the fruits of the Spirit. Though they are not actual fruits, they can be identified by others by the way we look and act. Others can “taste” these fruits in our actions.

Paul talks about rotten fruit in Scripture. Look up Galatians 5:18-21.

- What does Paul say are actions of a sinful nature? (*Idolatry, Fornication, Impurity, Sorcery, Enmities (hostility), Strife, Anger, Jealously, Envy, Quarrels, Drunkenness etc.*)
- What do all these things have in common? (*They separate us from God and each other*)

(From Galatians 5:22-23) *“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”* In other words, love for others, inner peace, outer joy, patience in difficult circumstances, kindness in dealing with others, generosity in all things, faithfulness in relationships, gentleness and sensitivity, and self-control of thoughts, words, and deeds.

- When we look at the Fruits of the Spirit, which one do you think you show?

Even though the Spirit dwells in us, we have to recognize it and “give up” control (of our sinful nature) and allow the Holy Spirit to help us live like God wants us to. How can we unleash the power of the Spirit to work in our lives?

# Homework

Pick one of the following Scriptures to memorize for next week's lesson, write it on a note card and put it somewhere you can see it and reflect on it daily:

1. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7)
2. *"The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt, I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering."* (Exodus 3:7)
3. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## **Journaling:**

### **Read John 16:6-16**

In your Journal answer these questions this week:

1. *The Holy Spirit leads us to confess our sins. What sins in your life do you feel you need to confess?*
2. *The Holy Spirit wants us to serve Jesus. What areas at school or home can you think of that you can serve Jesus better?*
3. *The Holy Spirit helps us when we are tempted. What areas do you need help from the Holy Spirit to resist temptation?*
4. *The Holy Spirit teaches us truth. What truths did you learn this week through the lesson?*
5. *The Holy Spirit gives Jesus Christ the Glory. How can you give glory and praise to Jesus this week? (adapted from God in My Life, Faith for Life, Group publishing pg. 32)*

## **The Journey Continues next week: Lesson 5— Prayer and the Bible**

*In preparation for next week, **look over and find the different parts of your Bible as guided on page 41.***

## **Family Homework:**

Read Ephesians 4:1-16. As a family, discuss that we are each given gifts or talents by God. Each member of the family brings something important to the family as a whole. Take turns having each member of the family share what they see in each of the family members as their gifts. What things do each of you see in yourselves?