

Knowing the Holy Spirit

Part 1

Who is the Holy Spirit?

TALKING POINTS WALKINGPOINTS

Leader's Guide

2026-8-2



A publication of DISCIPLE, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What do I see?*

- 1 The Holy Spirit (1) guides into truth, (2) convicts of sin, (3) intercedes in prayer, (4) directs believers, (5) distributes spiritual gifts, and (6) reveals God's truth. Which of those have you experienced personally? Tell us about it.
- 2 Pastor Doug noted that people respond to the Holy Spirit in four ways: obediently, resistantly, insultingly and dishonestly. What do you observe about those four responses?
- 3 The Holy Spirit is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. What are some implications of each of those to your own life on a daily basis?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- 4 Why is it important that the Holy Spirit is a person rather than an impersonal force?
- 5 How do the Holy Spirit's intelligence, emotions, and will prove his personhood?
- 6 Take a moment now to explain the importance of the features of the **diagram** of the Trinity. How does every **analogy** for the Trinity come short of—and worse, even distort—the truth?



Application—*What do I do with this?*

- 7 How might your relationship with God change if you consciously, moment-by-moment realized that the Holy Spirit is a person rather than merely an impersonal power, and that he is with you right now?
- 8 How should knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for you shape your thoughts on the importance and effectiveness of prayer?
- 9 In what areas are you most tempted to resist, grieve, or ignore God's Holy Spirit? What specific area most needs your repentance and obedience today?
- 10 What practical steps should you take this week to better worship, obey, and trust the Holy Spirit?

- ① Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first.
- ② One brief observation is that only one of them is positive.
The three negative responses are subsets of “disobediently”
Invite group members to expand on this idea and to add others of their own.
- ③ His **eternality** means that he is God. His **omniscience** means that he knows even my thoughts!
His **omnipresence** means that I am never out of his range (when I’m doing good or evil, when I need help, when others threaten me, etc.) His **omnipotence** means he can do anything consistent with his holy nature.
- ④ First and foremost, because it’s true. Any other view is falsehood, idolatry, or blasphemy.
But also, because He can be known personally, relates to believers, acts intentionally, and deserves a personal response of love, obedience, and fellowship.
- ⑤ These are necessary traits of persons (human or divine).
Non-persons (rocks, dogs, etc.) do not have all of these traits.
- ⑥ OK, this is **critical!** Anything less than these truths, anything other than these truths, are falsehood. The **red triangle** shows that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. There is no diminishment of any of the persons. The **blue circle** shows that the Father is not the Son or the Spirit (and so forth). There is no confusion of the persons. **No analogy** captures these truths. Some say, **“The Trinity is like an egg—it has a yolk, a white and a shell, but it’s all one egg.”** When was the last time you ate the eggshell and threw away the yolk and white? ie, these are three **parts** of an egg, but they have different attributes. None of them is “fully egg”. But each person of the Trinity is fully God. (The same analogy often is made of an apple (core, flesh, skin) and a three leaf clover. Another faulty analogy is this: **“The Trinity is like H₂O—it can be a solid, liquid or gas.”** The error of this analogy is that the **same** H₂O molecule cannot be a solid, liquid or gas **at the same time**. But the Father, Son and Spirit are all divine at the same time and for all time. (The same faulty analogy often is made of a man who is a son, a father, and a husband. But he’s not all of those things in the same way at the same time—he’s a son to one person, a father to a different person, and a husband to yet another person. These are simply role distinctions, but the Trinity consists of **three persons**, all at **the same time**. If **ever** someone says, **“The Trinity is like…”** they’re wrong, because Trinity is **not like anything else**. The Trinity is unique. Never use analogies for the Trinity.
- ⑦ Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first.
- ⑧ Ditto.
- ⑨ Ditto.
- ⑩ Ditto.

Sermon Outline

I. The Holy Spirit Is a Person

The Holy Spirit is a personal being, not an impersonal force. Scripture consistently refers to Him with personal pronouns and attributes to Him the characteristics, actions, and relationships of personhood.

A. He possesses the attributes of a person.

- He has intelligence, knowing the thoughts of God, possessing a mind, and teaching God's truth (1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Romans 8:27).
- He experiences emotion and is grieved by the sin of God's people (Ephesians 4:30).
- He possesses a will, distributing spiritual gifts and directing the ministry of God's people according to His own purposes (1 Corinthians 12:11; Acts 16:6).

B. He exhibits the actions of a person.

- He guides believers into truth (John 16:13).
- He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
- He intercedes for believers, helping them in prayer when they do not know how to pray (Romans 8:26).

C. He is responded to as a person.

- People obey His commands (Acts 10:19–20).
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
- His will can be resisted (Acts 7:51).
- He can be insulted through willful sin (Hebrews 10:29).



Believers therefore relate to the Holy Spirit as a person rather than as an impersonal influence.

(continued)

II. The Holy Spirit Is a Divine Person

The Holy Spirit is fully God, equal with the Father and the Son in essence while remaining a distinct person within the Godhead.

A. He possesses divine attributes.

- He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).
- He is omniscient (Isaiah 40:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12).
- He is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7).
- He is omnipotent, as demonstrated by His work in creation (Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30).

B. He is identified alongside the Father and the Son in Trinitarian passages.

Key Trinitarian texts include Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Corinthians 12:4–6; Ephesians 4:4–6; 1 Peter 1:1–2; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22; Luke 3:21–22; Acts 2:32–33; John 14:26; John 16:7; Romans 8:11; and Ephesians 2:18.

III. The Holy Spirit Is the Third Person of the Trinity

- The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that there is one true God who eternally exists as three distinct, coequal, and coeternal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The three persons are distinct from one another, yet they share one undivided divine essence. This rejects both polytheism (three gods) and modalism (one person appearing in three modes).
- The Holy Spirit is therefore fully God, deserving the same honor, worship, and obedience as the Father and the Son.
- Because the Holy Spirit is a person, believers can know Him and cultivate a personal relationship with Him.
- Because He is God, believers should worship, obey, and trust Him, willingly submitting to His guidance rather than resisting, grieving, or insulting Him. His purpose is to guide, empower, and transform believers into the likeness of Christ.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

The Bible gives seven pictures to communicate the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
Each day this week study one picture. What truth is God's Word teaching?

Clothing (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5 and 2:1-4)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/god-will-clothe-your-weakness-with-power>



Dove (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/did-jesus-need-the-spirit>



Fire (Acts 2:3; cf. Exodus 3:2-6 & 13:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/you-will-be-baptized-with-the-holy-spirit>



Oil (2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:20 & 27)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/one-essential-oil>



Pledge and Seal (2 Corinthians 1:22 & 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14 & 4:30)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/why-will-you-wake-up-a-christian>



Water (John 7:38-39; Acts 1:5 & 2:33; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Titus 3:5-6)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/through-the-washing-of-regeneration>



Wind (John 3:8; Acts 2:2; 2 Peter 1:21)

After you've done your best, compare your conclusions to this:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-free-will-of-the-wind>

