

COURSE 1 - 2025  
*Basic Discipleship*

# *The* **JOURNEY**

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STEP FOUR





# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are so glad you're here! As you step into this journey of discipleship, know that you are entering a path designed to deepen your relationship with God and build a firm biblical foundation. This material is meant to guide you, no matter where you are on your faith journey. The tools and lessons you'll find here are adaptable to many settings—whether you're meeting one-on-one, gathering with a small group, or sharing in a larger community. It can be simplified to nurture the hearts of youth and children or enriched to challenge and inspire mature believers to grow even further.

*Discipleship is a journey, not a race.*

Our prayer is that this journey will help you engage with Scripture, build meaningful relationships, and discover how God is working in and through your life. Let's take this next step together with faith and intentionality as we grow closer to Him. Trust the process of growth and transformation that occurs over time as you walk with God.





# 04

**WHO IS THE  
HOLY SPIRIT?**





# I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is pictured as doing the kinds of things persons do: He shows intellectual activity (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Cor 2:10-11), He has a name (John 15:26), He chooses and makes decisions (Acts 13:2; 15:28; 16:6-7; 20:28; 1 Cor 12:11), He speaks (John 16:13-14; Acts 8:29; 13:2; 1 Tim 4:1; Rev 2:7), He teaches (John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:13), and He experiences emotions (Rom 15:30; Eph 4:30; Isa 63:10).

In addition, the Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3), tempted (Acts 5:9), blasphemed (Matt 12:31), and insulted (Heb 10:29). Since the Holy Spirit is a person, we should never refer to Him as “it,” but should always use the pronouns “He,” “His,” and “Him.”

In the Bible, a spiritual being is always a personal being. The Holy Spirit is fully a spiritual person, just like God the Father and Jesus (God the Son).

**ROMANS 8:26-27** | *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”*

**JOHN 15:26** | *“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.”*

### *Additional Scripture References*

**MATTHEW 28:19**

**ACTS 13:2**

**JOHN 14:26**

**ROMANS 15:30**

**ACTS 5:3,9**

**MATTHEW 12:31**

**HEBREWS 10:29**







## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A DIVINE PERSON

The Holy Spirit is not only a person; He is divine. He is the third person of the Trinity, equal with the Father and the Son (Jesus), and shares their divine characteristics such as being omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, etc.

It is important to note that the Holy Spirit is not the person of God the Father simply appearing in a different way. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are persons who are distinct from one another (seen at Jesus' baptism, the Great Commission, Acts 2, Romans 8, etc.).

They are distinct, yet share the same essence (see Step 1).

**JOHN 14:26** | *“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

**MATTHEW 28:19** | *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”*

*Additional  
Scripture  
References*

**1 PETER 1:2**  
**HEBREW 9:14**  
**MATTHEW 12:31-32**  
**ACTS 5:1-4**  
**ROMANS 8:26-27**



## II. WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

### THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Holy Spirit was active in the initial creation (Genesis 1:2) and in the creation of mankind (Genesis 1:26). The Spirit is also active in God's providential control of the world (Genesis 6:3; Nehemiah 9:20,30; Isaiah 63:10-11; Zechariah 4:6).

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit gave specific people special abilities to do important jobs for all of Israel (Judges 15:14).

The Holy Spirit's gifts were temporary and not permanent in the Old Testament. Neither was He given to all (or many) of God's people (1 Samuel 10:10; 16:14; Psalm 51:11).

In the Old Testament, one did not even always need to be a believer (or in right standing with God) to receive the Holy Spirit's power. The Spirit was simply given as needed, worked through whomever was needed, for the time needed (Balaam in Numbers 24:2; Saul in 1 Samuel 19:20-24).

Fascinatingly, the Holy Spirit showed through prophecy the different ways He would work differently in the New Testament (Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28-32, and Jeremiah 31:33).

**GENESIS 1:2** | *"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

**PSALM 51:11** | *"Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me."*

#### *Additional Scripture References*

**GENESIS 1:26**

**GENESIS 6:3**

**NEHEMIAH 9:20,30**

**ISAIAH 63:10-11**

**ZECHARIAH 4:6**

**NUMBERS 11:17,25**

**1 SAMUEL 16:14**

**1 SAMUEL 10:9-10**

**1 SAMUEL 16:13-14**

**NUMBERS 24:2**

**ISAIAH 44:3**

**EZEKIEL 36:27**

**JOEL 2:28-32**



## THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN OUR LIVES

### DURING CONVERSION

When we become a Christian the Holy Spirit performs the work of regeneration (taking us from spiritual death to spiritual life) upon our hearts. This happens at the same time as justification - being now right with God. Justification has been described as God seeing us as "just-as-if-I'd never sinned" because we are now covered with the blood of Christ.

Regeneration means being brought back to life spiritually (John 5:24-25; Romans 6:4-11; Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 2:11-13; 1 John 3:14). It's like being born again into a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5). The Holy Spirit makes our hearts new and fresh (Titus 3:5). This is something that didn't happen in the Old Testament. The Bible calls this work of the Holy Spirit "being saved."

**JOHN 6:63** | *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life."*

**TITUS 3:5** | *"he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,"*

#### *Additional Scripture References*

**JOHN 5:24-25**

**ROMANS 6:4-11**

**EPHESIANS 2:5**

**COLOSSIANS 2:11-13**

**1 JOHN 3:14**

**ROMANS 8:2,6,11,13**

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:45**

**JOHN 3:5**

**ACTS 2 AND ACTS 10**

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:13**



## AFTER CONVERSION

The Holy Spirit “indwells us” (lives in us) in order to give us moral power to live a holy life that is pleasing to God. This is His work of sanctification (becoming more like Jesus), which is a continuation of what began in regeneration.

The Holy Spirit indwells us not for the purpose of imparting special knowledge or the ability to perform miracles, but for power - the power to overcome sin and to live according to God’s holy will. We also believe that God does miracles (small and large) everyday!

The Holy Spirit provides the power to live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of holiness in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23). When we ignore, stifle, or disregard His sanctifying power and continue in sin, we quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30).

The Holy Spirit also equips Christians for service by giving them spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11). The purpose of these spiritual gifts is to equip individual Christians to meet the needs of the church as a whole, and not for the believer’s individual benefit (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12; Ephesians 4:12-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11). This is different from the Holy Spirit’s regeneration, indwelling, and sanctifying presence in an individual believer which is for the spiritual benefit of that particular believer.

The New Testament has four lists of Spiritual gifts, which are not all inclusive: Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30.

The Holy Spirit gives these gifts for the benefit of the church.

The Spirit may also enhance skills, abilities, and natural talents that already exist and are part of how God made you.

**ACTS 1:8** | *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*



## OTHER ROLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS

*Not All Inclusive*

Advocates, helps,  
teaches, counsels,  
reminds  
*John 14:26*

Brings Joy  
*1 Thessalonians 1:6*

Intercedes on our  
behalf  
*Romans 8:26-27*

Seals and is a  
deposit guarantee of  
our salvation  
*Ephesians 1:13-14*

Guides and leads  
*John 16:13; Acts 16:6-10*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ULTIMATE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who was the principal agent in transmitting God's own words to the biblical writers, and in guaranteeing that everything they wrote was accurate and complete. This is why we can speak of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate source and author of the Bible.

We do not have to understand the mechanics of how the Holy Spirit accomplished this. It is simply the result of the Spirit's work of revelation and inspiration. In the Bible, He leaves us a permanent, errorless record of God's works and will for us and His message of hope for our salvation and eternal life.

In fact, one of the most important things the Holy Spirit ever did for us was to give us the Bible. As believers, we are so familiar with the role of the Bible as the answer-book that we can easily take it for granted, and we can forget what a blessed gift of knowledge the Spirit has given us (2 Timothy 3:16).

**2 PETER 1:21** | *"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

**JOHN 16:13** | *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*

*Additional  
Scripture  
References*

**2 SAMUEL 23:2**

**ACTS 1:16**

**1 CORINTHIANS 2:13**

**NOTE:** It's important to understand that the Holy Spirit is not going to force these on you. Believers need to be in prayer, reading our Bibles, and walking with Jesus to be led moment to moment by the Spirit.

## NOTES

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*Want to dive deeper into your journey?*

Scan the QR code for an in-depth exploration of Step 4: Who is the Holy Spirit?



*NOTE: All verses are quoted from the NIV translation. The Bible remains the ultimate authority for understanding who God is.*

*For more commentary on who the Holy Spirit is, see Dr. Jack Cottrell's "The Faith Once for All," particularly chapter 15. We're grateful to have a grounding for many of the above thoughts and insights from not only this work, but from many others.*



# BASIC DISCIPLESHIP STEP FOUR

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Ice Breaker Questions

Have you thought any more about Jesus from Step 3? Any further questions?

Growing up, who was the Holy Spirit to you?

#### **Question 1 - *Who is the Holy Spirit?***

Is it harder to understand who the Holy Spirit is compared to God the Father or Jesus (God the Son)?

Why or why not?

#### **Question 2 - *The Holy Spirit Working in the Old Testament***

Have you ever thought about the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament?

#### **Question 3 - *The Holy Spirit Working in the Old Testament***

Would it change things if you had to worry about the Holy Spirit leaving you or being temporary in your life?

#### **Question 4 - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives***

Does it make sense that going from death to life isn't a feeling (or emotion) as much as it is a change in relationship with God and a work God does in you?

#### **Question 5 - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives***

Now that you have the Holy Spirit, do you ever have to sin or give into temptation again?

#### **Question 6 - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives***

What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit? How do you know when it's God vs. just what you want to do?

#### **Question 7 - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives***

Can a Christian live most (or all) of their life not listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

#### **Question 8 - *The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives***

Do you know your spirit gift(s)? Who are they for, and have you put them to use yet?

#### **Question 9 - *The Holy Spirit is the Ultimate Author of the Bible***

Was it important that the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the Bible? Why or why not?



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