

*CALL to PRAYER* - Pray that we are Spirit-filled - Eph. 5:18-21 (godly talk, thanksgiving, submission)

*Intro* - As you read your Bible you might have noticed that not a lot of ink is devoted to the Holy Spirit. This is by design. The Holy Spirit is not the most prominent Person in the Trinity, but He is just as important. So...who is the Holy Spirit? THE SPIRIT IS GOD. He not a part of God, He is God. He is co-equal and co-eternal with The Father & Son. The Spirit is life giving, and He is the One who reveals the deep things of God to us. The Spirit guides us, helps us, and leads us to holiness, truth and freedom. The Spirit testifies of Jesus Christ, He conforms us to the image of Christ and will work in us to put others first and be less prominent...just like Him.

### *1 Corinthians 2:9-16 - Definitions 19 - Who is the Holy Spirit?*

1. The Holy Spirit is less prominent but is not hidden in God's revelation of Himself - Bible
  - a. The Bible waits two whole verses before introducing the Holy Spirit - Gen. 1:1-2
  - b. The Spirit is the life-giving Creator
    - i. Hovering over waters at creation....overshadowing Mary's womb (Lk. 1:35)
    - ii. Gives breath to all - Gen. 2:7 Job 34:14-15
      1. *Spirit* = breath / wind The Breath of God
      2. Unseen & mysterious but vital for all of life
  - c. There is no physical life or spiritual life without the Holy Spirit
    - i. John 6:63 birth / breath.....new birth / new life
2. There is Hierarchy, Patriarchy & Equality in the Trinity
  - a. The Father is first in prominence
  - b. The Son is second in prominence. (John 10:30 - "are one" John 14:28 - "greater than I")
    - i. The Father sends the Son. The Son obeys the Father & does His will. The Son only does & says the things commanded by the Father. John 12:49-50
  - c. The Holy Spirit is third in prominence
    - i. The Spirit is sent by Father & Son and testifies of the Son - John 15:26
    - ii. The Spirit does not promote Himself or glorify Himself - John 16:13-14
  - d. There is perfect unity & equality within the hierarchy & patriarchy of the Trinity
    - i. Those filled with the Spirit learn submission within union (Phil. 2:1-4)
3. God is spirit (John 4:24) but the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God
  - a. Spirit of God / Spirit of Christ - Rom. 8:9
  - b. 1 Cor. 2:11
    - i. As human being we have a spirit - the deep inner workings within (hidden)
      1. Our spirits know our thoughts (true self often concealed)
    - ii. The Spirit of God knows the deep things of God...the heart of God
  - c. The Father & Son are very jealous for the Spirit
    - i. As humans, to hurt the spirit is worse than a hard hand to face (Prov. 18:14)
    - ii. Eph. 4:30 - we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit - Is. 63:10
    - iii. No forgiveness for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31-32)

4. The Spirit of God reveals the heart of God to the people of God by the word of God
  - a. 1 Cor. 2:10-13
  - b. The deep things of God, the thoughts of God are given to us in spiritual words
    - i. Inspiration of Scripture -
      1. God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16)
      2. God's words are "breathed out" by His Spirit
    - ii. The Spirit doesn't get a lot of ink in the Bible but He inspired all the ink in the Bible. 2 Peter 1:21
5. The Spirit leads us to truth
  - a. It is impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; Numbers 23:19)
  - b. Jesus came to testify of truth. All those of the truth hear Him - John 18:37
  - c. The Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and He leads us to truth
    - i. John 16:13
    - ii. We are to hear what the Spirit says to the churches - (Rev. 2 & 3 - 7x's)
  - d. The world that loves lies will not receive the Spirit of truth
    - i. John 14:16-17 1 Cor. 2:14
6. The Holy Spirit makes His people holy
  - a. Convicts of sin - John 16:7-8
  - b. Conforms to the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29) by mortification of sin
    - i. Rom. 8:13
  - c. Produces fruit of Spirit - Gal. 5:22-25
7. The Holy Spirit will lead us to freedom
  - a. 2 Cor. 3:17
  - b. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is no hedonism or legalism...only freedom
    - i. Rom. 14:17
  - c. A Spirit filled church enjoys variety & liberty in the Lord.
    - i. No *"cookie-cutter Christianity"*
8. God's Spirit leads God's people
  - a. Rom. 8:14
  - b. Like Israel, I often feel like I'm wandering...but the Spirit is leading
  - c. He often leads us to difficult places (Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:12-13)
  - d. The Holy Spirit is our Helper & Comforter as He guides us through trials and tribulations (Acts 20:22-23)

The Holy Spirit is not the most prominent Person in the Trinity, but He is just as important. We should pray and strive to be Spirit-filled Christians. A Spirit-filled church is a Christ-centered church because the Spirit glorifies Jesus. A Spirit-filled church strives for holiness <sup>(Holy Spirit)</sup>, listens to truth <sup>(Spirit of truth)</sup> & walks in freedom. The Spirit-filled are guided through temptations & tribulations by our Helper & Comforter who is conforming us to Christ's image. And if you are Spirit-filled He will probably lead you be less prominent and to promote others...just like He does for The Spirit is not about self-promotion. The Holy Spirit enjoys submission within the perfect union of the Great Three in One. To fellowship with the Spirit is to put others first.