



Pneuma: An Introduction of the Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit Is A Person

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello there, My name is _____ and I want to welcome. I am so excited to kick off our new series called Pneuma: Where together over the next 3 weeks leading into Easter week we will be learning about the Holy Spirit.

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Excited to kick off week one of our new series “Pneuma” The word Pneuma is the Greek word for breath or spirit. The word pneumatology is the theological study of the Holy Spirit.

As we begin this series on The Holy Spirit, Its important that we understand this truth: Your first encounter shapes your view — the first time you experience someone talking about the Holy Spirit forms the way you think about Him moving forward. *(we come from all background: Baptist, catholic, Methodist, We have traditions)*

Three kinds of people when we talk about the Holy Spirit:

- Some are **Curious** – You’ve heard some things, but you want to know more...
- Some are **Concerned** – It makes you a little nervous... is this when they start being weird.
- Some are **Closed** – You’re not willing to go there

Testimony: Just given my life to Christ, packed on a bus to Florida and visited a famous revival... in it's later days. **Pushing me down. Another church really liked to laugh. I was was laughing but in the flesh not the spirit.**

Here's my point: Much of what we think about the holy spirit is based on our experiences

Our experience informs us but only God's Word forms us.

This is the process of **sanctification**. The enemy will attempt to use our experiences to form our identify, but God's Word is what molds us.

03. MESSAGE

Lets go to the Bible and see what Jesus says about the Holy spirit.

At the conclusion of Jesus' ministry on earth, He turns to his disciples and tells them that it is better that he leaves them to go to the Father and sends another, a helper, the person of the Holy Spirit. This week we will learn about the person of the Holy Spirit and why He is vital to living the Christian life.

John 16:7: Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Jesus says to His closest friends, **It's better that I go and He comes. Wait, what?**

- These men had walked with Him for 3 years, every day in close proximity. They did life together. They heard him teach, he coached them, corrected them, loved them and they say him heal.

Now, imagine Jesus is able to walk alongside you in physical form on the earth today.

- Your back is really bothering you. You blurt out, “Jesus, my back hurts!” Bam! Your back’s healed. He could do that!
- Your dog gets run over by a car. You ask, “Jesus, heal my dog.” And Jesus says, “Spot live!” And, Spot bounces back to life and runs off! That’s awesome!
- Jesus, help me lose ten pounds. Boom. Shredded body.

Jesus in the flesh, *that seems like the best thing ever.*

But Jesus tells his disciples that isn’t better. That it is to their advantage that he leaves and sends the Holy Spirit... Why?!

Have you ever visited an amusement park on the weekend? I can’t stand waiting in line – Disney is a bit better because you can buy a fast pass but imagine the line for Jesus?

Jesus knew that in order for us to fulfill all that he has called us to do, we would need access to his power with us, in us and upon us 24/7.

Turn to the Book of Acts chapter 1.

CONTEXT: Book of Acts – Luke Acts

Right before Jesus ascended on the mount of olives into heaven, one final directive: two before were go and make – finishes with:

Acts 1:8 But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Illustration: Have you been in the airport and your **phone is dying**. *I have*. I’m walking all over looking for available outlets. Nobody is giving up the socket. Giving me the evil eye. All the while the power was right there next to me. All the power I needed was right there. I just needed to connect to it...

Christians all over the world are going through life **without this power**, without victory, without supernatural strength. Yet, right next to you, there is an outlet of spiritual power from God in Heaven that is greater than you could ever imagine. You just have to connect!

Who is the Holy Spirit NOT

- The Holy Spirit is not simply a power source or force. **This is not Star Wars.**
- He is not an "It". **He is not *Casper the Friendly Ghost*.** The Scriptures clearly define the Holy Spirit as a "He" – a divine person.
- The Holy Spirit is not emotionalism or raw enthusiasm.

The Holy Spirit is God and a person of the Trinity.

The Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. 3 is the number of Completion. The Holy Spirit is God and a member of the trinity. As believers, we're called to relate to the Holy Spirit in the same way Jesus related to the disciples: as a person.

There are certain **characteristics of personhood**. The three necessary elements of personhood are: *1) intelligence or intellect, 2) will or volition, and 3) emotions.*

In **John 14:16-17** we see six personal pronouns: **And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.** All of these personal pronouns are in reference to the person of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a Person

1. The Holy Spirit has intelligence.

In **1 Corinthians 2:10-11**: But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

He knows the things of God, the Father. Notice all that Paul says about the Holy Spirit in this passage. God the Father reveals things to us by the Holy Spirit — the Spirit searches all things, the deep things of God. The things of God that man does not know, the Spirit knows. We have received the Spirit of God that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God, and the Holy Spirit teaches us.

2. The Holy Spirit has a will. A second characteristic of personhood is will or volition. In the distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in **1 Corinthians 12:11** the Scripture says: **But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.** So, we see here the Holy Spirit desires and wills certain things. (he gives gifts, we will talk about them in week 4)

3. The Holy Spirit has emotions. You can vex, quench, or grieve the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 says: **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

So, He can be grieved. That word in the Greek means to offend, to sadden, and to make sorrowful. The Holy Spirit is a person who loves you and who can be grieved by you.

Now from these passages we can **safely conclude** that the Holy Spirit is indeed a person, And as a person, He can be known. As a person, you can develop a relationship with Him. As a person, you can connect with Him.

That is why Paul said in **2 Corinthians 13:14**: **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.** Communion there means partnership, fellowship, and intimacy. Paul said that we can have a close relationship with the Holy Spirit.

In conclusion: I want to show you **3 Greek prepositions in the Bible** –used to describe how He relates & works in our lives as Christians.

The Communion of the Holy Spirit

1. 'Para' – With. To come alongside.

- The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is dwelling *with* all people prior to conversion. He is the One convicting them of their sin and convincing them that Jesus Christ is the only answer. **John 16:8** says: **And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.**
- Jesus spoke about the coming of the Holy Spirit and His role in this verse. The Holy Spirit is constantly testifying of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come.

2. 'Epi' – Upon. This second relationship that we can have with the Holy Spirit is separate and distinct from the first two.

- The word *upon* in this verse is the Greek word 'epi.' The word *epi* means upon or over.
- I think of it as an 'overflow' because this is the experience that allows the Holy Spirit to flow forth out of our lives.
- Our lives then are not just a vessel containing the Spirit, but they become channels by which the Spirit flows forth to touch the world around us.

This is the word used when Jesus said in **Acts 1:8**: **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** The Disciples needed that overflowing of the Spirit to effectively reach their world for Christ.

3. 'En' – In. Living in us.

The third realm of relationship the Holy Spirit has with us is *living in us* as Christians. Again, when we receive Christ, it is really the Holy Spirit that comes to live *in* us.

- **It is the Holy Spirit** that brings about the work of conversion. It is the Holy Spirit according to Romans 8:16 that gives us assurance that we are believers and it is the Holy Spirit that seals us and ultimately acts as the down payment of our salvation. **Ephesians 1:13-14** says: ...in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the *guarantee* of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- This is what makes Christianity different than all other religions; God invites into a relationship with him. Islam says, "submit to me", Christianity says "wrestle with me"
- **Next week** – week 2, we are talking about how the HS Works In us as Christians...

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

Lets recap:

The Holy Spirit is a person we desperately need active in our lives as Christians.

I remember talking to a guy from a particular denomination who said this about the Holy Spirit:

- **Pastor I don't think I need the power of the Holy Spirit?** To which I replied For what you're doing, you probably don't.

Jesus is emphatic in **Acts 1:4** when he says about the Holy Spirit:

... "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.

If Jesus needed the power of the holy spirit, so do we, don't miss a week of this series, lets pray...