



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

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The Holy Spirit

God With Us, God Within Us

The Short Answer

The Holy Spirit is God. He is not an impersonal force, spiritual energy, emotion, or merely the power of God. He is the third Person of the Trinity - fully divine, eternally one with the Father and the Son. The Spirit gives new life, dwells within believers, works through the Word He inspired, produces holiness, equips the Church, and continually directs attention toward Jesus.

Genesis 1:1-2 · Numbers 11:24-30 · Ezekiel 36:22-27 · Joel 2:28-32 · John 14-16 · Acts 1-2 · Romans 8

Opening Memory Anchor

The Holy Spirit does not merely give God's people help from a distance. God Himself comes to dwell within them.

WELCOME

This guide is meant to send you back to Scripture. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, spiritual energy, emotion, or merely the power of God. He is the third Person of the Trinity - fully divine, eternally one with the Father and the Son. This study distinguishes regeneration, indwelling, sealing, Spirit baptism, filling, walking by the Spirit, fruit, and gifts, while keeping Scripture and Jesus Christ central.

AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION FROM THE BEGINNING

Regeneration: the Spirit gives spiritual life. Indwelling: the Spirit lives within believers. Sealing: the Spirit marks believers as belonging to God. Baptism in/with the Spirit: biblical language concerning the Spirit's relationship to believers and Christ's body. Filling: increasing governance and empowerment by the Spirit. Walking by the Spirit: daily life under His direction. Fruit: Christlike character. Gifts: Spirit-given abilities and ministries for building up the body.

PART ONE - BEGINNER GUIDE

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

MEMORY ANCHOR

The Holy Spirit is not an 'it.' He is the divine Person who knows, speaks, wills, teaches, loves, and dwells with God's people.

1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. Christians confess one God who eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is fully divine.

2. IS THE HOLY SPIRIT A PERSON?

Yes. Scripture describes the Spirit speaking, teaching, guiding, willing, interceding, testifying, and being grieved. Read John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 13:2; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:30.

3. WHY DOES THAT MATTER?

The Spirit is not divine electricity or merely spiritual power. Christianity is relational: believers are called to yield their lives to the God who dwells within them.

4. IS THE HOLY SPIRIT REALLY GOD?

Yes. Acts 5:1-4 identifies lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God.

5. DOES THE SPIRIT HAVE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES?

Yes. Scripture associates Him with divine knowledge, eternity, presence, and life-giving power. Read Psalm 139:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Hebrews 9:14.

6. DOES THE SPIRIT ACTUALLY SPEAK?

Yes. Acts 13:2 records the Holy Spirit speaking and directing Barnabas and Saul.

7. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT FIRST APPEAR AT PENTECOST?

No. Genesis 1:2 places the Spirit at creation. Pentecost is a major redemptive-historical event, not the Spirit's beginning.

8. WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT DO IN CREATION?

Scripture connects God's Spirit with creation and life. Read Genesis 1:1-2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30.

9. DOES THE SPIRIT WORK THROUGH PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Yes. He empowers Bezalel, Israel's elders, judges, kings, and prophets. Read Exodus 31:1-5; Numbers 11:16-30; Judges 6:34; 1 Samuel 16:13; Micah 3:8.

10. WAS THE SPIRIT ONLY GIVEN FOR 'RELIGIOUS' WORK?

No. Bezalel was filled with the Spirit for artistic craftsmanship connected with the tabernacle.

11. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SPIRIT RESTS UPON ISRAEL'S ELDERS?

Numbers 11 describes the Spirit resting upon seventy elders. Moses longs for the LORD to put His Spirit upon all His people.

12. WHY IS MOSES'S LONGING IMPORTANT?

Numbers 11:29 points forward to Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:16-18: Moses longed, Joel promised, Pentecost announced.

13. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DAVID IS ANOINTED?

The Spirit of YHWH comes powerfully upon David. Read 1 Samuel 16:13.

14. COULD THE SPIRIT DEPART FROM SOMEONE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Scripture describes the Spirit departing from Saul and David praying that God's Holy Spirit not be taken from him. These Old Covenant passages should not automatically be mapped onto New Covenant indwelling.

15. DID THE OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE A GREATER WORK OF THE SPIRIT?

Yes. Read Isaiah 32:15; 44:3; Ezekiel 36:25-27; 37:1-14; Joel 2:28-32.

16. WHAT DOES EZEKIEL 36 PROMISE?

God promises cleansing, a new heart, a new spirit, His Spirit within His people, and Spirit-enabled obedience.

17. WHAT DOES EZEKIEL 37 ADD?

The valley of dry bones pictures God giving life where human strength cannot. The Hebrew ruach can mean spirit, wind, or breath depending on context.

18. WHAT DOES JOEL PROMISE?

God promises to pour out His Spirit broadly upon sons and daughters, old and young, men and women.

19. DOES PENTECOST FULFILL JOEL?

Yes. Peter explicitly interprets Pentecost through Joel's promise in Acts 2.

20. WHAT ROLE DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE IN JESUS'S BIRTH?

Jesus is conceived through the Holy Spirit. Read Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:35.

21. WHAT HAPPENS AT JESUS'S BAPTISM?

The Son is baptized, the Spirit descends, and the Father speaks. Read Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22.

22. WHY DOES THE SPIRIT DESCEND UPON JESUS?

Jesus is the Spirit-anointed Messiah foretold in Isaiah 11, 42, and 61.

23. DOES THE SPIRIT LEAD JESUS?

Yes. The Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness. Spirit-led does not always mean ease.

24. DOES JESUS MINISTER IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT?

Yes. Luke 4 emphasizes Jesus returning in the power of the Spirit and fulfilling Isaiah 61.

25. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT GLORIFY JESUS?

Yes. John 16:13-15 is foundational: where the Spirit is truly at work, Jesus becomes greater - not smaller.

26. WHAT DOES JESUS PROMISE BEFORE HIS DEATH?

Jesus promises another Parakletos - Helper, Advocate, Counselor, or Comforter - in John 14-16.

27. WHO IS THE PARACLETE?

The Paraclete is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth who remains with God's people.

28. WHAT WILL THE SPIRIT DO?

He dwells with believers, teaches, reminds, testifies about Jesus, convicts, guides into truth, and glorifies Christ.

29. WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY 'HE LIVES WITH YOU AND WILL BE IN YOU'?

Jesus promises the New Covenant indwelling presence of the Spirit.

30. WHAT HAPPENS AT PENTECOST?

Acts 2 records wind, fire, Spirit-filled believers, languages, Gospel proclamation, and thousands responding.

31. WHY IS PENTECOST SO IMPORTANT?

It fulfills prophetic promise, displays Jesus's exaltation, empowers the Church, and advances mission to the nations.

32. WHO POURS OUT THE SPIRIT AT PENTECOST?

The exalted Jesus receives the promised Spirit from the Father and pours Him out. Read Acts 2:32-36.

33. WHAT IS THE CENTRAL RESULT OF PENTECOST?

Christ-centered proclamation, repentance, baptism, and the formation of a Spirit-shaped community.

PART TWO - WANT TO GO DEEPER?

INTERMEDIATE -> ADVANCED

The Spirit's Saving, Sanctifying, Empowering, and Christ-Glorifying Work

INTERPRETIVE POSTURE

Do not build a doctrine of the Holy Spirit primarily from personal experiences. Let Scripture interpret experiences rather than experiences control Scripture.

34. WHAT IS REGENERATION?

Regeneration is new birth: the Spirit gives spiritual life to those who cannot produce it themselves. Read John 3:1-8.

35. WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY 'BORN OF THE SPIRIT'?

Natural birth produces natural life; spiritual birth requires the Spirit. Christianity begins with divine grace, not self-improvement.

36. CAN PEOPLE REGENERATE THEMSELVES?

No. New birth, new creation, and resurrection all emphasize God's initiative.

37. HOW DOES THE WORD OF GOD RELATE TO REGENERATION?

Scripture connects new birth with God's Word and Gospel. Read James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23-25.

38. DOES EVERY CHRISTIAN HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Yes. Romans 8:9 says anyone without the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.

39. WHERE DOES THE SPIRIT LIVE?

The Spirit dwells within believers. Read Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

40. DOES THE SPIRIT ALSO DWELL IN THE CHURCH CORPORATELY?

Yes. The Church corporately is God's dwelling by the Spirit. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22.

41. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Ephesians 1:13-14 describes believers as sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, marking them as God's own.

42. WHAT DOES 'DOWN PAYMENT' OR 'GUARANTEE' MEAN?

The Spirit is the first installment and guarantee of the complete inheritance still coming.

43. WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT HAVE TO DO WITH ADOPTION?

Romans 8:14-17 and Galatians 4:4-7 call Him the Spirit of adoption through whom believers cry, 'Abba, Father.'

44. HOW DOES THE SPIRIT ASSURE BELIEVERS?

The Spirit testifies that believers are God's children; assurance is relational, not merely emotional.

45. DOES ASSURANCE MEAN CHRISTIANS NEVER EXPERIENCE DOUBT?

No. Faithful Christians can experience doubt or dryness. God's promises are more stable than changing emotions.

46. DID THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRE SCRIPTURE?

Yes. 2 Peter 1:20-21 says people spoke from God as carried along by the Holy Spirit.

47. WHAT DOES 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 ADD?

Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, correction, training, and equipping.

48. DOES THE SPIRIT'S WORK WITH SCRIPTURE END WITH INSPIRATION?

No. The Spirit who inspired the Word continues to work through it: opening understanding, convicting, teaching, applying truth, and forming God's people.

49. WHAT ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURE?

God has providentially preserved His Word through ordinary historical transmission. Textual variants should neither be hidden nor exaggerated; no central Christian doctrine depends on a disputed variant.

50. WHAT IS ILLUMINATION?

Illumination is the Spirit helping believers understand, receive, and live by truth God has already revealed. It is not the same thing as receiving new revelation.

51. DOES ILLUMINATION MEAN THE SPIRIT GIVES A PASSAGE A NEW PRIVATE MEANING?

No. Illumination does not create private meanings or transform personal impressions into Scripture-level revelation.

52. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORD AND SPIRIT?

The Spirit inspired the Word; the Word reveals Christ; the Spirit opens hearts to receive and obey it. Word and Spirit are not competitors.

53. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE SPIRIT CONVICTS?

John 16:7-11 says the Spirit convicts concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

54. IS CONVICTION THE SAME AS SHAME?

Not necessarily. Conviction exposes sin and directs toward repentance and Christ; destructive shame merely says, 'Hide.'

55. SHOULD 'THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTED ME' ALWAYS MEAN 'I FELT BAD'?

No. Feelings can be mistaken; Scripture trains the conscience in truth.

56. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

Sanctification is God's ongoing work of making His people holy, with the Spirit playing a central role.

57. DOES THE SPIRIT MAKE CHRISTIANS PASSIVE?

No. Believers actively put sin to death, walk by the Spirit, pursue holiness, renew their minds, and obey - all by grace.

58. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO 'WALK BY THE SPIRIT'?

Galatians 5 describes an ongoing way of life under the Spirit's transforming direction rather than the flesh.

59. WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

60. WHY DOES PAUL SAY 'FRUIT' RATHER THAN 'FRUITS'?

The singular is noteworthy, but should not carry an elaborate doctrine by itself. Paul presents these qualities together as Spirit-produced character.

61. IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY MEASURED BY SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

No. Corinth had impressive gifts and serious immaturity. Gifts reveal grace for ministry; fruit reveals transformed character.

62. WHY IS LOVE SO CENTRAL TO SPIRITUAL LIFE?

Romans 5:5 says God's love is poured into believers' hearts through the Spirit.

63. WHY DOES 1 CORINTHIANS 13 SIT BETWEEN CHAPTERS 12 AND 14?

Paul places love between the gift chapters because power, knowledge, faith, and speech without love are nothing.

64. WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Spirit-given abilities and ministries for serving others and building Christ's body.

65. WHO DECIDES WHICH GIFTS PEOPLE RECEIVE?

The Spirit distributes gifts as He wills. Read 1 Corinthians 12:11.

66. WHY ARE GIFTS GIVEN?

For service, edification, unity, mission, and the common good - not status.

67. DOES EVERY CHRISTIAN HAVE THE SAME GIFT?

No. Diversity is part of God's design for one body.

68. DOES EVERY CHRISTIAN SPEAK IN TONGUES?

No. Paul's rhetorical questions in 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 expect the answer 'No.'

69. WHAT IS CONTINUATIONISM?

The view that all New Testament categories of gifts may continue throughout the Church age.

70. WHAT IS CESSATIONISM?

The view that certain miraculous or revelatory gifts were particularly associated with the apostolic era and no longer ordinarily function in the same way.

71. WHICH POSITION DOES THIS STUDY TAKE?

The study presents both fairly while emphasizing shared biblical foundations. Scripture is inspired; theological frameworks are not.

72. DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SPEAK OF PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH?

Yes. Acts, 1 Corinthians, and 1 Thessalonians describe prophecy in New Testament congregational life.

73. DO CHRISTIANS AGREE ABOUT WHAT NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY IS?

No. Christians disagree about its nature, authority, and contemporary application.

74. SHOULD SOMEONE SAY 'GOD TOLD ME' CARELESSLY?

No. Personal impressions should be expressed humbly. Never borrow God's authority to make an impression unquestionable.

75. DOES SCRIPTURE TELL CHRISTIANS TO TEST SPIRITUAL CLAIMS?

Yes. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; 1 John 4:1-3; and 1 Corinthians 14:29 command testing.

76. HOW SHOULD A CLAIMED SPIRITUAL MESSAGE BE TESTED?

Ask whether it agrees with Scripture, honors Jesus, produces godly fruit, promotes holiness, resists manipulation, and can be questioned.

77. WHAT ARE TONGUES?

Acts 2 clearly involves recognizable languages. The precise nature of tongues in 1 Corinthians 12-14 is debated.

78. WHAT IS CLEAR ABOUT TONGUES IN 1 CORINTHIANS?

Public worship must build up the Church; interpretation, order, self-control, and love matter.

79. DOES BEING 'SPIRIT-LED' MEAN LOSING SELF-CONTROL?

No. The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets, and self-control is fruit of the Spirit.

80. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT STILL HAVE POWER TO HEAL?

Yes. God has never lost His power. Christians may pray boldly for healing.

81. DOES FAITH GUARANTEE PHYSICAL HEALING?

No. Faithful believers suffer, remain ill, and die. The ultimate Christian hope is resurrection.

82. WHAT IS BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

John says Jesus baptizes with the Spirit; Acts connects this with Pentecost; 1 Corinthians 12:13 says believers are baptized by one Spirit into one body.

83. DOES SPIRIT BAPTISM HAVE BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE DIMENSIONS?

Yes. The Spirit joins believers to Christ and forms one people, not merely isolated individuals.

84. DO CHRISTIANS AGREE ABOUT WHEN SPIRIT BAPTISM OCCURS?

No. Evangelical, Reformed, Lutheran, Pentecostal, charismatic, and other traditions understand timing and experience differently.

85. WHY DOES ACTS SEEM TO SHOW DIFFERENT SEQUENCES?

Acts narrates the Gospel crossing major covenantal and ethnic boundaries. Read the episodes both personally and corporately.

86. IS BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT THE SAME AS INDWELLING?

Not exactly. Believers already possess the Spirit yet are commanded to be filled with Him.

87. WHAT DOES BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT MEAN?

Ephesians 5 connects filling with worship, gratitude, mutual submission, and Spirit-governed life.

88. CAN A CHRISTIAN BE FILLED MORE THAN ONCE?

Yes. Acts describes repeated fillings, supporting a distinction between ongoing filling and basic indwelling.

89. CAN CHRISTIANS GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Yes. Ephesians 4 places grieving the Spirit amid sins such as falsehood, corrupt speech, bitterness, rage, and malice.

90. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO QUENCH THE SPIRIT?

1 Thessalonians 5 says not to quench the Spirit, not to despise prophecies, to test everything, hold fast to good, and reject evil.

91. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE CHRISTIANS?

Yes. Scripture describes the Spirit leading God's people, though Christians differ about how extraordinary Acts examples apply ordinarily.

92. HOW DOES THE SPIRIT NORMALLY GUIDE?

At minimum through Scripture, wisdom, prayer, godly counsel, providence, Christlike character, and the Spirit-shaped community.

93. HOW DO WORD AND SPIRIT WORK TOGETHER IN GUIDANCE?

Through Scripture the Spirit shapes desires, judgment, wisdom, character, priorities, and conscience over time.

94. WHAT ABOUT IMPRESSIONS?

Some Christians affirm humble, testable promptings; others are more cautious. Say 'I sense' rather than automatically 'God said.'

95. WHAT ABOUT 'PEACE'?

Peace can matter, but is not an infallible oracle. Jesus was anguished in Gethsemane while perfectly obedient.

96. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP CHRISTIANS PRAY?

Yes. Romans 8:26-27 says the Spirit helps believers in weakness and intercedes according to God's will.

97. WHAT ARE 'GROANINGS TOO DEEP FOR WORDS'?

The text emphasizes Spirit-given help in weakness and should not automatically be equated with tongues.

98. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO 'PRAY IN THE SPIRIT'?

At minimum, prayer dependent upon and shaped by the Spirit; traditions differ on whether the phrase has a narrower charismatic sense.

99. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATE CHRISTIAN UNITY?

Yes. Ephesians 4 calls believers to preserve the unity of the Spirit through humility, gentleness, patience, and love.

100. DOES UNITY MEAN DOCTRINE DOES NOT MATTER?

No. The New Testament calls for both unity and sound teaching.

101. DOES THE SPIRIT GIVE CHURCH LEADERS?

Yes. Acts 20:28 describes overseers appointed by the Holy Spirit to shepherd the Church.

102. DOES CLAIMING 'SPIRITUAL ANOINTING' PUT A LEADER ABOVE ACCOUNTABILITY?

No. No spiritual leader is above Scripture, testing, moral accountability, or correction.

103. WHY DOES JESUS TELL THE DISCIPLES TO WAIT BEFORE BEGINNING THEIR MISSION?

Because they need power from the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 connects that power with witness.

104. WHAT IS THE SPIRIT'S POWER FOR?

Primarily witness to Christ. Miracles, guidance, and boldness serve the missionary trajectory.

105. DOES THE SPIRIT CARE ABOUT THE NATIONS?

Absolutely. Acts repeatedly shows the Spirit moving the Gospel across ethnic, cultural, and geographic boundaries.

106. WHAT IS THE 'UNFORGIVABLE SIN'?

Jesus's warning in Matthew 12 and Mark 3 concerns hardened opposition that attributes the Spirit's work through Christ to Satan.

107. IS THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN ACCIDENTALLY SAYING SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

No. The context is much more serious than an accidental sentence or intrusive thought.

108. WHAT IF SOMEONE IS TERRIFIED THEY HAVE COMMITTED IT?

A person wanting Christ, grieving sin, and seeking forgiveness should not be told grace is closed to them.

109. IS THE SPIRIT'S WORK ONLY ABOUT LIFE RIGHT NOW?

No. Romans 8 connects the Spirit with future resurrection and complete redemption.

110. WHAT DOES 'FIRSTFRUITS OF THE SPIRIT' MEAN?

The Spirit's present work is the beginning of the harvest still to come.

111. WHY DO SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIANS STILL GROAN?

Because salvation is already real but not yet complete. Creation groans, believers groan, and the Spirit helps in weakness.

112. IS EMOTIONAL INTENSITY PROOF OF THE SPIRIT?

No. Tears, joy, silence, awe, and conviction may accompany genuine worship, but emotion alone cannot authenticate a spiritual claim.

113. ARE MIRACLES PROOF THAT A TEACHER IS FROM GOD?

No. Scripture warns that extraordinary signs can accompany deception.

114. WHAT ARE SOME BIBLICAL MARKS OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK?

Look for Jesus glorified, truth honored, repentance, love, holiness, humility, unity, service, generosity, courage, and the fruit of the Spirit.

115. SHOULD CHRISTIANS EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Yes. Christianity is relational and experiential, but experience must remain anchored in truth.

116. SHOULD CHRISTIANS CHASE EXPERIENCES?

No. Seek God, pursue love, walk by the Spirit, pray, worship, and serve. Do not turn experiences into idols.

117. WHAT IF SOMEONE'S CHRISTIAN LIFE FEELS ORDINARY?

Ordinary faithfulness can be profoundly Spirit-filled: forgiving, resisting temptation, serving quietly, loving difficult people, praying in weakness, and sharing Christ.

118. WHAT IS THE BEST SAFEGUARD FOR UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Keep Jesus central. The Spirit testifies about, glorifies, unites believers to, and forms the character of Christ.

119. DOES THAT MAKE THE HOLY SPIRIT LESS IMPORTANT?

No. The Spirit's delight in glorifying the Son reflects the loving relationships within the Trinity.

120. WHAT SHOULD A STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ULTIMATELY PRODUCE?

Worship, holiness, love, discernment, prayer, unity, mission, dependence upon God, and deeper love for Jesus.

A SIMPLE BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK

Creation -> Old Covenant empowerment -> Moses's longing -> prophetic promise -> Jesus -> Pentecost -> regeneration -> indwelling -> corporate indwelling -> sealing -> adoption -> Word and illumination -> sanctification -> fruit -> gifts -> one body -> prayer -> unity -> mission -> resurrection hope.

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, divine electricity, merely an emotion, a worship atmosphere, a private inner voice, a replacement for Scripture, a competitor with Scripture, a source of private revelation equal to Scripture, a guarantee of physical healing, permission for disorder, a tool for controlling others, or a badge of Christian superiority.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

Use the study's questions to revisit the Spirit's personhood and deity; Numbers 11 -> Joel 2 -> Acts 2; Ezekiel 36-37; regeneration, indwelling, sealing, filling; Word and Spirit; illumination versus new revelation; fruit and gifts; continuationism and cessationism; testing claims; Spirit baptism and one body; guidance; prayer; unity; mission; suffering; and ordinary Spirit-produced Christlikeness.

A BIBLE-STUDY PATH

Genesis 1:1-2; Exodus 31:1-5; Numbers 11:16-30; 1 Samuel 16:1-14; Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 11:1-5; Isaiah 61:1-3; Ezekiel 36:22-27; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 4:1-21; John 3:1-8; John 14-16; Acts 1-2; Acts 8; Acts 10; Acts 13; Acts 19; Romans 5; Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 2; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Galatians 5; Ephesians 1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 John 4:1-6; Jude 20-21; Revelation 22:17.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Start with Scripture. Helpful historical and representative resources include the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed; Basil of Caesarea, On the Holy Spirit; Augustine, On the Trinity; the Augsburg Confession; Luther's Small Catechism; Westminster Confession of Faith; John Wesley's sermons on the witness of the Spirit; Gordon D. Fee, God's Empowering Presence; Wayne Grudem, The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today; Craig S. Keener, Gift & Giver; Richard B. Gaffin Jr., Perspectives on Pentecost; Thomas R. Schreiner, Spiritual Gifts: What They Are and Why They Matter; and the multi-view volume Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Scripture remains the authority.

FINAL REFLECTION

The Bible begins with the Spirit hovering over creation and ends with the Spirit and the Bride saying, 'Come.' Moses longed for God's Spirit to rest broadly upon His people. Joel promised the outpouring. Ezekiel pictured the Spirit giving life to the dead. Jesus came conceived, anointed, led, and empowered by the Spirit. The exalted Christ poured out the Spirit at Pentecost. Now the Spirit gives new birth, dwells within God's people, works through the Word He inspired, forms one body, produces Christlike fruit, equips the Church, helps believers pray, empowers witness, and guarantees the resurrection still to come. Do not overlook the supernatural work of becoming like Jesus because it looks less dramatic than a miracle.

FINAL MEMORY ANCHOR

The Holy Spirit is God with us and God within us - giving life, working through His Word, forming Christ in His people, creating one body, empowering His Church, and continually pointing toward Jesus.

Moses longed. The prophets promised. The Father sent. The Son poured out. The Spirit came. The Spirit gives life. The Spirit dwells within God's people. The Spirit works through the Word He inspired. The Spirit makes them holy. The Spirit joins them into one body. The Spirit equips them to serve. The Spirit empowers them to witness. The Spirit glorifies Jesus. And until Jesus comes - the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'