

## **Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit**

### **A Productive Relationship**

Who is the Holy Spirit, what Are His Functions and  
What Does He Produce In Us?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. The Bible teaches us that “*For there are **three** that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: **and these three are one.*** **1 John 5:7.**

Unfortunately, in our relationship with God, the Holy Spirit is who, we as believers ignore more and consequently who we understand less.

In this lesson we will learn about Him, His functions, and about the Fruit that He should produce in us.

## **I. How does the Holy Spirit relate Himself to us?**

### ***A. He lives inside each person who has received Jesus Christ as his/her Savior.***

1. The body of each believer is now the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19 teaches this to us: “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”
2. Galatians 4:6 teaches us that, because of our new Father-son relationship with God, He sent the Spirit to our hearts. Therefore, we are able to call Him “Abba Father”, an ancient expression which means “Daddy”.

### ***B. He came to dwell in our body the instant we received Jesus Christ.***

1. Romans 8:9 defines that if a person has not received Christ, the Spirit does not dwell in him.
2. Ephesians 1:13 says: “In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise”, which means that when we believed in Christ, we were marked as His property by the Holy Spirit.
3. At the moment of our conversion, He immersed us into the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”
  - a) Be careful! Many sincere people within the Pentecostal Movement teach incorrectly that we must pass through an additional experience in order to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.
  - b) Because we have already received the Holy Spirit, we do not have to be “*baptized in the Spirit*”.
  - c) From this first doctrinal error spring up deviations and shameful scandals “in the name” of the Holy Spirit, which have caused much confusion in the world. These include uncontrollable laughter, faintings, convulsions, etc.
  - d) We don’t need more of Him, but we need to let Him control more of us.

## **II. What are other functions of the Holy Spirit?**

***A. He brings glory to Christ, thereby fulfilling His main purpose. John 16:14.***

***B. He will strive to bring about the salvation of the unbeliever. John 16:8-11.***

***C. He performs various functions in those of us who believe. Some of those are:***

1. He removes us from error. Jesus Christ told those who believed in Him, in John 16:13: “but when the Spirit of truth shall come, He will guide you into all truth.” Truth is defined in John 17:17.
2. He teaches us the Bible. John 14:26 says “But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
3. He comforts us; therefore He is called “another Comforter.” John 14:16-18.
4. He gives us power to be witnesses in order to win others to Christ. 2 Timothy 1:7-8.
5. He enables us to serve God. He uses the gifts that God has given us according to Romans 12:6-8. We will study this point at length in Lesson 12.

### III. What is the effect of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?

*A. He produces the Fruit of the Spirit. This is a group of nine character qualities that are developed as we surrender the different areas of our life to Him. The term “Fruit of the Spirit” is a singular term because all of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23. These qualities are:*

1. Love: It is the attitude characterized by the absence of selfishness towards others. The best definition of Love is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-6.
2. Joy: Joy is not fleeting happiness determined by external circumstances, but the attitude of gratitude from a heart fortified, protected, helped and trusting in God. Psalm 28:7. “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”
3. Peace: Peace is not the absence of problems. It is the tranquil state of the soul, sure of being in a right relationship with God and trusting in His promises. Philippians 4:6-7.
4. Patience: Is the capacity to wait peacefully on things. It is developed and put to the test in dealing with those who surround us. “*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.*” Ephesians 4:2
5. Kindness: The virtue of not harming others, even when it is within our power to do so. Pardon and mercy are closely tied to this attribute. Ephesians 4:32 says: “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*”
6. Goodness: Just as kindness is closely tied to mercy, goodness works for the good of our neighbors.

7. Faith: Hebrews 11:1 says “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

8. Gentleness: The virtue of resting totally in God and not in our own efforts to be defended from injustices. It is manifested in a gentle spirit, calmness, and graciousness. Titus 3:1-3

9. Self-Control: Is the quality that permits the believer to be in charge of himself, with the willpower necessary to exercise self-control and to control his desires and sensual appetites. It is the kind of discipline spoken of in 1 Corinthians 9:25.

***B. The fruit of the Holy Spirit does not appear “instantly” in your life.***

1. Don’t be frustrated. Remember that, as with any other fruit, development of your character will require time and care.

2. You will mature in accordance with your obedience and submission to the control of the Holy Spirit in your life.

**IV. Is the modern movement of tongues and other miraculous signs a manifestation of the Holy Spirit?**

***A. No. We should remember that any type of experience should be submitted to what the Bible says.***

1. God has placed the Bible above all things. Psalms 138:2

2. That’s why, even though the practices of a church with bad doctrine have the flavor of Christianity, we should carefully practice the type of scrutiny that Christ asks of us in John 7:24: “*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*”

3. Everything that we do and practice should be founded on the Word of God and not on “experiences” now matter how pleasant they may be.

***B. No. Tongues and modern signs are not a manifestation of the Holy Spirit because they aren’t the same as those of biblical times.***

1. The Bible teaches that tongues and other signs had the purpose of convincing exclusively the Jewish nation of their unbelief.

a) The Jewish people (and not ourselves, the church of God) are the ones who seek signs. 1 Corinthians 1:21-23. This truth is consistent in all Scripture.

b) In Exodus 4:1-9 and 30-31 we see that God used Moses to do signs of healing and other wonders so that His people (Israel) would believe.

c) In Isaiah 28:11 and 1 Corinthians 14:21-22 we find that God would speak to His People (the Jews) in strange tongues.

d) This prophecy was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-11 the day that the Holy Spirit entered to dwell in believers in a permanent way. Again, this sign was done before, “*Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven*” (verse 5)

e) Note that these tongues were understandable languages—verses 7-11—(today they would be like Spanish, German, English, etc.) and not gibberish or undecipherable words like those that are currently used in the supposed revival of the Spirit.

2. The Bible commands us to respond with meekness and reverence to those that teach these doctrinal errors. 1 Peter 3:15 “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*” Don’t allow them to tangle you up in their error!

## V. Some Popular Beliefs

1. The believer does not receive “all of the Holy Spirit” at the moment of His salvation.
2. The Holy Spirit can leave you if you sin.
3. The Holy Spirit is an active force and not one of the persons of the Trinity.

From the Biblical principles taught in this lesson, you should understand why these teachings are completely false.

Write, in your own words, the spiritual principle from this lesson which has had the greatest impact on you:

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**Put into practice what you have learned:**

1. With total sincerity and honesty, mark with an “X” the areas of your character which have begun to show evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. Ask someone who knows you well if he notes changes in these same areas.
3. Make a habit of trying to make progress in these aspects of your character.
4. From today forward review these areas frequently with your discipler:

<b>Fruit of the Spirit</b>	<b>No Progress Yet</b>	<b>Very Little Progress Seen</b>	<b>My Progress Is Evident</b>	<b>I Have Already Made Much Progress</b>
Love				
Joy				
Peace				
Patience				
Kindness				
Goodness				
Faithfulness				
Gentleness				
Self-Control				

**What did we learn?**

Circle either T (True) or F (False)

1. The Holy Spirit lives within the body of the believer. T F
2. The Holy Spirit convicts a person of their sin and seals their soul in salvation. T F
3. The fruit of the Holy Spirit appears in complete form in our lives at the very instant of our conversion. T F
4. After our conversion we must long for the baptism of the Holy Spirit since He does not always enter to dwell within us upon our conversion. T F
5. In the Bible, tongues and wonders, consistently appear as signs for the Jews. T F

Before Starting Lesson 5, memorize:

1 Corinthians 6:19

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

Ephesians 1:13

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.”