

“WOULD YOU BELIEVE”

#1C: God the Holy Spirit Is Who He Says He Is

In *Believing God* author Beth Moore challenges us to believe that:

God is who He says He is.
I am who God says I am.
God will do what He says He will do.
With Jesus, I can face anything.
God's Word is active and alive in me.

In this series we've seen who God the Father and God the Son say they are. (HisDeal.com/archives/index.html). Today, the Holy Spirit.

All Y'all and Gaul Are Divided Into Three Parts

The Bible says there's only *one* God who is *three*, co-equal Persons-in-one (Matthew 28:19). The Father and Holy Spirit are spirit. The Son was spirit also until He set foot on earth as fully God, fully man.

We are spirit, soul (mind, will, emotions) and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Our *mind* and *emotions* want control. Unless God gives life to our spirit, it's "dead" to His message (Ephesians 2:1-5; Romans 8:9).

God's Spirit inhabits the believer's spirit, making it *sin-free*. By logging time with God in your spirit, your soul and body follow, and Christ becomes visible in your life (Romans 8:29; Galatians 5:22,23).

The Holy Spirit's Job Description

Some experience the Spirit more demonstrably than others. God embraces both. Let's read Romans 8:1-39 (p. 841 NIV).

DISCUSS: How could living in Romans 8:1,9 impact your life?

Circa 575 B.C. God told the Jews He'd "*put (His) Spirit in you, and you will live*" (Ezekiel 37:14). Jesus promised that His Father would send "*another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth.*" Let's read John 14:16-20 (p. 803 NIV) and Acts 2:32-33 (p. 811 NIV).

DISCUSS: What does Jesus reveal here about Himself and the Holy Spirit?

After our Lord ascends to heaven, a member of the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin, spearheads a cabal to nip this new “Christian hysteria” in the bud. This Saul of Tarsus is dramatically converted to Christ who assigns him, now called Paul, to take the story (i.e., the *mystery*, the *secret*) of God’s love and forgiveness to Gentiles (Romans 16:25-27). To manage this startup, the Holy Spirit assigns roles and abilities to Christ’s new followers. Let’s read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (p. 854 NIV).

DISCUSS: How does this narrative differ from before the crucifixion?

In its 1st century A.D. infancy this new “Church, the Body of Christ,” is drawing a diverse mix of religiously ritualistic Jews, idol-worshipping Gentiles, slaves, upper class, even members of Nero’s household. Desiring them to live in harmony, the Holy Spirit delivers His blueprint through Paul. Let’s read Ephesians 4:1-32 (p. 870 NIV).

DISCUSS: What could you do to restore unity in a broken relationship?

DISCUSS: Describe an encounter you’ve had with the Holy Spirit.

Everything God does is through the power of the Spirit, including:

- Co-created the universe (Genesis 1:2).
- Breathed life into all living things (Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4).
- Convicts unbelievers of their need for a Savior (John 16:8-11; Galatians 5:16-18).
- Declares believers accepted forever by God, pardoned from facing eternal separation from Him in hell (Romans 8:2; 2 Corinthians 1:22).
- Instructs us in Jesus’ words and “all things” (John 14:26, 16:12-15).
- *Visited* Old Testament believers but *resides* in post-resurrection believers, training us to become like Jesus (1 Samuel 16:13-14).
- Reveals God’s nature to others by how we live, love and serve God and people (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 John 3:24).
- Arms us with resurrection power to do God’s work (Ephesians 3:16).
- Prays for us to the Father when we’re speechless (Romans 8:26-27).
- Talks thru/to us, calls audibles (Matthew 10:17-20; John 10:3-5).

- Strengthens, encourages and comforts us (Acts 9:31).
- Led some forty men over 1,500 years to write in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek the error-free Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- Impregnated virgin Mary to bear God's Son (Luke 1:35). Had Jesus had an earthly father, He'd have inherited original sin (Romans 3:23).
- Descended as a dove when Jesus was baptized, commissioning Him to preach, liberate and do miracles (Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 4:14).
- Prepared Jesus for death and new life (Hebrews 9:14; Romans 1:4).

"Is Baptism All Wet?"

- The Spirit baptizes (places) new believers into Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). This one-time, inner (not external) event gives us an all-new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Titus 3:3-7).

Jesus told His men to wait for the Spirit to come at Pentecost (Acts 1:1-5). The Bible speaks of being baptized *in, with* and *by* the Spirit; *filled* with the Spirit; and water baptized which doesn't "save" us but is a public testimony afterward (Romans 6:3-5; Ephesians 2:8-9, 4:4-6).

Gift Rappin'

The Spirit gives spiritual gifts as He wills (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11). The first five are offices to equip early believers to worship, serve and establish the "Body of Christ" in unity. Some say all five are still active; others say apostles and prophets ceased when God's final word, the Bible, was completed (1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:8-13).

- **Apostles** saw the risen Christ and established His church. They include Jesus' disciples whom He sent, authenticated by miracles, to tell the Jews that "the Kingdom of Heaven is near," (Matthew 10:2; Acts 1:21-26). And Paul, God's "apostle to Gentiles," spilled the heretofore "secret" Gospel, i.e., Gentiles and Jews alike now receive Christ by faith only, not religious rituals (Colossians 1:24-27, 3:3,4).

- **Prophets** spoke for God sometimes to predict, usually to inspire, correct and motivate (Deuteronomy 18:18-22; Ephesians 2:19-22).

- **Evangelists** invite the lost to follow Jesus (Acts 8:26-40, 21:8-9).

- **Pastors** lead, guide, guard and serve local groups of believers.

- **Teachers** educate us in God's Truth as revealed in the Scriptures.
- **Words of Wisdom** and **Knowledge** disclose God's mind to us.
- **Discerning of Spirits** is the ability to recognize what's true.

God's Power Gifts

Many believe all these gifts are still active, undeniably seen worldwide. Others say some were in play just to launch the Church.

- **Faith** ● **Healing** ● **Miracles** ● **Speaking in Unknown Tongues** (1 Corinthians 14:1-40) ● **Interpreting Tongues**

God's Personality Gifts

- **Serving** ● **Giving** ● **Exhorting** ● **Administering** ● **Mercy**

DISCUSS: How do you identify your spiritual gift? How are you using it?

"Fill 'er Up!"

"Be not drunk with wine ... but keep being filled with the Spirit," with God as your life's designated driver (Ephesians 5:15-21). ***"There's a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death"*** (Proverbs 16:25). Doing what "seems right" will never meet God's standard of perfection. Only Christ's living His life in us will do that.

Because Jesus took your place on the cross, God the Father forgave *all* your sins permanently, allowing you to become a new creation in Christ (Romans 3:21-26)! When you accept His pardon, you can live forgiven, guilt-free, secure in Christ, with the Holy Spirit's power and presence. We'll take a silent moment now for you to welcome Jesus as your Savior. Or, if you already have, to thank Him. (Amen)

His Deal

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