



## **The Doctrine of God the Holy Spirit**

**The Holy Spirit is not a force or energy or power; he is a person.**

- Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit with the personal pronoun “he” (John 15:26; 16:13-14).
- He has intelligence (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11).
- He has feelings (Ephesians 4:30).
- He makes decisions (Acts 13:2; 1 Corinthians 12:11).
- He guides (John 16:13).
- He speaks (Acts 8:29).
- He convicts of sin (John 16:8).
- He prays for believers (Romans 8:26-27).
- He loves (Romans 15:30).
- He can be obeyed (Acts 10:19-21).
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
- He can be resisted (Acts 7:51).
- He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31).
- He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).
- He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29).

**The Holy Spirit is fully and completely God.**

- He is omniscient: knows all things (Isaiah 40:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:11).
- He is omnipotent: all powerful (Job 33:4, Psalm 104:30).
- He is omnipresent: always present everywhere (Ps 139:7-10).
- He was involved in creation (Genesis 1:2).
- He was involved in the writing of all Scripture (2 Peter 1:21).
- He was involved in the birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:35).
- He is explicitly called “God” (Acts 5:3-4).
- He is mentioned to Trinitarian verses alongside the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

## What does the Holy Spirit do?

- **Indwells us:** from the moment we put our faith in Jesus, the Spirit literally takes up residence in our lives and bodies (John 14:16; Romans 5:5, 8:9; 2 Cor. 5:5).
- **Empowers us:** our ability to love, to serve, to witness, to live the Christian life comes only from him (Acts 1:8; Romans 7:6; 8:13; 1 Corinthians 2:4)
- **Transforms us:** changes us inside-out so that we become more and more like Jesus (2 Cor. 3:17-18; Gal. 5:16-25).
- **Teaches us:** he illuminates and opens our minds and hearts so that we can understand Scripture (John 14:26; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13).
- **Equips us:** the Spirit gives us spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving others and building up the body of Christ. (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:12-16).
- **Leads us:** the Spirit guides and directs us so that we can understand God's will for our lives (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16, 25).
- **Seals us:** he is our guarantee that everything God has promised will be fulfilled (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13).
- **Helps us pray:** in ways that may not fully understand, the Spirit helps us express our heart and deepest needs in prayer (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18).
- **Gives us strength and courage:** when we are at the end of our resources, he comes through for us (Ephesians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:7).
- **Gives us assurance and hope:** regardless of our current circumstances and challenges (Romans 8:16; Gal. 5:5).

## What are we supposed to do with the Holy Spirit?

- We are to live with a deep awareness of and connection to the Spirit.
  - ◊ Ephesians 5:18: "be filled with the Spirit"
  - ◊ Romans 8:5: "Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit."
  - ◊ Galatians 5:16: "let the Holy Spirit guide your lives."
  - ◊ Galatians 5:25: "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."
- We must rely on the Spirit's power, rather than our own strength, if we going to get anywhere as a disciple of Jesus.