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## *The Help & Comfort of the Holy Spirit*

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Jesus called the Holy Spirit both the Helper and the Comforter. These names highlight the strength and support the Spirit provided to the apostles, and they are excellent descriptions for shaping our understanding of the Spirit today. This study will help students become familiar with key passages (in their context) that describe the Holy Spirit so that we can avoid common misunderstandings and be more grateful for the blessings He provides.

This class will help students:

- Acknowledge and honor the Spirit's wonderful works.
- Appreciate the means the Spirit employs to accomplish His work.
- Advance our understanding of the Spirit's relationship to Christians today.
- Answer common questions about the Spirit.
- Avoid sins that tear down the very things the Spirit builds up.

1. <b>Introduction to the Spirit's Nature</b> <i>(John 14:16-26)</i>	Sun	June 2	Phillip Shumake
VBS Special Service <i>(Matthew 21-28)</i>	Wed	June 5	Selected Teachers
2. <b>Introduction to the Spirit's Work</b> <i>(Genesis, Judges, 1 Samuel, Luke 4, 2 Peter)</i>	Sun	June 9	Phillip Shumake
3. <b>The Spirit &amp; Inspiration</b> <i>(John 14-16, 1 Corinthians 2)</i>	Wed	June 12	Russ LaGrone
4. <b>The Spirit &amp; Conversion</b> <i>(Acts)</i>	Sun	June 16	Russ LaGrone
5. <b>The Spirit &amp; Our Christian Walk</b> <i>(Romans 8)</i>	Wed	June 19	Russ LaGrone
6. <b>The Spirit &amp; His Dwelling</b> <i>(Romans 8, Colossians 2, 2 Timothy, James)</i>	Sun	June 23	Phillip Shumake
7. <b>The Spirit &amp; Our Sanctification</b> <i>(Romans 15)</i>	Wed	June 26	Phillip Shumake
8. <b>The Spirit &amp; Edification</b> <i>(1 Corinthians, Galatians)</i>	Sun	June 30	Phillip Shumake
9. <b>The Spirit &amp; Our Confidence</b> <i>(Ephesians)</i>	Wed	July 3	Phillip Shumake
10. <b>Big Q's: The Sins Against the Spirit</b> <i>(Matthew 12, Acts 7, Hebrews 10)</i>	Sun	July 7	Phillip Shumake
11. <b>Big Q's: The Anointing in 1 John</b> <i>(1 John 2)</i>	Wed	July 10	Phillip Shumake
12. <b>Big Q's: The Charismatic Movement</b> <i>(Acts)</i>	Sun	July 14	Phillip Shumake
13. <b>Review</b>	Wed	July 17	Phillip Shumake

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## *Lesson 1: Introduction to the Spirit's Nature*

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### **The Holy Spirit's Personal Nature**

What do the pronouns used to describe the Holy Spirit indicate? (John 14:16-17)

Not every use of the word "spirit" refers to the Holy Spirit. How is it used in 1 Timothy 4:1?

### **The Holy Spirit's Personal Traits**

What qualities of the Spirit are described in the following verses?

- He has a \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:27)
- He has \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:30)
- He has \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 2:11)
- He has a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:11)

What personal actions does the Spirit perform?

- He \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:29, 1 Timothy 4:1)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:26, John 15:26-27)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:26)

What personal suffering does the Spirit endure?

- He \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:30)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 10:26)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 5:3)

### **The Holy Spirit's Divine Qualities**

What attributes of God are possessed by the Spirit?

- Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11)
- Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalms 139:7-10)
- Divine \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 9:14)

Considering these passages, what conclusions about the Holy Spirit can we make?

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## 2: Introduction to the Spirit's Work

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### In The Beginning...

The Old Testament frequently describes the Spirit in action and in prophecy. What help or comfort does He provide in the following passages?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:2, Job 33:1-7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Judges 6:34, 15:14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Samuel 10:6, 16:13)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 11:1-2, 42:1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Nehemiah 9:20)

### In The Life of Christ...

The New Testament reveals the very significant role the Spirit played in the ministry of Jesus. What does He accomplish in the following passages?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 1:28-35)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:25-35)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 4:16-21)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 3:16-17)

### In The Early Church...

The Spirit's help and comfort in establishing the church is a joy to behold. What wonderful blessings did He provide in the following passages?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:8, 1:26-2:6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:8, 25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 7:51, 55)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:17-19, Acts 19:6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 11:12)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 21:11)

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## *Lesson 3: The Spirit and Inspiration*

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### **Remember the Class Goals:**

1. Acknowledge and honor the Spirit's wonderful works.
2. Appreciate the means the Spirit employs to accomplish His work.
3. Advance our understanding of the Spirit's relationship to Christians today.
4. Answer common questions about the Spirit.
5. Avoid sins that tear down the very things the Spirit builds up.

### **Promises to the Apostles**

The night before his death, Jesus made several promises to his apostles regarding the Holy Spirit. John records these promises as part of a larger section of what Jesus said to them during that evening (John 13 – 17).

1. Read John 14:15-17, 25-31
  - a. What are two names or titles given to the Spirit in vs. 16 and 17 (cf. John 16:7, 13)?
  - b. What does Jesus promise the Spirit will do for them in vs. 26?
2. Read John 16:1-15
  - a. Did Jesus teach everything he wanted the apostles to know while he was with them (vs. 12)?
  - b. What does he promise the Spirit will do for them (vs. 13)? Whose teaching will this be?
3. Read Matthew 10:1-5, 16-20
  - a. When the twelve were sent out during Jesus' ministry what were they able to do (vs. 1)?
  - b. How did they know what to say (vs. 20)?
4. Read Matthew 28:16-20
  - a. What was their mission?
  - b. How would they know (remember) what Jesus had commanded them?

### **The Apostles Receive the Holy Spirit**

1. Read Acts 1:2-8.
  - a. How did Jesus give commands to the apostles (vs. 2)?

- b. What would the Spirit allow them to do (vs. 8)?
2. Read Acts 1:21 – 2:21.
- a. Who is together on Pentecost (1:26, 2:1)?
  - b. When they were filled with the Spirit (vs. 4), what were they able to do (compare vs. 4 with vs. 8 and 11 to answer this question)?
  - c. What did Peter say had happened to him and the other eleven apostles (vs. 14-18)?

***Paul and the Inspiration of the Spirit***

1. Read Ephesians 3:1-5
- a. How did Paul come to know the “mystery” (vs. 3)?
  - b. Who else does he declare now knows this (vs. 5)?
  - c. To whom does he give credit for their knowledge (vs. 5)?
2. Read I Corinthians 2:6-16
- a. There are things of God that no one can know (vs. 9). Paul speaks of how he came to know them. How did God reveal them to Paul (vs. 10)?
  - b. Who alone can understand the thoughts of God (vs. 11)?
  - c. How do we in turn understand these things of God (vs. 12-13)?

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## Lesson 4: The Spirit and Conversion

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### **Remember the Class Goals:**

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### **Introduction – Nature of Salvation**

To avoid misunderstanding the Holy Spirit's role in a sinner's conversion, it's essential to have a Biblical view of the sinner's responsibility for his or her own sinfulness and the role God's message has in reaching and saving them from the consequence of their sin. This can introduce a topic well beyond the scope of our study of the Holy Spirit, but the scriptures below should help us avoid the idea that the Holy Spirit must work directly on the heart of a sinner turning him to God even against his will; or the false idea that an individual cannot weigh out the message of God and have a personal involvement in making a free will decision to turn to the Lord.

In Lesson 3, we saw how the Spirit played an essential part in revealing the message of the Father to the Apostles. In this lesson, we see how important that work of the Spirit is in producing the salvation of any soul.

1. Read James 1:18-21
  - a. What is the message called in vs. 18? What is the word able to do?
2. Acts 15:7-9 discusses sinners who have been saved.
  - a. By what was their heart cleansed?
  - b. Read Romans 10:14-17. What was the source of that faith? Look also at Acts 15:7.
3. Acts 17:30 declares God commands all people everywhere to repent.
  - a. What leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4)?
  - b. Where do we learn of the goodness of God (Romans 1:16-17)?
4. Galatians 3:27 speaks of all Christians being baptized, explaining that they have put on Christ. Based on the following verses, who was being baptized?
  - a. Acts 2:41:
  - b. Acts 8:12:
  - c. Acts 18:8:

### **Mission of the Apostles**

Remember in the previous lesson, the Apostles were promised the Holy Spirit who would teach them. What were they to do with this blessing from the Spirit?

1. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:15-16.
  - a. How were they to make disciples? What were they to teach them and what the source of that teaching?
  - b. What were they to proclaim to the whole world? Who would be saved?
2. Read I Peter 1:10-12
  - a. What had the Spirit done for prophets of old?
  - b. In the days of Peter, by what were inspired men preaching the good news? What did this good news concern (vs. 10a)?

### ***Day of Pentecost***

Acts 2:1-41 records the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles (as promised) and what they immediately did as a result of the influence and power of the Spirit.

1. What were all of the Apostles doing (vs. 7)?
2. What does Peter say has been fulfilled (vs. 16-18)? What is going to be the result (vs. 21)?
3. What does Peter urge the crowd to do (vs. 22)? What would they be able to know as a result (vs. 36)?
4. What was their reaction and question (vs. 37)? How is it answered (vs. 38-39)?
5. How does Peter bear witness and exhort them (vs. 40)?

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## *Lesson 5: The Spirit and Our Christian Walk*

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### **Remember the Class Goals:**

1. Acknowledge and honor the Spirit's wonderful works.
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4. Answer common questions about the Spirit.
5. Avoid sins that tear down the very things the Spirit builds up.

### **Introduction**

In lesson 4, we examined the Holy Spirit's role in the conversion of a lost soul. Now we want to examine how the Spirit assists the converted as they begin to live as a child of God.

### **The Spirit's Work for Us**

According to the following scriptures, what does the Spirit do for us?

1. Romans 5:5
2. Romans 8:9
3. Romans 8:11
4. Romans 8:16
5. Romans 8:26-27 (two things)
6. Romans 15:13
7. II Corinthians 13:14
8. Galatians 5:18
9. Ephesians 2:18
10. Ephesians 4:30
11. II Thessalonians 2:13

### **The Response Expected from Us**

We are expected to respond to the Spirit. There are things we should and should not do in our response. According to the following scriptures, what are we NOT to do?

1. Matthew 12:31-32
2. I Corinthians 6:18-20
3. Ephesians 4:30
4. I Thessalonians 5:19
5. Hebrews 10:29

According to the following scriptures, what are we to do?

1. Romans 8:4-6
2. Galatians 5:16
3. Galatians 6:8
4. Ephesians 4:3
5. Ephesians 5:18
6. John 7:38-39

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## 6: The Spirit & His Dwelling

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**The Major Passages.** *In the following passages, the Spirit of God is described as dwelling within Christians. The Bible is clear about the fact of the Spirit's indwelling, but what is often debated is the manner of the Spirit's indwelling.*

- In Romans 8:9-10, what effect does the Spirit dwelling within Christians have?
- In 1 Corinthians 3:6-17 and 1 Cor. 6:15-20, what metaphor does Paul use to help the Corinthians understand the indwelling of the Spirit?

**Considering The Temple.** *Because the Spirit's dwelling is described in terms of a temple, I believe careful attention is due. Consider what we know...*

Where is God usually described as dwelling? Deut. 26:15, 1 Kings 8:30, 2 Chron. 2:6, 6:18, Psalm 11:4, Isaiah 66:1-2, Mark 16:19

So, in what sense did God dwell in the Tabernacle? Exodus 33:9-14, 40:34

And, in what sense did God dwell in Solomon's temple?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Kings 8:1-11, 1 Kings 9:1-9
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Chronicles 5:1-14, 2 Chron. 7:1-3

Summary: God did not cease to dwell in heaven, but His favor, light, glory, and guidance were given to His special people.

**A Righteous Response:** *In context, the dominant issue described by the language of the Spirit dwelling within people is Moral Behavior, not Miraculous Power. This is just what we would expect based on Ezek. 36:27.*

According to Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18, what righteous behavior will be true of Christians who are filled with the Spirit and the Word of God?

According to 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, when the Spirit dwells within a Christian, what righteous behavior are they motivated to practice?

According to 2 Timothy 1:14, when the Spirit dwells within a Christian, what will they value?

According to James 4:4-7, when the Spirit dwells within a Christian, what relationship will they pursue? With what attitude?