



# Week 4: Who is the Holy Spirit

## Day 1 Reflection

### TRUTH

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is the third Person of the Trinity. What does the whole counsel of Scripture declare about the Holy Spirit? For today's reflection look up the following verses and answer the questions to describe the most mysterious and often times most elusive and misunderstood Person of the Trinity.

#### Who is He?

- Matthew 28:19

#### What are His attributes?

- Psalms 139:7-10
- John 16:13
- Romans 15:13
- Romans 15:30

Do these characteristics remind you of Anyone? How do these attributes speak to the truth that the Holy Spirit is not lesser than the other two Persons in the Trinity? Can you say He is equal to Jesus and God? How can that be? Attempt to describe the Trinity in your own words.

#### What are/were roles the Holy Spirit played in:

- Creation: Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 1:26 (notice the pronoun)
- Salvation: John 3:5, John 16:7-11, Ephesians 1:13-14. Do you recognize the Spirit's work in your own salvation story? If so, how?
- Sanctification: Psalm 143:9-10, Romans 8:1-11 (notice the power that the Holy Spirit possesses v. 11)
- Restoration: Revelation 22:17

Journal who the Holy Spirit is in your life and what He means to you. If you didn't have the Holy Spirit in you, would you notice a difference in your life and ministry? How so? What difference does He make in both areas? How can you walk more with Him in these areas?

## Day 2 Reflection

### TRUTH

Read Galatians 5:16-26. What is evident in a person who walks by the Holy Spirit? List all the evidence that you would see in their life. (Don't list just the Fruit of the Spirit. There are other things to note as well in this whole passage). Are these traits a laundry list of to do's or a list of to be's? Put another way, are these rules to follow or a resetting of your identity? What kind of a difference would it make in your life if they were your new identity and not laws?

### EVIDENCE

The blueletterbible.org has a great series of articles on the topic of the Holy Spirit. When we think about evidence for the Holy Spirit, we need to make sure we have gathered and formulated the best understanding that we can of who the Holy Spirit is, the relationship within the Trinity, the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives etc.

How would you explain who the Holy Spirit is to someone who has never heard of the Holy Spirit before? What topics puzzle you the most? What are the key questions that you have? Write them down.

Use the link below and click through the articles to one that you would like to dig deeper into – perhaps there is more than one. Summarize your key takeaway points – how do these impact your understanding and how could you use them in a discussion with others? Now some of these topics might not interest you at all – that's ok! However, you are encouraged to dig deeper and explore at least one of the topics.

This link takes you to the index of all the commentaries that Don Stewart\* has written: [https://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/stewart\\_don/](https://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/stewart_don/)

The topics covered under the main topic of “The Identity of the Holy Spirit” are as follows:

- Why is it important to study the subject of the Holy Spirit?
- What is the proper way to approach the subject of the Spirit of God?
- Why is the subject of the Holy Spirit neglected?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Is the Holy Spirit a person?
- Does the New Testament depart from the normal rules of grammar to indicate the personality of the Holy Spirit?
- Could the Holy Spirit merely be the personification of God’s power?
- Why is the Holy Spirit spoken of in the neuter gender?
- Why do some argue that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force?
- What do we learn about the nature of the Spirit of God from the Old Testament?
- Is the Holy Spirit called God?
- Is the Holy Spirit associated on an equal basis with God the Father and God the Son?
- Does the Holy Spirit have the attributes of God?
- Has the Holy Spirit performed divine works?
- What different titles are ascribed to the Spirit of God?

And these are just the first 15 – there are 15 more topics! There really is a plethora of commentaries by Don Stewart on the Holy Spirit on [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org). We will be using this as a source of study for the rest of the week.

\*Don Stewart has written over twenty books on the subject of evidences for the Christian faith. These include, The Basic Bible Study Series, You Be the Judge, 10 Reasons To Trust the Bible, and The Coming Temple. In the last fifteen years, he has spoken in over thirty countries proclaiming the message that the Christian faith is both reasonable and intelligent. (taken from [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org))

### Day 3 Reflection

#### TRUTH

Using Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian Church found in Ephesians 3:14-21, list out all that Paul asked God- by His Spirit- to do for His people.

Journal what it means to have the power of the Spirit of God. Does your life look like this? Well, dear one, it can. Oh, it can. Just ask God. To get started, it might help to pray for yourself the very words of God and use this Pauline prayer. Just put your name in the prayer along with personal pronouns i.e., “I pray that you would strengthen me...” (A suggestion- use NIV translation when praying the exact words

Scripture. The flow is much better than with the ESV translation).

A challenge - pray it once a day for a week for yourself. A bigger challenge, pray it for your loved ones.

## TACTICS

Now if you have time, go back to Day two and use the links provided for the blueletterbible.org commentaries on the Holy Spirit by Don Stewart and dig deeper into one of the topics. Summarize your key takeaway points – how do these impact your understanding and how could you use them in a discussion with others? Now some of these topics might not interest you at all – that’s ok! However, you are encouraged to dig deeper and explore at least one of the topics.

Let’s remember what we are told in scripture – Matthew 7:7-8:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

To grow in our faith and in the core doctrines upon which our faith is based, we must seek and knock! Oh, the joy of when the Lord opens a door that we have not yet explored, and we get to delight in Him!

Why are we doing the same thing we did on Day two? Because to develop tactics in sharing our faith, we first need to make sure we understand the answers to key questions. Perhaps this is the tactic you could use to decide what topic you would like to explore more today.

## Day 4 Reflection

## TRUTH

Look up the following verses. Genesis 1:1-2 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Now use blueletterbible.org to examine the phrase “and the Spirit”. What is the Hebrew word used for the Spirit? What are all the definitions that this word can mean? Which Name of God is used in v. 1? Put them together and you have Ruach Elohim (The Breath of the Almighty Creator). So, the picture here is that God br\_\_\_\_\_ creation into being!

Next look at 2 Timothy 3:16. What is the term that is used in the ESV to state how Scripture came into being?

Does this remind you of Psalm 19 from Week One? If so, how? Oh! The wonders

of His Word! It is a well so deep the bottom of which will never be touched. Can you say Amen?!

## CHURCH HISTORY & ALTERNATE WORLDVIEWS

Today you get to watch a video where Pastor John helps us explore a period in history known as the Crusades. The Crusades is a topic that has meant many arguments against the Christian faith. So, what were the Crusades? Why did they take place? What happened? How could something so violent be allowed to happen under a banner of Christianity? What and how do we explain this period of history to those who do not yet know and love our Jesus?

Watch this video as Pastor John helps us explore and understand this topic:

<https://soundcloud.com/cfdowntown>

Note some of the key points that you want to remember below:

### Day 5 Reflection

#### TRUTH

Read John 16:5-15. List out all of the information Jesus states about what the Holy Spirit will do for the world and for His people.

**World**

**God's people**

What is the Greek word used for Helper in v. 7? What does it mean? Where would this term most likely be used? Why was this Name for the Holy Spirit used in this passage? How does this Name clarify the Spirit's "legal" advocacy for the World and God's people?

## DIGGING DEEPER

Go back to Day two and use the links provided for the blueletterbible.org commentaries on the Holy Spirit by Don Stewart and dig deeper into one of the topics. Summarize your key takeaway points – how do these impact your understanding and how could you use them in a discussion with others?

Is there perhaps a topic that you have been avoiding? Why not choose that one for today?

Here is a great 2 min video from Sean McDowell where he answers the question – Who is the Holy Spirit? It's a quick response that maybe you could use in conversation with others to open the door before digging deeper: <https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/who-is-the-holy-spirit-quick-response>