

Holy Spirit

1. Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

- In Hebrew and Greek the word “spirit” is also translated “breath,” or “wind”
- Spirit of God describes the energy or power of God working toward a divinely intended end.
- But, Spirit is also personal, a Person.
 - Romans 8:26-27 – Spirit has a mind and thoughts
 - Ephesians 4:30 – Spirit is sensitive, especially to moral evil, which causes the Spirit to grieve.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11 – The Spirit wills some things; we have assigned places in the church because of the Spirit’s design.

2. The Spirit is someone you experience personally.

- You come to know God, know Christ, know yourself as a sinner, etc. through the Spirit.
- Spirit produces personal holiness in us: we grow in Christian character not by our power, but by the power of the Spirit.
- Spirit give us personal guidance for our lives: personal to me

3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

- The executor or effector of God’s plans and purposes. He gets things done.
- John 14:14 – Reveals Jesus, re-presents Jesus to every generation
- John 14:16 – Comforts
- John 14:26 – Counsels
- John 16:3 – guides into truth
- John 16:8 – Convicts of sin
- Acts 1:8 – gives us power
- Romans 8:26 – Helps me in my weakness
- Romans 8:27 – Prays for us
- 1 Corinthians 12:11 – gives spiritual gifts
- Galatians 5:22-23 – produces spiritual fruit
- Ephesians 1:17 – gives wisdom
- The Holy Spirit is God in us, working in us, making us more like Christ, executing God’s plans.

4. What does it mean to be “spiritual?”

- It means to live in the presence and power of God.
- God’s presence opens up:
 - Praise – calls attention to Christ and glorifies God. Joy, love, etc.
 - Prayer – the Spirit teaches us how and what to pray
 - Truth – Spirit reveals truth, empowers us to speak truth
 - Power – to live in the light of truth, to accomplish God’s purposes.
- Spirituality is not synonymous with uncontrolled or spontaneous emotion.
 - Spirit can produce grief over sin, and joy that glorifies God
 - Spirit does not produce emotion for emotion’s sake; the emotion is the byproduct of the Spirit’s work in changing our lives.
 - Therefore emotions do not mean the Spirit is present in power, only a changed life does.
 - Key: fruit of the Spirit in a person’s life after the emotional event.
 - The Fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of the Spirit moving in power, of spirituality.

- God works through our minds as well as our emotions. 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 tells us that God is a God of order, not chaos and confusion. Our emotions can be so confusing and misleading.
- I am not suspicious of emotional displays, I just know better than to equate that with spirituality.

5. What is the difference between talents and spiritual gifts?

- Acts 1:4, 2:38 – The Spirit is the gift!
- God doesn't give us something to use, He gives us someone to know.
- Gifts then are the Spirit giving to us His abilities to:
 - Build up the Body of Christ
 - Accomplish God's plans.
- 1 Cor. 12 – not exhaustive lists, not well-defined.
- We can know that the Spirit will manifest his abilities to meet the needs that are there.
- A spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Spirit at work in and through a person's life for the common good of the Body of Christ.
- Talents are God's gifts too. Every person has them
- Only Christians have spiritual gifts. Why? Only Christians have the Spirit.
- As new creations, the Spirit releases abilities and graces that will surprise us.
- When a person's talents are surrendered to Christ, they become gifts the Spirit use to produce Kingdom fruit.

Spiritual Gift inventories can be helpful, but God is not limited by what we think our gifts are! Therefore I should:

- Open myself up more to the Spirit, desire to be filled with more of the Spirit, allow the Spirit to occupy, guide and control every area of my life;
- Take my place in the Body of Christ and meet the needs that present themselves.