

transform
discipleship mentoring

Obeying Christ... Making Disciples

“Go therefore and make disciples..”

Matthew 28:19

LEVEL ONE

ESTABLISH

Transformed Relationship



2

**A Discipleship Ministry Resource Provided by
Faith Assembly of God**

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The Person and Work of The Holy Spirit

Establishing Transformed Relationships

Introduction

Many churches are empty, dry, and void of spiritual life because they have lost touch with the dynamic presence and power of **the Holy Spirit**.

The Holy Spirit played an important role in the life and ministry of the early church. It is impossible to understand the explosive growth of the New Testament church without understanding the important role of **the Holy Spirit** in the church. Only if you have extra time this week, read the book of "Acts" in your bible.

(Acts refers to, the actions of the early church)

For much of church history the third **person** of the Trinity, **the Holy Spirit**, has been virtually overlooked. However, today many people are hungry to experience the Holy Spirit in their life. God has given us the marvelous gift of His **Holy Spirit**.

The Holy Spirit plays an important role in personal salvation, the process of character transformation (sanctification), church formation, and the general spread of the gospel. Without Him, it is impossible for individuals or the church to experience revival.

Now as never before, is the doctrine of **the Holy Spirit** a necessary teaching in the contemporary church.

The purpose of this weeks lesson is to offer you an introduction to the person and work of **the Holy Spirit**. As we seek to learn more about **the Holy Spirit** we must ask ourselves several important questions. Is the Holy Spirit divine? Is the Spirit a person? What does the Holy Spirit want to do in my life? This study will help us answer some of these foundational questions. Every Christian can benefit from studying the Holy Spirit. Learning more about the Holy Spirit will enable you to experience Him in a more deeper way in your life.

Listen to a heart of a person who desires the Holy Spirit's outpouring more than anything else.

Pray daily for a great outpouring of **the Holy Spirit** in your life, on the Church and on the world. This is the grand need of the day—it is the thing that we need far more than money, machinery, and men. The "company of preachers" in Christendom is far greater than it was in the days of Paul; but the actual spiritual work done in the earth, in proportion to the means used, is undoubtedly far less. We need more of the presence of **the Holy Spirit**—more in the pulpit, and more in the congregation—more in the pastoral visit, and more in the school. Where He is, there will be life, health, growth, and fruitfulness. Where He is not—all will be dead, tame, formal, sleepy, and cold. Then let everyone who desires to see an increase of pure and undefiled religion, pray daily for more of the presence of **the Holy Spirit** in every branch of the visible Church of Christ. - J.C. Ryle



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Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has **His permanent dwelling in you** [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually]?

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 (Amplified Version)

Q. What does that mean to you?

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This is a truth that everyone must know, understand and experience if they desire to grow and mature in the walk with Jesus.

Interesting fact: The Bible opens and closes with the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:2 - Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit** of God was hovering over the waters.

Revelation 22:17 - **The Spirit** and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Read John 14:16 and write down the verse 16

When Jesus said "**another comforter**" he was making reference to someone else just like Him. Now why is that? **Because:**

1. **The Holy Spirit** was to take the place of Jesus **on** the earth and **in** the believer.
2. **The Holy Spirit** was to reveal Christ to the world **through** the believer.
3. **The Holy Spirit** was to, **through the church**, demonstrate and do the works of Jesus. In other words, the Church is to continue the Ministry of Jesus Christ **through** the powerful indwelling of God, the Holy Spirit!



The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

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Two Essential Truths About the Holy Spirit ... part 1

Two truths about the Holy Spirit that we need to have a clear understanding from the start.

The first truth is that **the Holy Spirit is a person** NOT an impersonal force.

The second truth is **that the Holy Spirit is God** NOT a creation of God.

First, the Holy Spirit Is a Person

The most important scripture passage to support the first truth is from the book of John chapters 14–16 (**read these 2 chapters**). At least three things in these chapters confirm that Jesus refers to the “Holy Spirit” as a person not a mere force.

1) Jesus calls him “another Counselor” in **John 14:16**, “I will pray the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth” (read 14:26; 15:26; 16:7). When Jesus calls him a Counselor or Comforter, he treats him as a person not a force. Also, when he calls him “another Counselor,” he means, “He will be a counselor like me.” The Holy Spirit is a counselor like Jesus is - he is a person.

2) In **John 14:17**, Jesus says, “You know him, for he dwells **with you** and will be **in you**.” Then in **verse 25** he says, “I have spoken to you while I am **with you**.” Jesus virtually identifies the Spirit with himself. “I am **with you** and will be **in you**” is the same as saying, “I am with you and the Spirit will be in you.” “You know me now as flesh and blood Son of God. You will know me soon through the Spirit who will be given to you.” Therefore, the Spirit is no less a person than Jesus is.

3) The Holy Spirit is described not merely as the voice of God's teaching but as a teacher in his own right. **John 14:26**, “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will **teach you all things**.” And in **15:26** he is a witness in his own right, “When the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will **bear witness to me**.” And lest we think that the Spirit is just the extended teaching activity of the Father and the Son, **John 16:13** says that the Spirit first hears and then teaches: “He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak.” The Spirit is treated not as a force, or influence, or activity of another person, but as a person in his own right, hearing from the Father and the Son, and teaching and bearing witness to men.

It will make a great deal of difference in your own life if you believe that you are being indwelt and led and purified not by impersonal forces from a distant God, but by a person who in his essence is the love of God (**Read Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:12–13**).

As you grow in your relationship with God, understand that the Holy Spirit is a person and He lives in you.

May God Bless you this wonderful day! - Pastor John



Lesson 2

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

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Two Essential Truths About the Holy Spirit ... part 2

Two truths about the Holy Spirit that we need to have a clear understanding from the start.

The first truth is that **the Holy Spirit is a person** NOT an impersonal force.

The second truth is **that the Holy Spirit is God** NOT a creation of God.

Second, the Holy Spirit Is God

When you add the second truth about the Holy Spirit, the first becomes even more precious. The Holy Spirit is God. The person who indwells and leads and purifies is no one less than *God*, the Holy Spirit. The simple evidence for this is the frequent designation "**Spirit of God**." The Spirit is "of God" not because God created him, but because he shares God's nature and comes forth eternally from God. (**Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-12**).

Read John 1:1-3 and Romans 8:9-11

If the Son of God (Jesus) is equally eternal with the Father, as **John 1:1-3** makes clear that he is, then so is the Holy Spirit equally eternal with them both, because, according to **Romans 8:9-11**, the Spirit of Christ is one and the same with the Spirit of God. If this were not so, we would have to imagine that there was a time when the Son had no Spirit and the Father had no Spirit.

As far back into eternity as God the Father has been generating or imaging forth the Son, there has been an infinite Holy Spirit of love and delight between them, who is himself a divine Person. Therefore, as Jesus prays for the church in **John 17:26**, he asks his Father for nothing less than the Holy Spirit when he says, "I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that *the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them and I in them*."

The most glorious of all truths that we will discover is that when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, he comes not merely as the Spirit of the Son, nor merely as the Spirit of the Father, but as the Spirit of infinite love between the Father and the Son, so that we may love the Father with the very love of the Son, and love the Son with the very love of the Father. Wow!

Have a great Day! I encourage you to talk to **the Holy Spirit** today.

Blessings! - Pastor John



Lesson 2

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

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How the Holy Spirit Sanctifies (works in you)

Read Romans 15:14–21 and keep your Bible open.

"Sanctification" comes from two Latin words: *sanctus* which means *holy*, and *ficare* which means *make*. So, to sanctify means to *make holy*. This is one of those big words seldom used in the daily language of a new believer yet a critical truth and process that one must understand. Let me give you a few examples of the Holy Spirit in the believers life working to **"Make Them Holy."**

- Let's say you've always cheated on your tax returns. Then after you come to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you begin to tell the truth on your tax returns—*that's sanctification*.
- Let's say you're always on your husband's case, then after reading the Word of God, He pricks your conscience and you begin to nag at him less and look for ways to show respect.—*that's sanctification*.
- Let's say you're sleeping with your girlfriend. Then after you come to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you now get the courage to make it right and move out—*that's sanctification*.

2 Questions About Romans 15:14–21... Let's look at our text and try to answer 2 questions:

What is sanctification, and How can we be sanctified?

1. What Is Sanctification?

In **Romans 15:15-16** (NLT) Paul says, For by God's grace, I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. Focus for a moment on this one fact: sanctification is the goal of Paul's missionary labor. He pictures himself as a priest. His ministry is to preach the gospel. And the offerings he brings to God as a priest are Gentiles... and these Gentiles are acceptable because they are sanctified. Paul is not merely aiming for new converts; he is aiming to make people sanctified (to make holy).

By reading on **Romans 15:18-19** (CEB) we will find a more clear idea of what sanctification is and the aim of his life in different words: I don't dare speak about anything except what Christ has done through me to bring about the obedience of the Gentiles. He did it by what I've said and what I've done, by the power of signs and wonders, and by the power of God's Spirit. So, what is the aim of Paul's missionary labor in this verse? Or more precisely, what does Christ aim to achieve through Paul's missionary labor? Answer: he aims to win obedience from the Gentiles.

Let's close this thought! Since the aim of Paul's ministry in verse 15-16 is to present Gentiles to God who are *sanctified*, and in verses 18-19 Christ's aim in Paul's ministry is the *obedience* of the Gentiles, therefore *sanctification* means *obedience to Christ*. Jesus himself told us what the aim of missionary labor should be in Matthew 28:19 - "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*." The aim of Christian missions and our discipleship ministry at Faith Assembly is to cause people to obey a new Commander, the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is happening where the words of Jesus are being obeyed.

Read Romans 6:17–19

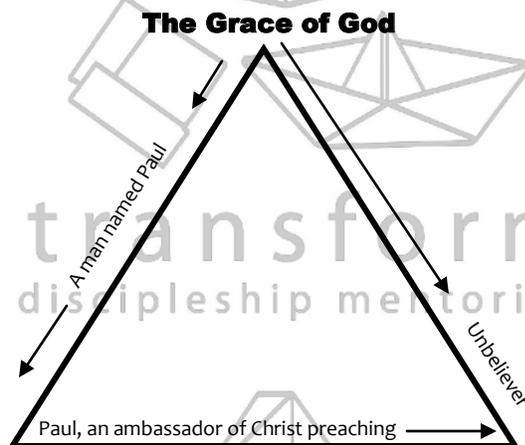
How the Holy Spirit Sanctifies Part 2

2. How Does Sanctification Come About? How is a person made Holy?

If we go back now to Romans 15, we can see how sanctification comes about. Let's start again at the end of v15. "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God," (NKJV)

The first and highest foundation of sanctification is the *grace of God*. According to verse 15, God's grace turned Paul into a minister of Christ. Moved by this grace, then, Paul undertakes the *service of the gospel*—he preaches the good news that Christ died for sinners and offers eternal joy to those who believe. According to verse 16, then, the result of this preaching is that Gentiles become *sanctified by the Holy Spirit*.

Let's try to picture it like this.



Visualize a **triangle** with the grace of God at the top point. On one side of the triangle this grace is poured out into a man named Paul. It utterly revolutionizes his life and he becomes the ambassador of Christ preaching the gospel to Gentiles. So one of the bottom corners of the triangle is the apostle Paul. Now he moves out along the base of the triangle to preach the gospel to the unbeliever at the other corner of the triangle. The goal of this preaching is a sanctified believer (verse 16).

But verse 16 says that a person is sanctified by the Holy Spirit, not just by the preaching of the gospel. So the other side of the triangle is the power of the Holy Spirit flowing out from God's grace and opening the person's heart to receive the gospel (Acts 16:14). Sanctification happens when the gospel preached and the Spirit poured out meet with power in the human heart.

It is critical to understand that the same initial process that brought you to faith in Jesus Christ (*sanctified / made holy / saved - your position before God*) is the same daily process that provides your sanctification (*daily being made holy - in your actions / behavior*). As you read the Bible daily and agree with it, the Holy Spirit will empower you to live in obedience to His Word. - **That's sanctification.**

Read Philippians 2:12-13

Knowing the Holy Spirit

When you get to know someone there are certain characteristics about them that are apparent. Here are several of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead.

Read the selected scriptures that support the person of the Holy Spirit.

1. He is **a comforter** who feels.....John 14:26
2. He is **a teacher** to listen to.....Luke 12:12 , John 14:26, 1 John 2:27, 1 Corinthians 2:10-14
3. He is **a faithful guide** to follow.....Romans 8:14 and John 16:3
God has provided a guide for us who knows the way ahead and the right path to take.

- Read Isaiah 58:11

4. He **possesses** a soul (example...mind, will, emotions)
1 Corinthians 12:11, Romans 8:27, Ephesians 4:30
5. He **speaks** to the local churches.....Revelation 2:29, 3:13
* In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, you'll notice Jesus' emphasis to each church:
"let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" Rev.2:17 (NKJV)
6. He **empowers us** with boldness.....Acts 1:8, Acts 4:7-13 and Acts 4:31
7. He **counsels** and **communes** with us.....John 14:16, 2 Corinthians 13:14
8. He is **the giver of Spiritual gifts** to the church.....1 Corinthians 12:7-11
9. He is our **helper, comforter, and companion**..... John 14:16-17,26, 15:26, 16:13-15
10. He is the **author** and **inspiner** of the scriptures, the Bible....2 Timothy 3:16,17, 2 Peter 1:21
* Godly men anointed and directed by the Holy Spirit wrote the scriptures.
11. He **confirms the gospel** with miracle signs and wonders.....Mark 16:20, Hebrews 2:4
12. He is **Omnipotent** (All Powerful).....Luke 1:35
13. He is **Omniscient** (All Knowing).....1 Corinthians 2:10-13
14. He is **Omnipresent** (Present everywhere at the same time)Psalm 139:7-10
15. He **convicts** men and women of sin enabling them to see their need of a Savior. It is the convicting power of the Holy Spirit that touches and turns the hearts of people towards Jesus.....John 14:6, John 16:7-9
16. He **produces spiritual growth** in the believer's life.....Galatians 5:22-25
17. The **Holy Spirit will help you to know God**, to know **Jesus**, to know **the Word of God**, and to know **the things of God**. You cannot understand the Word of God apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit.....1 Corinthians 2:9-14

I can't begin to tell you how your life will change as you get to know the Holy Spirit. I really encourage you to speak to the Holy Spirit. (example..."Holy Spirit, help me be bold for Jesus!"

May God Bless you richly this day as you walk in the Holy Spirit. - Pastor John

Review Questions - Lesson 2

1. Without the Holy Spirit, what is impossible for the church or individual to experience? p.11

2. When Jesus said “*another comforter*” what was he referring to? p.12

3. How is the Church to continue the Ministry of Jesus Christ? p.12

4. What 2 truths about **the Holy Spirit** do we need to have a clear understanding of? p.13-14

A.

B.

5. What does the word “sanctify” mean? p.15

6. What happens in the heart of a believer when the word of God and the Holy Spirit meet? p.16

7. What factor is absolutely necessary if a person is to understand the Word of God? p.17

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Remember:

The Holy Spirit is not a **FORCE**. He is a **PERSON** and He is **GOD** .