

Knowing the Holy Spirit – Session 1 (03-June- 2026)

Around the world, millions of Christians belong to different denominations and traditions. Almost all Christians honor the Holy Spirit. They sing about Him, preach about Him, and acknowledge His importance. Yet, many believers know very little about who He truly is.

Some people think the Holy Spirit is merely a force of God, a supernatural power, an emotional feeling, or a peaceful experience. Others associate the Holy Spirit only with speaking in tongues or with physical sensations such as goosebumps.

However, the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or power. He is a Person. Therefore, we should never refer to the Holy Spirit as “it.” Throughout Scripture, the Holy Spirit is never addressed as “it,” “this,” or “that,” but is consistently revealed as a Person.

When we speak of the Holy Spirit as a Person, we mean that He is the Third Person of the Godhead. Just as God the Father is a Person with His own unique personality, and God the Son is a Person with His own unique personality, so the Holy Spirit is also a Person.

When we understand who the Holy Spirit is, how to build a relationship with Him, how to benefit from His ministry, and how to depend upon Him daily, we can walk in victory rather than defeat.

Zechariah 4:6 "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts.

The greatest priority of every child of God should be to recognize the work and role of the Holy Spirit, surrender completely to Him, and remain receptive, cooperative, and dependent upon His guidance.

As a foundation for this study, let us first examine the biblical evidence that the Holy Spirit is indeed a Person. What makes someone a person?

A person possesses a will, a mind and emotions

The Holy Spirit possesses all three:

- He has a will.
- He has emotions.
- He has a mind of His own.

We will look at how the Scriptures that clearly demonstrate these truths.

1. The Holy Spirit Has a Will

One of the strongest evidences that the Holy Spirit is a Person is that He possesses a will of His own.

1 Corinthians 12:11 says: "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."

This verse clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts according to His own will. He decides who receives which gift and how each believer will be equipped for ministry. Such decision-making is possible only for a person, not for an impersonal force or power.

We see another example of the Holy Spirit's will in **Acts 16:6 "The Holy Spirit did not allow Paul to go and preach the word in Bithynia"**. As Paul and his companions travelled to preach the Gospel, they were prevented by the Holy Spirit from entering certain regions. The Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit did not permit them to preach in Bithynia. Why? Because it was not His will for them to minister there at that particular time. This teaches us that the Holy Spirit not only directs us where to go, but He may also stop us from going where He does not want us to be. There are times when He opens doors for ministry, and there are times when He closes them. His guidance is always according to His perfect wisdom and purpose.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit is not merely a power to be used; He is a Person who leads, directs, guides, and makes decisions according to His divine will.

2. The Holy Spirit Has Emotions

Another evidence that the Holy Spirit is a Person is that He has emotions.

Ephesians 4:30 says: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit can be grieved. Only a person can experience grief; an impersonal force cannot be hurt or saddened. The fact that the Holy Spirit can be grieved demonstrates that He possesses emotions.

This is why Jesus gave a serious warning concerning the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 12:31-32 says: "Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men."** Jesus emphasized the seriousness of sinning against the Holy Spirit. This reminds us that the Holy Spirit is not merely a power or influence. He is a divine Person with emotions and feelings. Therefore, believers must be careful not to grieve Him through disobedience, unbelief, or persistent sin. When we walk in holiness and obedience, we honor the Holy Spirit. When we knowingly live contrary to God's will, we grieve Him.

3. The Holy Spirit Has a Mind

The Holy Spirit not only has will and emotions, but He also possesses a mind of His own.

Romans 8:27 says: "Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

This verse clearly reveals that the Holy Spirit has a mind. He thinks, understands, and acts according to the perfect will of God. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit speaks what is on His mind. **Acts 13:2** says: *"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"* Notice the words, **"the Holy Spirit said."** The Holy Spirit personally spoke and gave direction to the church. He called Barnabas and Saul for a specific ministry assignment.

Again, in **Acts 8:29**, we read: *"Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near and overtake this chariot.'"* Once more, the Holy Spirit spoke and directed Philip concerning what he should do. Likewise, **Hebrews 3:7** declares: *"Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you will hear His voice...'"* The Holy Spirit has a mind, and He communicates His thoughts and purposes. He speaks, guides, instructs, and directs God's people according to His wisdom.

Other Evidences That the Holy Spirit Is a Person

The Scriptures reveal several other characteristics that confirm the personality of the Holy Spirit.

i. We Can Resist Him

Acts 7:51 teaches that people can resist the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit were merely a force, He could not be resisted in a personal sense. Resistance implies a relationship between persons.

ii. We Can Lie to Him

Acts 5:3 records Peter saying to Ananias: *"Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?"* A person can be lied to; a force cannot. This further demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is a Person.

iii. We Can Have Fellowship with Him

Philippians 2:1 and **2 Corinthians 13:14** speak of fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Fellowship involves communication, relationship, partnership, and communion. We cannot have fellowship with an impersonal force, but we can enjoy a living relationship with the Holy Spirit because He is a divine Person.

The Holy Spirit Is Not Only a Person — He Is Also God

We have seen from Scripture that the Holy Spirit is a Person. However, the Bible goes even further and reveals that the Holy Spirit is not merely a person; He is God Himself, the Third Person of the Godhead.

Jesus said in **John 4:24**: *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* Likewise, **2 Corinthians 3:17** declares: *"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* These verses affirm the deity of the Holy Spirit. He is not a created being, an angel, or a

divine force. He is fully God, equal with the Father and the Son. As God, the Holy Spirit possesses all the attributes of deity.

Attributes of God

1. God is Omniscient (All-Knowing)
2. God is Omnipotent (All-Powerful)
3. God is Omnipresent (Present Everywhere)

1. The Holy Spirit Is Omniscient (All-Knowing)

The word **omniscient** means "all-knowing." God possesses complete and perfect knowledge of all things—past, present, and future. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit possesses this same divine attribute.

Isaiah 40:13-14 says: "*Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counsellor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him?*"

Through this revelation, the prophet Isaiah shows us the greatness and supremacy of the Holy Spirit. No one has ever instructed Him, advised Him, or taught Him knowledge. He does not depend upon anyone for wisdom or understanding. The Holy Spirit created and sustains the universe through His own infinite wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. He knows all things perfectly because He is God.

The Apostle Paul confirms this truth in **1 Corinthians 2:10-11: "*For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*"** Just as a person knows his own thoughts, the Holy Spirit knows the very depths of God's nature, purposes, and plans. No created being can fully comprehend God, but the Spirit knows Him completely because He is God.

Jesus also said in **John 14:26: "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things.*"** The Holy Spirit is able to teach us because He knows all things. He is the divine Teacher who reveals God's truth to His people.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit is omniscient. No one counsels Him, instructs Him, or increases His knowledge. He possesses perfect wisdom and complete understanding. The Holy Spirit is not merely a force, an influence, or a wind. He is the all-knowing God, actively and consciously working within the Godhead and in the lives of believers.

2. The Holy Spirit Is Omnipotent (All-Powerful)

Another attribute that demonstrates the deity of the Holy Spirit is His omnipotence. The word **omnipotent** means "all-powerful." The Holy Spirit possesses unlimited power and is able to accomplish what is impossible for human beings.

One of the clearest examples of His divine power is found in **Luke 1:35**: **"And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called The Son Of God'"**

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he explained how she would conceive and give birth to Jesus. In doing so, he revealed an important truth about the Holy Spirit, that He is divine and possesses life-giving power. The Holy Spirit operates beyond all natural and human limitations. By His supernatural power, Mary conceived the Son of God without the involvement of a human father. This miraculous conception demonstrates the creative and life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

We also see the power of the Holy Spirit at work during creation. **Genesis 1:1-2** says: ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."*** Before the world was formed, the Holy Spirit was actively present and involved in the work of creation. The psalmist further confirms this in **Psalm 104:30**: ***"You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth."***

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of power. He is the divine agent through whom God's creative power is manifested. The Scriptures also describe Him as the source of divine power in the believer's life (**2 Timothy 1:7, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 3:16**).

Therefore, the Holy Spirit is omnipotent—all-powerful. By His power, the world and everything in it were created. The same Spirit who brought order out of chaos, created life, empowered the early Church, continues to work powerfully in the lives of God's people today.

3. The Holy Spirit Is Omnipresent (Present Everywhere)

A third attribute that proves the deity of the Holy Spirit is His omnipresence.

The word **omnipresent** means "present everywhere at all times." This is an attribute that belongs to God alone.

Concerning the Holy Spirit, David writes in **Psalm 139:7-10**: ***"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."*** In this verse, David acknowledges that there is no place where a person can go to escape the presence of God. Whether in the heights of heaven, the depths of the earth, or the farthest reaches of the sea, the Holy Spirit is present.

The Primary Work of the Holy Spirit Is to Glorify Christ

Within the Godhead, there are three distinct Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Though they are distinct Persons, they are one God.

Throughout Scripture, we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working together in perfect unity. They interact with one another, communicate with one another, and carry out God's eternal purposes in complete harmony. One of the earliest glimpses of this divine interaction is found in the book of Genesis. **Genesis 1:26 says: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" Notice the plural language used in this verse: "Let Us" and "Our image."** This indicates that there is more than one Person within the Godhead. Even at creation, we see a divine conversation taking place within the Trinity. We find another example after the fall of man. **Genesis 3:22 says: "Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.'" Again, notice the phrase "one of Us."** This reveals interaction and fellowship within the Godhead. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, yet united in essence and purpose. A similar expression is found in **Genesis 11:7, where God says: "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language."** Once again, we see the plural language of divine counsel and cooperation within the Godhead.

These passages provide us with glimpses of the relationship that exists between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They work together in perfect unity, each fulfilling His divine role while sharing the same nature, power, and glory.

Philippians 2:6 teaches that Jesus is equal with God. Within the Godhead, He is not inferior to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are equal in deity, glory, and nature.

Jesus Himself affirmed His divine nature. In **John 8:58**, when the Jews questioned His identity, He declared: *"Before Abraham was, I AM."* Many people mistakenly believe that Jesus came into existence only about 2,000 years ago when He was born in Bethlehem. However, the Scriptures teach that Jesus has existed eternally.

Abraham lived approximately 2,000 years before Christ, yet Jesus declared, *"Before Abraham was, I AM."* Through this statement, Jesus revealed that He existed before Abraham and before the creation of the world. The expression **"I AM"** is especially significant because it is one of the names by which God revealed Himself.

In **Exodus 3:14**, God said to Moses: *"I AM WHO I AM."* Therefore, when Jesus declared, *"I AM,"* He was revealing His divine identity. His message was clear: although He had come into the world as the Son of Man, He was also God in human flesh. Yet, despite being equal with the Father within the Godhead, Jesus willingly submitted Himself to the Father's will for the purpose of redeeming mankind.

As He faced the agony of the cross, Jesus prayed: **Luke 22:42 "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."**

In this verse, we see two distinct wills at work:

- The will of the Father.
- The will of the Son.

For the sake of humanity's salvation, God the Son willingly submitted His will to the will of the Father. Though equal with the Father in deity, He humbled Himself in obedience to accomplish God's redemptive plan.

Throughout Scripture, we see that the three Persons of the Godhead interact with one another, work together in perfect harmony to fulfill distinct roles while pursuing one divine purpose. They communicate, cooperate, and act in complete unity.

Just as the Son submitted to the Father's redemptive plan, the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, actively assisted and glorified Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry and continues to do so today. Jesus said concerning the Holy Spirit in **John 16:14**: ***"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."*** One of the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ. The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself; rather, He reveals Jesus, magnifies Jesus, and makes Jesus known to the hearts of believers. Everything the Holy Spirit does points people to Christ. He reveals Christ through the Scriptures, forms the character of Christ in believers, empowers believers to serve Christ, and testifies of Christ to the world. Therefore, whenever the Holy Spirit is at work, Jesus Christ is exalted, glorified, and made known.

The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is about one Person—Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus Himself declared this truth in **John 5:39**: ***"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."*** Likewise, in **Luke 24:27**, Jesus explained to His disciples how the Scriptures pointed to Him: ***"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."***

From the very first book of the Bible to the very last, the central message is Jesus Christ.

Now consider this question: **Who is the Author of the Scriptures?**

The Holy Spirit is the Author of Scripture.

2 Peter 1:20-21 says: ***"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*** Likewise, **2 Timothy 3:16** declares: ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*** Some translations render this verse as, ***"All Scripture is God-breathed."*** The Scriptures originated through the inspiration and work of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, one of the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit is to reveal, exalt, and glorify Jesus Christ. Throughout the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit continually points people to the Son of God.

As the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit actively assisted God the Son in carrying out His redemptive mission.

The Holy Spirit Assisted Jesus Throughout His Earthly Ministry

From the birth of Jesus to His ascension into heaven, we see the ministry and assistance of the Holy Spirit.

At His Birth

Matthew 1:18 says: *"Before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."* Jesus' miraculous conception was accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit.

At His Baptism

Before beginning His public ministry, Jesus humbled Himself in obedience to the Father's will and was baptized. **Luke 3:22** says: *"And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him."* This marked the beginning of His public ministry.

During His Ministry

After the Holy Spirit came upon Him, Jesus ministered in the power of the Spirit. **Luke 4:14-15** says: *"Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee."* The miracles, teachings, and mighty works of Jesus were carried out through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 12:28**: ***"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you."*** Likewise, **Acts 10:38** declares: ***"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil."***

At His Death

Even at the cross, we see the ministry of the Holy Spirit. **Hebrews 9:14** says: ***"Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God."***

Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice through the power and assistance of the Holy Spirit.

At His Resurrection

The Holy Spirit was also active in the resurrection of Christ. **Romans 8:11** says: ***"If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you..."*** The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in every believer today.

A Lesson for Us

If the Lord Jesus, during His earthly ministry, depended upon the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill His mission, how much more do we need the Holy Spirit in

our lives? We cannot successfully live the Christian life, fulfill God's purpose, or walk in victory apart from the Holy Spirit.

The Promise of Another Helper

Before returning to the Father, Jesus gave His disciples a wonderful promise. **John 14:16** says: *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."* Again, in **John 14:26**, Jesus said: *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things."* And in **John 16:7**, He declared: *"It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you."* The words *Helper*, *Comforter*, and *Counsellor* refer to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was telling His disciples, "I am returning to My Father to take up My ministry as our eternal High Priest and Intercessor. But I will not leave you as orphans. I will send the Holy Spirit to be with you forever."

The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

After His death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus fulfilled His promise. **Acts 2:33** says: *"Having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."* On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon all flesh, fulfilling God's promise. **Acts 2:17** declares: *"I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh."*

This promise was not limited to a select group of people. God's desire is for all people to experience the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit. Even today, when we surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit, He works in us and through us to accomplish God's purposes and to glorify Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit's mission is to reveal Christ, glorify Christ, and empower believers to live for Christ. As we yield ourselves to Him, He transforms our lives and enables us to fulfil God's calling.

Next Class

In our next study, we will learn:

- Why the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ.
- How the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together in the redemption of mankind.
- Additional ministries and works of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Come prepared and expect to learn more about the wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit.