

Acts 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Jesus did not *suggest* that the apostles wait for the Promise
- Nor did He *recommend* that they heed His instruction
- Rather, He *commanded* them not to depart from Jerusalem until the Promise had come

Jesus placed such high importance of this instruction because the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential to all kingdom work

Jesus told them, don't start your ministry, don't start preaching, don't start planting churches until you have been clothed with the Spirit's power

But Who is the Holy Spirit?

John 14:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ 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.

- Holy spirit is the One the leaders of the early Church looked to, interacted with, depended on, and spoke of

He was preeminent in their ministry outreaches, team gatherings, and strategy meetings, and He was always involved in their activities

Here's a sampling of the statements that stood out:

- *“Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?”* (Acts 5:3)
- *“We are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 5:32)
- *“You always resist the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 7:51)
- *“The Spirit told me to go with them.”* (Acts 11:12)
- *“Being sent out by the Holy Spirit...”* (Acts 13:4)
- *“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us...”* (Acts 15:28)
- *“They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.”* (Acts 16:6)
- *“They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.”* (Acts 16:7)
- *“Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia.”* (Acts 19:21 NLT)
- *“The Holy Spirit tells me in city after city...”* (Acts 20:23 NLT)
- *“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.”* (Acts 20:28)

If the Holy Spirit was at the center of everything the early Church did, why do we not see the same in many of us in the Church?

- First, there is virtually no Christian life without the Holy Spirit
- Without the Holy Spirit, Christianity is dry, monotonous, and mundane
- Without the Holy Spirit, our labor is draining and wearisome
- Without the Holy Spirit, there is no fellowship with God

Remove the Holy Spirit from a church and one of two things will happen:

- It will morph into a social club
- It will become a religious institution

The truth is...

- There is no revelation without the Holy Spirit
- In fact, without the Spirit Scripture becomes lethal;

(2 Corinthians 3:6) *“the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life”*

- There is no vision without the Holy Spirit
- There is no joy without Him
- There is no peace without Him
- There is no freedom without the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ For the **Lord** is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- Wherever? – Isn't God's Spirit everywhere?
- Where can I go? – **Psalm 139:7-10**
- Is there freedom everywhere?
- Is there freedom in brothels, bars, prisons, and hospitals?
- Every neighborhood, school, home, and even churches?

The answer is an emphatic, no!

So, what is the scripture saying here?

- **Lord** – *Kyrios* – “*supreme in authority*”

The Holy Spirit is not permitted to be in authority in most bars, prisons, hospitals, homes or even churches

Where He is welcomed as supreme in authority, that is where you'll find freedom

- Is Holy Spirit supreme in authority in your life?
- I can tell you about Him
- I can tell you how to contact Him
- You can read about Him
- You can hear about what He enjoys and how to interact with Him

Knowing Him is not something that can happen quickly but over time – He is the One who is from everlasting to everlasting

You cannot attempt to understand the Power and Work of the Holy Spirit without first coming to know Him as a person

We must establish in our hearts and minds that He is...

- A divine **Person**
- Infinitely holy, wise, and mighty. Yet, wonderfully tender, sensitive, and compassionate

We must believe that He is One who is worthy to receive our reverence, affection, faith, love, devotion, and complete surrender

- Someone who sees Him as merely an influence or supreme power may say, *“I want more of the Spirit.”*
- But when we see Him as a wonderful **Person** we will say, *“How can I give more of myself to Him?”*

He is a **Person** not an *“it”*

The Spirit of God will not manifest where He is not honored

Matthew 13:54–58 (NKJV)

⁵⁴ When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?”

⁵⁷ So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.” ⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

- In calling Holy Spirit a Person I am not calling Him human
- I am saying He possess personal attributes – a personality
- He is Deity, not a human being
- Remember He created us
- He is not “like” us we are “like” Him

Let’s take a look at some scriptures that will perfectly illustrate the personality of the Holy Spirit:

- He has a mind (*see Romans 8:27*)
- He has a will (*see 1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- He has emotions, such as love and joy (*see Romans 15:30; Galatians 5:22*)
- He comforts (*see Acts 9:31*)
- He speaks (*see Hebrews 3:7; (1 Timothy 4:1)*)
- He teaches (*see 1 Corinthians 2:13*)
- He can be made to feel sorrow (*see Ephesians 4:30*)
- He can be insulted (*see Hebrews 10:29*)
- He can be resisted (*see Acts 7:51*)
- He can be lied to (*see Acts 5:1-11*)

If these attributes are so apparent in Scripture, then we must ask, why is the Holy Spirit so misunderstood?

Matthew 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

- Notice He came “*like*” a dove not “*as*” a dove
- He is not a dove – He has never manifested as a dove
- He is also represented as flames of fire before the Throne
– Revelation 4:5
- Yet, He is not a flame
- John also saw a lamb, as though it had been slain
– Revelation 5:6
- This is John’s description of Jesus; He is not a four-footed animal

So, Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- God didn’t say let “Me” make man, He said “Let Us”
- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – distinct yet One

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

- **God** anointed **Jesus** with the **Holy Spirit**
- Three distinct Persons working together for a common purpose
- We also see this in **Matthew 3:16**, above

Example:

(H₂O) can manifest as three different forms

- Temperature determines whether it will appear as a solid, liquid, or gas
- The molecular structure of the water never changes
- Its expression will be altered depending on its environment

God is One in purpose with three expressions, who perform unique functions

- When you see the Son, you see the Father – **John 17:21**
- The Spirit was sent to reveal the Son to us – **Ephesians 1:17-18**
- There is only One God – **Deuteronomy 6:4, Romans 3:30, James 2:19**

He is the first Person of the Godhead to appear in scripture

Genesis 1:2 (NKJV)

² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- Holy Spirit is the expression of the Godhead on the face of the earth
- God is on His throne in heaven
- Jesus is seated at His right-hand interceding for us
 - **Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55-56**

Holy Spirit is referred to as both the Spirit of God the Father and the Spirit of Jesus Christ (the Son)

Philippians 1:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Matthew 10:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Likewise, the Spirit helps us, by His grace to empower us to be all that He has created us to be

How Do the Three Work?

1 Corinthians 12:5–7 (NKJV)

⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:

- The Father, Son and Holy Spirit all serve different rolls
- The Father operates or **Initiates** – *Verse 6*
- The Son **Administrates** – *Verse 5*
- The Holy Spirit **Manifests** – *Verse 7*
- Yet they all work together for the same purpose

In Genesis 1:2

- The Spirit is waiting for the Father to **Initiate** – creative vision
- The Son had to **Administrate** by saying, “*Light be*” – He is the Word
- The Holy Spirit **Manifests** or created that which is spoken

Holy Spirit is the One who actually formed Adam and breathed life into his nostrils – **Genesis 2:7**

Job 33:4 (NKJV)

⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Jesus totally Depended on the Holy Spirit

- He was conceived by the Spirit
- He was taught by the Spirit
- He was empowered by the Spirit at the Jordan river
- He was led by the Spirit
- He didn't do one miracle until He was baptized with the Spirit

John 5:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

Jesus needed the ongoing partnership of the Holy Spirit to complete His mission, how much more do you and I need Him?

- We sometimes forget how much we need the Holy Spirit
- We must totally depend on Him

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So he answered and 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.

Who knows the Holy Spirit better than Jesus?

John 14:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

- Keep my commandments – Supreme authority
- **Another** – “*another of the same kind*” – Apple or Pear
- **Helper** – “**Para-kletos**” – “*One called closely alongside each of us to provide coaching, direction, instruction, and counsel in our life journey*”

Sadly, the Holy Spirit is all but ignored by many in the Church

- Where in your life do you sense a void or see chaos?
- Where in your life do you need the Spirit do bring you beauty, order, or freedom?

Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

If the same Spirit that gave life to Jesus lives in us, shouldn't we live in the same peace, power, and freedom He did?

– **Isaiah 40:28-29**

John 16:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

If Jesus had never left the earth then the Holy Spirit would never had come along side us

- If we would have wanted to talk to Jesus we would have to travel to where He was
- That would be a long line
- The Holy spirit is always here for us
- He doesn't need to eat or sleep
- He can carry on billions of conversations at the same time
- Remember the Holy Spirit is just like Jesus
- He teaches like Jesus
- He amplifies the things of God like Jesus

How many times have we limited His voice and presence in our lives?

John 16:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.