

What the Bible Teaches About The Holy Spirit

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:20-21).

The Holy Spirit: the Most Misunderstood Person.

Some churches teach nothing about the Holy Spirit, while other churches emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit so much that the Scriptures are neglected and the work of the Father and the Son are misunderstood. Some teach the Holy Spirit never works apart from the Scriptures, but only when the Scriptures are preached or studied. Others teach that the Scriptures are not needed anymore because we have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is misunderstood by many, yet the Holy Spirit interprets the Bible for us and brings its meaning home to our hearts. By the grace of God, the Holy Spirit works upon unconverted sinners so they may come to a knowledge of the truth, repent of their sins, and enter into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

What the Bible Teaches About the Holy Spirit.

1. See **John 15:26-27** — *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”*

Jesus expects His followers to tell others about Him. The Spirit does what only a person can do. The Spirit of truth, Whom Jesus calls “the Helper,” will help us teach others about Him. The Helper will help us reason, remember, and teach what others need to hear. The Helper proceeds from the Father, and Jesus will send Him. Notice all three Persons of the Trinity are mentioned.

2. See **Luke 12:10-12** — *“And everyone who will speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him. And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not become anxious about how or what you should speak in your defense, or what you should say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*

Notice the Holy Spirit teaches. Only a person can teach us what we ought to say. The Holy Spirit leads and teaches people how to place their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Cursing the Holy Spirit and His witness means rejecting the only way God has provided for salvation and forgiveness—through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. See **John 16:7-11** — *“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”*

Three distinct Persons are named here. The Helper can only come after Jesus leaves and goes to the Father. The Helper has work to do beyond teaching Jesus' followers. He convicts the world of sin because they do not believe in Jesus.

4. See **John 16:13-14** — *“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.”*

The Holy Spirit is our guide into ALL truth. He speaks to us, discloses the future, and glorifies Jesus. Only a person does these things. Notice that the Holy Spirit is He, not an it.

5. **2 Peter 1:20, 21** — *“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*

The Holy Spirit Gave Us the Bible.

6. **Acts 13:2** — *“And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*

The Holy Spirit Speaks and Commands.

7. **Acts 16:6** — *“And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;”*

The Holy Spirit forbids, permits, and directs us. See **Romans 8:14** — *“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”* The Holy Spirit is God, the Spirit of Jesus and the Spirit of God.

8. **Acts 15:28** — *“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:”*

The Holy Spirit Seeks the Good of Believers.

9. **Romans 8:26** — *“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;”*

The Holy Spirit Prays for Us and through Us.

10. **Ephesians 4:30** — *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

As Christians, we can still make the Holy Spirit sad.

11. **2 Corinthians 13:14** — *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”*

As Christians, we can have fellowship, a personal relationship, with the Holy Spirit.

We need blessings by each Person of the Trinity.

Feel free to use these three Bible Studies in a Sunday school class or Bible Study Group. You are free to copy and distribute them for not for profit use.

For much of this outline I am indebted to the book *Basic Bible Studies* by Francis A. Schaeffer. Published by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., 1972. The new edition of this book is *25 Basic Bible Studies: With, Two Contents, Two Realities*, published by Crossway Books, 1996. However, I have changed his outline order, have added some additional scriptures, and have not used all the scriptures he suggested. The Scripture references are from the *New American Standard Bible*, The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA, 1977. “What the Bible Teaches About God” is copyright © 2003 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.
