

**Welcome to Life in the Spirit!**

*And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may remain with you forever, the Spirit of truth – whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him, or know Him – but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and shall be in you. (John 14:16-17)*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)*

**Our Goal**

Tonight we're excited to present a new class, called Life In The Spirit!

This class is designed to help you learn **about** the Holy Spirit, but not just to learn about Him. See, you've met Jesus and you've learned how wonderful He is, but that came through getting to know Him **personally**, not just hearing about Him or reading about Him.

In just the same way, in this class we want you to get to know the Holy Spirit personally and, as you do, the Bible teaches us that you will experience three powerful things:

1. Friendship with Him
2. His ability to change your inner man
3. His ability to empower you for a supernatural life

### **Class Time, Homework, and Prayer**

1. Please take notes
2. Our text is the Bible! [Pick up a reading plan online.](#)
3. FLY: Every day, we're going to pray **F-L-Y** and bring the Holy Spirit into our day as soon as we wake up.
  - a. First, pray the letter F: *God, today, please FILL me with Your Spirit.* When you pray that way you're telling Him you want to live through His power.
  - b. Then, pray the letter L: *God, today, please LEAD me by Your Spirit.* When you pray that way you're telling Him you want to live with His wisdom and guidance.

c. Then, pray the letter Y: *God, today, I YIELD to Your Spirit.*

That's a really important one because when you pray that way you're telling the Lord you want to obey His Word and ways.

So make sure you F – L – Y every day. Do it in the morning when you get up, and you can do it throughout the day as a way to dedicate yourself to God and make yourself available to the Holy Spirit throughout the day.

### **Introduction to Holy Spirit**

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)*

This word **fellowship** is the Greek word **koinonia**, and it means: fellowship; communion; having things in common; sharing with each other. Understanding this will help us to settle an important truth in our minds and in our hearts: **The Holy Spirit is a Person, who is God Himself, come to live with you forever.**

### **1. The Holy Spirit is a Person**

The Bible is very clear that the Holy Spirit is a person.

- Nicky Gumbel, the man who developed the Alpha Course, says the Holy Spirit is not a something, He's a Someone.
- He's not an energy like electricity. He is not just the power of God.
- He isn't just a good influence. He isn't the feeling of conscience.
- He is not a force, like you see in Star Wars. Our culture has become very saturated with that kind of thinking – good energies and bad energies and all these kinds of things. The Spirit of God isn't a good force; he's not the opposite of evil.
- The Holy Spirit isn't an "it." He... is a He! And He's described that way in the Scriptures.

In the Bible we see that the Holy Spirit has all the characteristics of persons: everything that makes a person, a person. You are a person because you have an intellect – meaning a mind, because you have emotions and because you have a will of your own.

The Scripture shows that the Spirit has all these characteristics. The Bible says that the Spirit:

- Searches all things, the deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:10)
- Prays; He makes intercession for people (Romans 8:26)

- Distributes spiritual gifts to us according to His Will (1 Cor. 12:11)
- Can be grieved or wounded in His feelings by our actions (Eph. 4:30)
- He spoke to people (Acts 11:12, 13:2; 1 Tim. 4:1)

Some religious groups say that the Spirit is only a force. But these are not characteristics of a mere force or energy, but of a living, conscious person.

Indeed, the normal word for spirit in Greek is *pneuma*. This word is a neuter word, meaning it's not considered to be feminine or masculine.

Despite this, Jesus used masculine pronouns to talk about the Spirit: He said "He" and "Him" when He spoke of the Spirit. He didn't say "It." Jesus didn't say when **It** has come, He said when **He** has come. So the Spirit is not a something, He's a Someone.

## **2. The Holy Spirit is God**

Let's look now at the second part of that, which is this – the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is Divine. He is part of the Blessed Trinity.

Belief in the Trinity means that we as Christians believe God eternally exists in three Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each Person of

the Trinity is a Divine Person, but is not the totality of the Divinity or Godhead. And yet there is only one God, not three gods. The Father, Son and Spirit all have the same essence or nature, but they have separate individual existences. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Spirit. Nevertheless they are each God.

The Son and the Spirit aren't just manifestations of God. We see Jesus praying to His Father, and talking about the Father sending the Spirit. At His Baptism we see Jesus and the Father and the Spirit all together; if it were a movie we would say they were all in the same scene!

This is a difficult concept, **but** you can understand it even if you do not understand how it works. There is no other being like God. None of us can completely imagine what the Trinity is like – which if you think about it is kind of a good proof that we didn't make it up. What I'm saying is that Christians did not invent this doctrine, we derived it from the Scriptures. We believe it and teach it because it is what the Scriptures teach us. The Bible teaches that the Father is God, that Jesus the Son is God, **and** that the Holy Spirit is God.

- The Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-4)
- The Holy Spirit is called the eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14)
- He is omnipresent (Psalm 139)
- Jesus said to baptize in the Name of the Father... (Matt. 28:19)

The entire Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, works together in our salvation and our spiritual growth. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12: *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.* (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

### **3. The Spirit has come to live with you forever.**

God wants us to know that He has sent His Spirit to us, to come and live with us forever and be our friend. We earlier that Jesus said, “...*I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may remain with you forever, the Spirit of truth – whom the world cannot receive...*” (John 14:16-17)

Jesus said, *Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

I want to suggest that most of what Jesus was talking about when He said such things He fulfills by the Presence of His Spirit and by the Power of His Spirit and ***not in person***. I believe we have missed something important here, and it has caused the modern church to be weak and not to attain to the heights of power and the depths of intimacy with God that were experienced in ancient times. You see, the Holy Spirit was sent into the earth to be for us everything that Jesus was for those men, His disciples, while He was walking the earth.

I fully believe that Jesus Christ still speaks to people. I fully believe that Jesus still appears to people. But what God has designed for us is something better even than that – God has designed things for us in such a way that His Presence is here with us permanently – through the Holy Spirit. And we can have fellowship with Him at any time – through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Himself taught them that it was better for Him to leave, and for us to come into this new arrangement, this new way of relating to God, than it would be for Him to stay. Jesus said something in John 16 that few of us have reflected upon: *It is better for you that I go away; for if I do not go*

*away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)*

This word *better* here, it means **to your advantage**. Jesus said in effect “it is to your advantage if I leave. Why? Because if I leave, I will send the Spirit.” So we see the early Christians saying things and doing things which many times we don’t. They not only experienced the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, but they were experiencing the ***fellowship of the Holy Spirit***. They knew the Spirit was with them and among them, and He was a part of everything they were doing:

- When Peter wasn’t sure whether to go visit those Gentiles in Acts 10, he told the others, “The Spirit told me to go with them.”
- When the leaders of the church got together in Acts 13 and fasted and worshipped together, it says the Holy Spirit spoke and told them who to send out as apostles.
- Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 4 that the Spirit spoke plainly in the church to tell about what would happen in the last days.
- In Acts 15, when the apostles and the elders were deciding how to apply the Law of Moses to the new Gentile believers, they said, “*it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us*” to do this and that.

Maybe we don't talk like that because we can't. Maybe our fellowship with the Spirit isn't deep enough and we don't know His mind well enough to know what He's thinking like that, but the Bible shows that it's possible. Not only is it possible, but Jesus says, this is what we need. Jesus said we need the wonderful Spirit of God to come to us and be to us everything that He had been to His disciples:

*And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may remain with you forever, the Spirit of truth...*