

DAUGHTER IN WAITING MINISTRY

UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY SPIRIT

a guide to walking with the Spirit of God





Resources

Bible Gateway

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Who is The Holy Spirit?

SECTION 1





In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2 (ESV)







The first introduction of the third person of The Trinity occurs at the beginning of God's word in the book of Genesis in The Old Testament.

The Spirit of God is shown to have been the one to hover over the "face of the waters", prior to the structuring of the earth, and the creation of animals and human beings. He is shown to have been the presence of God hovering over His creation and His word.

The scripture first describes the Spirit as having an overseeing nature.







Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)







Another mention of the Spirit of God in The Old Testament occurs during the anointing of David as the King of Israel. It says in scripture that David was a man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14) and because of this, David was chosen out of his brothers, the least powerful and able of his brothers, the youngest of his brothers, to serve God (1 Samuel 16:6-12).

Scripture shows that the anointing of David occurred because God was pleased with David and specifically wanted David to become king. Because of this calling on David's life, the Spirit of God came to David to equip him.

Scripture shows that The Holy Spirit anoints individuals to perform God-given assignments.





But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:13-15 (ESV)





The first introduction of The Holy Spirit in The New Testament happens prior to the birth of The Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is in fact mentioned for another's birth, John The Baptist, who is known to have 'prepared the way' for Jesus in Luke 3.

John's father, Zechariah, is told by an angel of God that his son is to be sober-minded because he will be filled with the Spirit and go on to do great things for The Lord. In Luke 1:16, scripture additionally tells us that John will turn many of the children of Israel towards God.

The scripture states that The Holy Spirit fills an individual. It also describes the Spirit as being 'holy' or 'pure' and one that draws individuals to God.





And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God."

Luke 1:35 (ESV)







The second mention of The Holy Spirit in The New Testament also occurs in the gospel of Luke. An angel of God tells a woman named Mary that she will carry and birth God's holy Son through the power of God. This 'power' will enable her to accomplish that which is humanly impossible - childbearing outside of natural conception between a man and woman.

In this text, the Spirit comes upon the virgin Mary to perform a specific-given task of God. It's mentioned that the power of God "overshadows" Mary to perform this task.

The scripture describes The Holy Spirit as having an overshadowing and empowering nature.





Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22 (ESV)







The third mention of The Holy Spirit in The New Testament occurs in Luke 3. It happens right after the baptism of Jesus Christ and prior to Jesus starting His ministry.

According to scripture, the heavens opened and from there, the Spirit descended on Jesus in the bodily form of a dove. He's often depicted in the image of a dove because of this text, but He is known as a 'spirit' because outside of His incarnated bodily form during the baptism of Jesus, He's without physical form. Throughout scripture, He's viewed as an 'energy force' or a 'wind' without shape or form (*more on this on the following pages*).

This verse tells us that the Holy Spirit descends on an individual after baptism.





then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:7 (ESV)







An additional mention of the Spirit to highlight is in The Old Testament in the book of Genesis. Scripture tells us that the Spirit of God is considered the 'breath of life'.

The verse above tells us that God created mankind by His breath and because of this, Adam (the first human to be formed) became a living creature. Psalm 104:30 further drives a point by telling us that when God sends forth His Spirit, we are created.

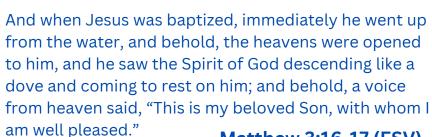
We draw this conclusion even further when we refer to John 20:22: "And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Upon welcoming His disciples as children of the Heavenly Father, Jesus 'breathed' on them to give them new life, thus entering the Holy Spirit. When we are saved and accept Jesus Christ into our hearts as our Lord and Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit who gives humanity the breath of life, but it is up to the individual to receive the indwelling of The Holy Spirit once accepting Jesus Christ into their hearts.

Scripture describes the Holy Spirit as the one who gives us breath.





ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS



Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)

He's described as a dove to symbolize and reflect His pure, holy, and innocent form.



The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

John 3:8 (ESV)



He's described as being uncontrollable nor seen by those who have received Him. We can't see Him directly, but we can experience Him as He moves in our lives.



When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2: 1-4 (ESV)

dwelling in the fire that enabled the apostles to speak in tongues during the Pentecost. This falls in line with God's presence often being described as a consuming fire (Exodus 14:24, Deuteronomy 4:24, etc.)

He's described as a 'fire' or



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ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10:38 (ESV)

He's described as an oil that 'anoints' individuals to do good work, to heal, and to deliver individuals from the grips of the devil.



He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between heaven and earth and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the sea of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. And behold the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.

Ezekiel 8: 3-4 (ESV)

He's described as a hand that uplifts, offers visions, and brings individuals to see the glory of God.

These verses are only a few examples of the description of The Holy Spirit in the bible. There are many more and they are mentioned in Isaiah 11, Job 26, Psalm 104, Revelation 4, and Revelation 5 to name a few.





Functions of The Holy Spirit

SECTION 2





SECTION 1 PROVIDES AN INSIGHT INTO WHO THE HOLY SPIRIT IS.

SECTION 2 EXPLAINS HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATES IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN.

HERE ARE 6 TOP FUNCTIONS OF THE SPIRIT (NOT IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE):

OVERSEEING	GIFTING
LEADING	EMPOWERING
TEACHING	
HELPING	

this guide only focuses on these 6 functions and allows you to choose an additional 2 to review for yourself





OVERSEEING

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timonty 3:16-17 (ESV)



Functions of The Holy Spirit

OVERSEEING

The primary function of The Holy Spirit is to oversee the word of God and His creation.

In Numbers 23:19, God tells us that He doesn't lie nor repent. He also says in John 14:6 that He's The Truth. In addition to that, He tells us in Hebrews 6:18, that it is impossible for God to lie, and in John 17:17, Jesus tells the Heavenly Father to sanctify us in the truth because God's word is truth. So, what God has written in His word must come to pass.

The overseer, the one who 'hovered' over the deep waters in Genesis, and breathed the breath of life in humanity and God's creation, watches over God's word.

In the book of Jeremiah, God confirms this very thing.

Jeremiah, a young prophet at the time, did not understand why God was calling him to speak on God's behalf. In Jeremiah 1, Jeremiah doubts the calling of a prophet God placed on his life and questions how God could possibly fulfill it. God responds by telling Jeremiah that He has put His words in Jeremiah's mouth (Jeremiah 1:9) and has equipped him to do what the prophet has been tasked to do. God then asks Jeremiah to tell Him what Jeremiah sees in the vision God's given him, and Jeremiah answers truthfully. God responds with:

"You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it." Jeremiah 1:12

The Holy Spirit watches over God's word to perform it.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13

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LEADING

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8:13-14 (ESV)





LEADING

The second function of The Holy Spirit is to lead Christians into a path of righteousness.

Since the fall of mankind beginning with Adam and Eve, humans live in a sinful world. Jeremiah 17:9 even says that our humanly heart is beyond wicked and deceitful. It is impossible, without His Spirit, for any human to lead a life pleasing to God because we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The good news is that Anyone can be made righteous when they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Romans 5). From there, the individual is set free in Christ, no longer a slave to sin, and free in the righteousness of God (Galatians 5).

Because of this, another primary function of the Spirit is to lead us to live lives that are pleasing to God. Though Christians are no longer bound by God's law and commandments, God individually convicts us and leads us through His Spirit (Romans 8).

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." - Galatians 5:16-25

An example of the convicting work of the Spirit that comes with His leadership over our lives can be found in 2 Samuel 11. Out of lust, David committed the sin of adultery by laying down with someone else's wife, Bathsheba. He also committed murder by arranging for her husband to be killed in battle. We know from 1 Samuel that David was filled with the Spirit and was a man after God's heart. So, when he had sinned with Bathsheba, he felt great remorse and guilt over what he did. This remorse led him to repentance and to even write the infamous Psalm 51 where he acknowledges his sin to God and prays that God would renew his individual spirit and create in him a clean heart.

When the Spirit of God leads us, He will lead us to the truth of God, the holy nature of God, and the peaceful ways of God. We know we are not allowing the Spirit to lead us when our actions, speech, ways, and behaviors fall against His nature as highlighted in Galatians 5.

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TEACHING

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

Luke 12:11-12 (ESV)





Functions of The Holy Spirit

TEACHING

Another function of The Holy Spirit is to teach Christians.

It's the Heavenly Father's will that those who have accepted His Son are taught the truth about His kingdom. When the Spirit of truth comes, He teaches the believer God's word. It is He who reveals to us the truth about the nature of God, the word of God, the Kingdom of God, and all things related to the deity of God.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Luke 8:9-10

In the book of Acts, God confirms the teaching power of His Spirit.

In Acts 4, Peter and John taught the gospel and the ministry of Jesus to many and because of this, many who heard them believed in the word of God (Acts 4:4). Because of this boldness of teaching the word, Peter and John were unfortunately arrested by the religious leaders. It's said that the Council inquired of Peter and John on why they were teaching the gospel. When Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8), spoke in his and John's defense, it was the Spirit guiding him on what to say in that very moment. The Spirit teaches us God's word so that we can share it, and He also provides us with His own words in situations where we need His help.



HELPING

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 8:26 (ESV)



Aunctions of The Holy Spirit

HELPING

The Holy Spirit is also our Helper. He helps us in our needs.

Romans 8 tells us that the Spirit searches our hearts, He also knows the heart of God, and because of this, He intercedes on our behalf. Praying is simply a way to communicate directly with God so with the help of the Holy Spirit, we never have to worry about what to say or even how to say it. His help and ways guides us to form our own personal and intimate relationship with God.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and we become susceptible to His teachings, He's able to help us in many ways. According to John 14, one of the ways He helps us is by being our advocate. Not just to the Heavenly Father when He intercedes on our behalf in prayer, but also when He advocates for us to others.

We see this function of His at play in Acts 4 (also mentioned in the 'teaching' section). Because of the Spirit's help in enabling Peter to say the right thing before the Council, Peter and John were let go because according to Acts 4:21, the Council could not find a way to punish the disciples for what they had said. The Spirit helped them know exactly what to say which led to their freedom. In this way, the Spirit of God advocated on Peter and John's behalf and He does the same thing for us today during our times of need.

In Isaiah 41:10, God tells us not to fear because He's with us and He upholds us with His righteous right hand. It's in His righteousness that He helps us and fulfills every need we have. We can always come to God for help through the power of His Spirit.

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

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MINISTRY



GIFTING

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (ESV)





GIFTING

The Holy Spirit gives each believer spiritual gifts.

One of the more popular functions of the Spirit of God is His help in gifting the body of Christ. Scripture says that one of the ways the Spirit manifests Himself in the believer is through His gifts. Any work, calling, purpose, or task that God gives the believer can only be done through the gifting of His Spirit.

The bible has a couple of passages that speak on the spiritual gifts offered by God including:

Romans 12:6-8

serving, teaching, prophesying, encouraging, giving, and leadership

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 28

utterance of wisdom, utterance of knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues, and administrating **Ephesians 4:11-16**

apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ

1 Peter 4:10-11

hospitality, speaking oracles of God, serving by the strength God supplies so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ

Apostle Paul tells the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12 to treat all of its members with the same importance, despite the varying spiritual gifts. He further drives his point by saying that God arranged each member (the saints) of the body of Christ as He deemed fit and in order for there to be no division among us. The body of Christ functions well when all members function well with the gifts they've been given.

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." - 2 Timothy 1:6

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EMPOWERING

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)



Functions of The Holy Spirit

EMPOWERING

The Holy Spirit empowers us to fullfill our callings and any task God has given us.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 is the assignment Jesus Christ gives to all who come to believe in Him. This is the primary purpose and calling of a Christian - to spread the gospel or in God's words, "make disciples out of all nations". Whether in a corporate job, at school, in the ministry, or during any time of leisure throughout our day, our purpose is to spread the gospel. The Holy Spirit empowers us in our day-to-day lives to shine our light before others (Matthew 5) by utilizing all that He's given us as mentioned in this guide. It's up to us to walk 'in-step' with Him and receive that which He always readily and freely gives us.

In addition to the individual empowering God gives us to walk in His light, God can also call an individual to a specific task or assignment. Sometimes, this is referred to as one's individual "calling" in the faith. The bible is filled with examples of God using His Spirit to anoint and empower His children to perform work for His Kingdom.

A great example of this in The Old Testament is found in the book of Exodus. In Exodus 28, God invokes Moses and a few selected individuals to make priests' garments. He states in Exodus 28:3 that He has filled these individuals with a "spirit of skill" so that they may be able to perform this task and make these garments exactly as God instructs them to. In Exodus 35, Moses tells the people that God called Bezalel and has 'filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship' to perform the task of building the tabernacle. Moses also states in Exodus 35 that God has also called Oholiab and filled both he and Bezalel with the skill to do any work that can be done by an artistic designer or a workman. Both were called by God to construct The Tabernacle and both were specifically empowered by the Spirit of God to do so. They lacked nothing for the work they were called to do.

Other biblical examples of God drawing individuals to a specific calling is David's anointing to becoming King of Israel in 1 and 2 Samuel; Barnabas and Paul being called into the ministry in Acts 13; and the disciples of Jesus being called to follow Him for the ministry in the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Holy Spirit empowers a believer to do the work of The Great Commission and He also empowers individuals into specific God-given callings, tasks, and assignments.

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WRITE YOUR OWN:

WHAT OTHER FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DO YOU IDENTIFY IN THE BIBLE?
WHAT BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THIS CAN YOU GIVE?
HOW HAS GOD PERFORM THIS IN YOUR OWN LIFE OR THE LIVES OF OTHERS AROUND YOU?



Aunctions of The Holy Spirit

WRITE YOUR OWN:

WHAT OTHER FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DO YOU IDENTIFY IN THE BIBLE?
WHAT BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THIS CAN YOU GIVE?
HOW HAS GOD PERFORM THIS IN YOUR OWN LIFE OR THE LIVES OF OTHERS AROUND YOU?



Walking with The Holy Spirit

SECTION 3





The Holy Spirit indwells in any individual who comes to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We are made children of God when we have His seal.

The Spirit of God convicts us, leads us, teaches us, and empowers us to walk in righteousness and lead a life pleasing to God. He also helps us perform the Godly work we've been called and purposed to. But, it is up to us to accept this leadership of His. Three of the fruits of God's Spirit are patience and love and gentleness. God does not force us to lean on His Spirit, because it's a choice we get to make for ourselves.

Walking 'in-step' with The Holy Spirit requires us to choose to lean on Him daily. The more our relationship with God develops during our intimate moments with Him in prayer, praise, worship, or gathering with other Christians, the easier it becomes to hear God's voice and recognize the nudgings, help, and leadership of His Spirit.



Walking with The Holy Spirit

PRACTICAL STEPS

SPEND TIME READING GOD'S WORD

- ONE-ON-ONE BIBLE STUDY
- GROUP BIBLE STUDY
- CHURCH SERVICE
- OTHER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRAY TO GOD

- PRAY FOR GUIDANCE
- PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT
- PRAY FOR STILLNESS AND PATIENCE TO SPEND TIME WITH AND TO HEAR HIM
- PRAY FOR A SOFTENED HEART TO HEAR HIS VOICE
- ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU

FOLLOW BIBLICAL TEACHINGS AND STANDARDS

- IS THE VOICE/DISCERNMENT I'M HEARING ALIGNING WITH GOD'S CHARACTER / THE FRUITS OF HIS SPIRIT?
- TEST THE SPIRITS (1 JOHN 4:1) TO MAKE SURE IT'S GOD SPEAKING

• SURRENDER THE NEED TO CONTROL

- ALLOW GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU HOW HE KNOWS YOU'LL BEST RECEIVE IT
 - JOHN 10:27-28
 - PSALM 23
 - PSALM 46:10
 - PSALM 139



Walking with The Holy Spirit

HOW DO I PRAY WITH THE SPIRIT?

For further help with praying with The Holy Spirit, please access the 'Praying with Scripture' or the 'Praying Through The Psalms' PDF guides under the 'Resources' page of the blog.





Grieving The Holy Spirit

SECTION 4





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And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (ESV)



Grieving The Holy Spirit

PRACTICAL STEPS NOT TO

BEHAVE IN A WAY PLEASING WITH THE SPIRIT AND NOT THE FLESH

- ACTS OF THE FLESH (GALATIANS 5:19-21)
 - sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.
- ACTS OF THE SPIRIT (GALATIANS 5:22-23)
 - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Anything we do that aligns with God's character pleases the Spirit. Anything we do that opposes God's character and His teachings grieves Him.

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." - Galatians 5:16-18

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