

When Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit, He always used a personal pronoun. “*He*”, “*Him*”, or “*Himself*”. Never once did He refer to the Holy Spirit as “*it*” or a “*feeling*”

(see John 14-16)

“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 things that I said to you.”

(John 14:26, NKJV)

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit with a personal pronoun because He related to the Holy Spirit as a real person

- Not an invisible, intangible, mysterious, or unknown entity

This is important to know because the Third Person of the Godhead possesses the attributes of personality

Just as Jesus is the perfect imprint and very image of the Father’s nature, the Holy Spirit perfectly represents the life and nature of Jesus Christ

We have already seen...

The Holy Spirit comforts us, indwells in us, Teaches Us, Reminds Us, Testifies With Us, Convicts Us, Convinces Us, Guides and Reveals to Us, Helps Us Worship, He is Jealous For Us...

The Holy Spirit Can Be Grieved

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30, NKJV)

- The word used for “grieved” is a word that would have been used to denote *the emotions of a betrayed spouse*
- A feeling of being betrayed, deceived, lied to, misled, hurt, wounded, and abused
- This word is used to describe how we affect the indwelling Holy Spirit when we tend toward worldliness

The Holy Spirit is the One who works to produce the character of God in us

Let’s look at the things that grieve him according to

Ephesians 4:25-31 (*lying, anger, stealing, bitterness, wrath, evil speaking*)

- Remember that Paul is writing this to Christians not non-believers
- Christians were committing these sins!
- No wonder the Holy Spirit was grieved
- We need to remember that someone lives inside of us
- He is called the Spirit of holiness – **Romans 1:4**
- That is what He comes to produce in our lives

The Holy Spirit lives in you and deserves the utmost reverence and respect

When we choose to take a worldly path, we set ourselves in opposition to God

The Holy Spirit Is A Permanent Indweller

- Your heart is not a hotel to which He comes to visit occasionally
- Your heart is His home
- He is the One who lives inside you and never leaves

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

(1 Corinthians 6:19–20, NKJV)

- Temple – *“a highly decorated shrine”*

Vaulted ceilings, marble columns, granite floors, hand-carved woodwork overlaid with gold and silver, crystal chandeliers, and burning incense around the altar

- Russian Orthodox Cathedrals
- St Petersburg square and elsewhere – WOW!

What Holy Spirit does is so much more than mere decoration

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,”

“even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),”

(Ephesians 2:1, 5, NKJV)

“and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

(Ephesians 4:24, NKJV)

We are His masterpiece!

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10, NKJV)

- Salvation is the greatest miracle of all

The Father resurrected our dead nature and filled it with glory, power, revelation, holiness, splendor, righteousness, the fruit of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, and the life and character of Christ

- Many of us have a poor self-image
- We see ourselves as unworthy shacks built of mud and sticks
- We certainly do not see ourselves as highly decorated shrines of the Holy Spirit
- And naturally speaking we are fairly weak as human beings

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

(2 Corinthians 4:7, NKJV)

- Earthen vessels – small, cheap, easily broken pottery
- Something weak, fragile, and of minimal value
- This certainly is true of our natural bodies
- The wrong diet can kill it
- Working too hard can break it
- To much pressure can damage it
- Even when we take good care of it, it finally dies

When Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers about gluttony, sexual immorality, and worldliness, he told them...

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” (1 Corinthians 6:15–17, NKJV)

- The Holy Spirit goes where you go and sees what you see

Imagine a wife saying to her husband, *“I love you, and I want to stay married to you forever. But I have authority over my own body, will, and emotions, and I want to have an affair with another man.”*

When we understand that the Holy Spirit lives in us, it will change the way we perceive ourselves and the way we do business in life

What we see with our natural eyes is a display of weak humanity

But contained in this weak vessel is the very power that created the universe

If God has placed all of this treasure on the inside of us do you think He will just walk off and leave His investment?

- I assure you, He won't!
- You were bought with a price!

“Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?” (James 4:5, NKJV)

- Yearns – an intense, beyond-normal, excessive yearning
- Could be used to describe a drug addict
- Every day the addict needs a fix of drugs to carry him into the next day
- When he needs more, everything in him is focused on getting more
- This is the same kind of yearning the Holy Spirit has for us but in a positive way

You are the object of the Holy Spirit’s love and affection

The Holy Spirit is our Indweller, our Sealer, our Sanctifier, our Power, and the Source of our new life in Christ

- His work, attention, gifts, power, and words are directed toward us
- We are the object of His love and affection
- He is focused on changing you, empowering you, and conforming you, to the image of Jesus Christ
- Helping you fulfill God’s plan for your life

No matter how long you have been saved the Holy Spirit is wooing you to draw near to Him and surrender new areas of your life where you have not allowed Him to be Lord

Are your attitudes, thought life, and finances (*spending habits and giving*) under the control of the Holy Spirit?

James 4:5 shows us that the Holy Spirit is a lover and He is preoccupied with us

- He wants to possess us and that our desire and affections be set on Him
- He can be grieved and jealous when we allow the things of this world to preoccupy and consume us
- He has divine envy to see things in our lives put back the way they should be

Only the Holy Spirit knows how to balance us and the only way He can do that is for us to open our hearts and spiritual ears to Him and allow Him to direct us

- This won't happen if we are not setting aside special time to spend with Him every day

Don't allow yourself to buy into the lie that you don't have enough time to be responsible as an employee, spouse, or parent and simultaneously grow in your relationship with Him

- If you have spending time with the Lord as a top priority you will make time for Him
- If it is not a top priority, you won't
- It's that simple

“The Spirit, who has come to settle down, make His home, and permanently dwell in us, has an all-consuming, ever-growing, excessive, passionate desire to possess us — and He is envious and filled with malice toward anything or anyone who tries to take His place in our lives.”

— **(James 4:5)** Rick Renner

Are You Hungry?

Most of us have no problem knowing when to eat a meal

- Most of us eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner at a specific time every day
- We eat when we're hungry

But how do we recognize spiritual hunger?

- How do we know when to fast?
- It's beyond these 21 days
- There are times to fast together
- There are times throughout the year we need to fast personally

Your spirit hungers for the things of God just as your stomach hungers for food

When you engage in regular seasons of fasting and prayer your stomach hungers but eventually fades

- Yet, your spiritual hunger rises up
- It can only be satisfied with the will of God and fulfilling His call on your life

Psalm 34:8 (NLT)

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Today we are breaking the fast

- Many of us will be going out to eat lunch
- One restaurant we like is North Peak
 - They bring complimentary bread
- A restaurant we used to go to had yeast rolls
- Carrabba's brings warm bread, olive oil, and spices

At one-time bread was the main course

- It also had a symbolic meaning
- Breaking bread together in one's home was an honor
- It was a mark of friendship

Jesus also used the term "*bread*" to refer to himself

John 6:35 (NLT)

³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

- There is a bread that is not natural food
- We are learning the importance of recognizing spiritual hunger
- Jesus said His bread was to do the will of the Father

Meeting our spiritual hunger is more important than meeting our natural hunger

When our spiritual hunger is satisfied we don't hunger for the things of the world that get us off track

God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they were given specific instructions on what to eat that final night, the night their homes would be "*passed over*" as the angel of death destroyed all the firstborn of Egypt

- They were to "*be ready*", with no time for the dough to rise
- Leaven represents sin – **1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Luke 12:1-3**
- Part of the Passover meal was and continues to be, unleavened bread

While Israel was wandering in the desert for forty years it was hard to plant and harvest wheat for bread, so the Lord met the need for them

Exodus 16:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

- They ate the "*bread from heaven*" daily for the duration of their time in the desert
- Bread wasn't a side option like today
- Bread was the "*Main Course*"

John 6:32–35 (NKJV)

³² Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

- What a statement!
- Remember bread was not an afterthought
- It was the main dish
- This got their attention

He was trying to get them to understand, “*You need me every day*”

- Not just Sunday
- Every minute of every day
- You can’t make it without Me
- Without bread, you’ll perish

You can do nothing without me – **John 15:5**

- He’s not a side salad
- He’s not something at the end of the table in a basket
- He is the source of life!

Have our lives become so full that we only have room for a taste of God on Sunday or Wednesday?

- Do we come to church so full of the world that we have no room for the “*Bread of life*”?
- Are we in a hurry to rush out to what we consider to be the “*Main course*” in our life?

Do you think God looks at our preaching, our programs, and nice buildings and asks us, “*Would you like some God with that?*”

- We need to cultivate a genuine hunger and thirst for the Lord
- We will not get far in fasting and prayer when we have the wrong idea of who Jesus is in the first place

John 6:48–51 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

- The Christian life will not work unless you understand that He is the main thing
- House or no house, job or no job
- We must have bread
- Send all the other stuff back with the waiter
- Give me the bread!

Fasting makes you hungry for what really matters in life

- It's not about “*having church*”, “*singing songs*” “*buildings*” or “*budgets*”
- It's all about Jesus!

You will never be the Father or Mother of your home until Jesus is the “*Main Course*”

If the things of God are just and obligation that's what your children will learn

- Your children get hungry for God when you share the meal with them
- Turn off the TV, video games, computers, and cell phones
- Fill up on the bread of life

Psalm 37:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ I have been young, and *now* am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

- Jesus will give us our “daily bread”
- We can't live off routine only
- We need something fresh every day
- He promises that He will give us something fresh every day
- Set your mind on the “main dish” and go after Him!

John 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.