

Volume II

# The Essentials



# Holy Spirit

**We'd like to welcome you to the educational series "The Essentials". These series of study books are designed to equip the believers of Christ with the essentials to live the life the scripture say we should have. This series will also help us to understand and embrace our anointed call to change our view about ourselves and give ourselves to become ambassadors of change in world around us.**

**To properly understand the calling of Christ it is mandatory that we give ourselves to grasping some clarity related to His call. The central resource to discover what Christ has called us to is the Bible. In the pages of the bible, we will discover that we have been made for a purpose. As a matter of fact, "we have been made for this time and this time is made for us". Since so much of who we are and who we are to be is held within the sacred scripture, we must develop a new mind-set in seeking to learn about our Lord's plan for us.**

**We must embrace this reality: “Our assured purpose is rooted in the word of God. To understand our assignment and the father’s destined will for us, it is imperative that we engage the searching of the scriptures as a lifetime journey”. 1 John 3:2 ...it doth not appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear we shall be like him...**

**There are principle fundamentals that God has laid out for our benefit that will help us to understand that “there is nothing that has happened to us that God is not aware of and has made to work for us”. We discover these truths as we study our God and His ways.**

**Special thanks to Bishop Timothy J. Clarke of the First Church, Columbus, Ohio for his permission to use the Foundation class material.**

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

### I. The Holy Spirit Is A Person

It must be clearly understood that the Holy Spirit is neither an “it” nor a thing. The Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is a *Person*. The Holy Spirit has intellect, emotions, and will. Scripture also ascribes to Him the acts we would expect of someone who was not just a force, but a real person.

#### A. He Speaks

##### Revelations 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the paradise of God. (NIV)

##### Acts 13:2

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me

**Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (NIV)**

**B. He Intercedes**

**Romans 8:26**

**In the same way, the Spirit help us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (NIV)**

**C. He Testifies**

**John 15:26-27**

**“When the Counselor 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.”**

**And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. (NIV)**

**D. He Leads**

**Acts 8:29**

**The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” (NIV)**

**E. He Commands**

**Acts 16:6-7**

**Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the Word in the province of Asia.**

**When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. (NIV)**

**F. He Guides**

**John 16:13**

**But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all 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. (NIV)**

## **G. He Appoints**

**Acts 20:28**

**Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.  
(NIV)**

## **H. He Can Be Lied To**

**Acts 5:3-5**

**Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?**

**Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.”**

**When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. (NIV)**

**I. He Can Be Insulted**

**Hebrew 10:29-31**

**How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of Grace?**

**For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay, and, again, “The Lord will judge His people.”**

**It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (NIV)**

**J. He Can Be Blasphemed**

**Matthew 12:31-32**



**And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.**

**Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (NIV)**

#### **K. He Can Be Grieved**

**Ephesians 4:30**

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (NIV)**

#### **II. The Holy Spirit Is A Divine Person: He Is God**

**Each of the emotions and acts listed in Part I are characteristics of a person. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force like gravity or magnetism, but a Person with all the**

**attributes of personality. He is divine as well. The Bible is clear in that not only is the Holy Spirit a Person, but He is also God Himself.**

**A. He is Eternal:**

**This means that there never was a time when He was not, is not, or will not be.**

**Hebrews 9:14**

**How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death so that we may serve the living God! (NIV)**

**B. He is Omnipotent:**

**This means that He is all-powerful.**

**Luke 1:35**

**The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. (NIV)**

**C. He Is Omnipresent:**

**This means that He is everywhere at the same time.**

**Psalm 139:7-10**

**Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?**

**If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

**If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast. (NIV)**

**D. He Is Omniscient:**

**This means that He knows all things.**

**Corinthians 2:9-11**

**However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love**

**him,” but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.**

**For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (NIV)**

### **E. He Is Called God**

#### **Acts 5:3-4**

**Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?**

**Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God. (NIV)**

### **Corinthians 3:17-18**

**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**

**And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)**

### **F. He Is The Creator:**

**The first biblical reference to the Holy Spirit is in Genesis 1:2.**

### **Genesis 1:1-2**

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

**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. (NIV)**

**Here we are able to see that the Holy Spirit was present and an active agent in the creation of the heavens and the earth.**

**The Christian belief in one God is in agreement with the personhood of the Holy Spirit as the manifested power in the life of the redeemed. The Holy Spirit has the good and welfare of the Believer in mind and method.**

**G. He Is The Comforter And The Spirit Of Truth:**

**During times of discouragement and despair, the Holy Spirit comes alongside and renews our strength.**

**John 14:16-17**

**And I will ask the \_\_\_\_\_, and he will give you another \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ you forever—the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. The world cannot \_\_\_\_\_ him because it neither \_\_\_\_\_ him nor**

\_\_\_\_\_ him. But you know him,  
for he \_\_\_\_\_ with you and will be in  
you. (NIV)

### **John 15:26**

**When the Counselor 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. (NIV)**

### **John 16:13**

**But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he  
will guide you into all 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. (NIV)**

**H. He Is The Agent Of The New Birth:  
God, not man, plays the most active role in  
the “rebirth” and “regeneration” of an  
individual. It is the Holy Spirit that draws,  
convicts, and sustains us. The change in the  
life of the believer is not wrought by any  
wisdom or power of our own, but by the  
power of the Holy Spirit.**

**John 3:5-7**

**Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.**

**Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

**You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again."**

**John 6:44**

**No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."**

**I. Review**

- a) **What is another name for the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_?**
- b) **The Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_ and is the \_\_\_\_\_  
Person of the Trinity.**



c) Re-\_\_\_\_\_ and born \_\_\_\_\_ are different names of salvation.

### III. Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

**We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place at the moment of conversation and that there is only one such baptism. This baptism of the Holy Spirit was initiated at Pentecost, and all who come to know Jesus Christ as Savior share in this experience and are baptized with the Spirit the moment they are regenerated. Subsequent to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, believers may then be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

**Thus, the purpose of the baptism of the Spirit is to bring the new Christian into the Body of Christ. No interval of time falls between regeneration and baptism with the Spirit. The moment we receive Jesus Christ as Lord**

**and Savior we receive the Holy Spirit. He came to live in our hearts.**

**Romans 8:9**

**You, however, are controlled, not by the sinful nature, but, by the Spirit—if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. (NIV)**

**Nowhere in the New Testament is there a command to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

**Surely, if baptism with the Spirit were a necessary step in our Christian lives, the New Testament would be full of it. Christ Himself would have commanded it, but we are not commanded as Christians to seek something that has already taken place.**

**In view of this, no Christian need strive, wait, or “pray to get through to the Spirit.”**

**He/she has received Him already, not as a result of struggle and work, agonizing and**

**prayer, but as an unmerited and unearned gift of Grace.**

**The scriptural usage of the word “*baptism*” shows that it is something initiatory – both in the case of water baptism and Spirit baptism—and that is *not repeated*. There is no biblical support to show that the baptism with the Holy Spirit would ever be repeated for the saved.**

### **1 Corinthians 12:13**

**For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.**

**The original Greek of this passage makes it clear that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a completed past action. {The King James Version incorrectly translates it into present tense rather than past} There are two things that stand out in this passage of scripture: 1) The baptism with the Spirit is a collective**

**operation of the Spirit of God. 2) The baptism with the Spirit includes every believer.**

**The clear indication is that baptism with the Spirit is connected with our standing before God, not our current subjective state, with our position and not our experience. The baptism of the Spirit is, therefore, the great uniting factor of all believers because every true believer must be baptized into the Body of Christ.**

#### **IV. Being Filled With The Holy Spirit**

**To be Spirit-filled is to be controlled or dominated by the Spirit's presence and power. We are commanded to be "filled with the Spirit" by Paul in Ephesians 5:18.**

**Ephesians 5:18**

**Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.  
(NIV)**

**In this passage of scripture, Paul draws a contrast between two things. A person who is filled with alcohol is controlled or dominated by alcohol. Its presence and power have overridden his/her normal abilities and actions.**

**It is interesting that we often say someone is “under the influence” of alcohol or other drugs. Now that is somewhat the meaning of being filled with the Spirit. We are “under the influence” of the Holy Spirit. Instead of doing only what we want to do, we are now guided by Him.**

**Paul’s command to the Ephesian Christians to “be filled with the Spirit” is binding on all Christians everywhere in every age. There are no exceptions. This command actually has the idea of continuously being filled in the original Greek language. We are not filled once for all, like a bucket. Instead, we are to be filled constantly. It might be translated, “Be filled and keep on being filled,” or “Being**

**filled.” So, Ephesians 5:18 literally says,  
“Keep on being filled with the Spirit.”**

**This continuous filling by the Holy Spirit is also what Jesus was teaching in John 4 in speaking to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well: Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit in the same way in John 7:38: “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” The overflowing spring and the continual river speak of the constant supply of the Holy Spirit’s blessing available to all Christians. This living water of which Jesus speaks—the continual filling by the Holy Spirit—fails to flow in our lives, not because God denies it to us, but because we do not want it, or we refuse the conditions God sets up to get it.**

**In John 7:38 Jesus spoke of rivers of living water. Consider the Mississippi or the Amazon Rivers. However much may be taken from them, they do not run dry, but continue to flow generously. The sources from which they come keep sending water down their course. These rivers illustrate the life of the Spirit-filled Christian. The supply is never exhausted because it has its source in the Holy Spirit who is inexhaustible.**

**We must make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit so that when he fills us we will become vessels of blessing to the world. When we are filled with the Spirit, it is not a question of there being more of Him, as though His work in us is quantitative. It is not how much of the Spirit we have, but how much the Spirit has of us. He is in us in all His fullness, whether we see this exhibited in our lives or not.**

**When we receive Christ as Savior and Lord, you and I receive Him in full, not just in part.**

**Then, as we come to understand more and more of Christ's Lordship, we surrender and yield more and more. So, seeking the fullness of the Spirit or the "filling" of the Spirit, we receive and enjoy His filling and His fullness more and more.**

**REFLECTION:**

**The Holy Spirit is not a quality to be desired although He does qualities (Galatians 5:22-23).**

**The Holy Spirit is not a quantity to be measured although at times He has been measured (2 Kings 2:9-10). It is not how much you have of Him as it is how much he has of you.**

**The Holy Spirit is not an "it" to be impersonalized. The Holy Spirit is a "he" to be accepted and received. Is "He" in your life?**

**Is "He" in your life?**