

MESSAGE

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE TRINITY | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | SEPTEMBER 23/24, 2017

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth." (John 14:16-17)

The Nature of the Holy Spirit

Powerful – *ruach; pneuma*

Personal – *parakletos*

The Holy Spirit and the Old Testament

Creating (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 33:6)

Strengthening (Judges 14:6; 1 Samuel 16:13)

Inspiring (Exodus 31:1-3; Ezekiel 3:24)

Two Sendings: Jesus' Incarnation and the Holy Spirit's Impartation

The Father giving Jesus (John 3:16-17)

The Father giving the Spirit (John 14:16, 26)

The reciprocity of the Triune God

The Holy Spirit and God's People

The **Presence** of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17; Ephesians 1:13-14)

The **Fruit** of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:19-26)

The **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:4-8)

The **Mission** of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:7-8; 2:1-12)

What This Does Not Mean

Not that the Holy Spirit is less than God the Father or the Son (Subordinationism)

Not that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force (Jehovah's Witnesses)

Not that the Holy Spirit experiences have authority over Scripture (Montanism)

Not that the Holy Spirit is to be feared

Living Our Triune Faith

STUDY GUIDE

1. What do you find most difficult to understand about the Holy Spirit?
2. This weekend we conclude our series on understanding God as a Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We will explore many different portions of Scripture related to God the Holy Spirit. Begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak to you through His word, and then continue the study.
3. What do the following Old Testament passages tell us about the Holy Spirit?:
 - Genesis 1:1-2
 - Nehemiah 9:30
 - Job 33:4
 - Psalm 104:30
 - Psalm 139:7
 - Psalm 143:10
 - Ezekiel 36:24-28
4. Read Jesus words on the work of the Holy Spirit in John 14:15-21, 25-27 and 15:26-27, 7-15 aloud. What does Jesus say about who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does in this teaching?
5. Jesus sends the gift of the Holy Spirit upon His followers at the time of the Pentecost festival. Read both Acts 1:4-9 and 2:1-21. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses?
6. From the passages below, what do we learn about the Holy Spirit's work in the life of the believer?:
 - Romans 12:4-8
 - Romans 8:26
 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 - Galatians 5:19-26
 - Ephesians 1:13-14
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
 - Titus 3:4-7
 - 1 John 2:19-27
7. What is one thing that God is speaking to you through this study? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

FURTHER REFLECTION

You may want to explore this topic more deeply. Here are some helpful resources:

- Read and reflect on the Nicene Creed (<https://www.creeds.net/ancient/nicene.htm>) and early Christian quotes on the Holy Spirit (<http://ow.ly/CBJa30fkJxW>).
- Read a book to help you understand the Holy Spirit more, such as *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* by Michael Green, *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan or *God's Empowering Presence* by Gordon Fee.

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