

How Do You Explain the Holy Spirit?

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If someone asks you to explain the Holy Spirit, how would you explain Him? This is not as easy as it sounds. We can explain God and Jesus to a certain point, but the Holy Spirit is more challenging. One Christian author once tried to describe the Holy Spirit as electricity. Electricity is real power on earth and it energizes the things that are tapped into its source. Now, using electricity as an example of the Holy Spirit falls well short of what and how the Holy Spirit works. Maybe this is one of the reasons the Holy Spirit is put on the shelf these days in the Christian realm because it is so hard to understand. Now, as true followers of Christ, we shouldn't have a problem with knowing and believing the Holy Spirit because it comes down to the faith issue. Do I trust, believe, and love the Holy Spirit just as I do God and Jesus? The answer should be yes because all Three are One. So, maybe it would be easier for us to just tell people what God's Spirit does for us instead of trying to explain who He is. For one thing, they need to know Jesus and have the Spirit within them to be able to understand the Spirit and I think that is just Christian common sense. The Spirit knows Himself so He can help a Christian understand Him better. A non-believer is going to have a hard time understanding who the Spirit of God is. So, maybe we can give them some snapshots of the Holy Spirit. There is Scripture that can help us to explain the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit is so important to Holy living.

Let's turn to John 14: 16 – 17 where Jesus, the Son of God, tells us this, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (or Advocate), who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now, and later will be in you. (NLT - (Biblegateway.com))"

The first thing we realize is that the Spirit is not a "what" but is a "who". The Holy Spirit is a person not a thing. This is why using electricity is a bad example of

God's Spirit because electricity is a thing and not a who. The Lord calls the Spirit a "him" in verse 17. Paul states this about the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12: 11, "¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (NKJV – Biblegateway.com)" Paul tells us the Spirit has a "will" which is a personal attribute. The Spirit is God's Spirit and He does the will of God because He is God. So, the Holy Spirit is not a thing, but is a who. This should make our relationship with the Spirit more personal. The Spirit knows what is best for us and only wants the best for us. He will guide us in doing the will of God in our lives. This fits into what Jesus said when Jesus called the Spirit as the Comforter or Advocate depending on your translation of Bible. The Greek term used here means counselor, intercessor, and helper (Strong's Concordance). The Spirit works with Jesus so we can have a growing relationship with God. We can't receive the Holy Spirit except through knowing Jesus as our Savior. Then Jesus sends us the Spirit who then intercedes, counsels, and helps us with our relationship with Jesus and God. Jesus was telling His disciples that He was soon going to leave them, but His Spirit was going to take His space and do what Jesus did for them as He walked with them. The Spirit helps us to know God better and better. In fact, Jesus tells them in verse 17 that the Spirit lives with them now and will be in you. In other words, the Spirit was Jesus walking among them at this time. After His death and resurrection and Pentecost, the Spirit will move into their heart and mind. I hope this makes sense because it is very important. The disciples had Jesus walking with them and we now have Jesus living within us through the Holy Spirit. We get to enjoy the presence of Jesus better than the disciples before Pentecost because we can take Jesus wherever we go as our guide, helper, and counselor. How great is that!

Plus, God's Spirit can lead us into all Truth. This is all truth that concerns God. Right now, many TV preachers and other people are really pushing the end of time story. Many are interpreting the current events and are giving step by step details of how they think things will pan out. Many of them are already in the beginning stages of writing a book to make money. Always remember we don't know the exact day or time of Jesus' return, only God knows that. Now, the Truth in Revelation gives a lot of signs and pictures, but it also has a lot of gray areas

where it can be interpreted in different ways. The main objective the Book of Revelation was given to us is to let us know that God is in control of the end of times and we are to continue the work of Jesus till God puts an end to this world. We need the Holy Spirit to help lead us in His Truth during these troubled times. We must be ready for His return, but let's not get ourselves so caught up in end of the times prophecy that we lose our focus on the mission of Jesus. We have work here to do. The Holy Spirit leads us into Truth about God and all that is connected to Him.

Let's now turn to John 14: 18 – 24, “¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” (NLT – Biblegateway.com)

Jesus is telling the disciples that He will be leaving them. However, He will not leave them as orphans. Orphans have nobody to help them. Jesus makes a great promise here. Many treat Jesus in the wrong way. We study His writings and some people only think of Jesus being connected to His writings only. In others words, they treat Jesus as only as a thing, not as a person. Jesus is telling the disciples and this is my paraphrase that after His resurrection He will be going to Heaven and they won't see Him in the physical sense anymore. If we remember the earlier Scripture, Jesus' place will then be inside them and they will know that Jesus is in the Father and Jesus is in them through God's Spirit. We need to understand that Jesus has a continuing presence inside us because of the Holy Spirit. We can't see Him like the disciples did before Jesus went into Heaven, but we can sure feel His presence. Plus, to have this continuing presence of Jesus inside us through the Holy Spirit requires us to be living a Holy life. If you continue to live in sin, that sin blocks Jesus and we can't enjoy fellowship with Him on a daily basis. The way we know we are living a Holy life is when His Spirit helps us to see and feel the love of God. Then the Spirit helps us to love the Lord back and this is a Holy relationship Jesus is talking about in verse 21. The Spirit is the

presence of Jesus within us always. Plus, the Spirit is the connecting force of God's love between us and Him. Boy, isn't the Holy Spirit important to our lives? Let's continue on.

Then John tells us this in John 14: 22 - 26, “²² Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”²³ Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴ Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me.²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. (NLT - Biblegateway.com)

This Advocate and Comforter will become a teacher and a reminding machine to the disciples and to us. When we love the Lord with everything we have, His Spirit / Jesus will teach us everything needed to know about the Lord and how to live in the age we are living in. This is why so many Christians in America are having a hard time living a Holy life – they hardly know Jesus. They believe in Him, but they really don't know Him. They never ask the Holy Spirit to help them know Jesus better or ask to help them grow spiritually and the list can go on and on. The Spirit is our communicator to God through Jesus. The more communication there is, the more you will learn about Jesus. Jesus already knows all about you. Remember you're first date? Didn't you ask questions to the other person because you wanted to know things about them? A good leader will try to learn things about their employees because it helps to show the employees that the leader actually cares about them. If we don't want to know Jesus better through His Spirit, then do we really love Him? When the Spirit helps us to learn more about Jesus, His Spirit helps us to remember what we have learned. The Post-it Note was invented in 1968 by a 3M chemist named Spencer Silver. While he was trying to make a super strong adhesive, he stumbled upon a weaker and reusable substance. Later, another 3M employee, Art Fry, recognized that this adhesive could be used on bookmarks. He wanted to create a bookmark that wouldn't fall out of his hymnbook. This led to the invention of the Post-it Note. How many of you use these sticky notes? I have these things all over my desk and I'm sure the Rangers get sick of all my sticky notes all over the Ranger desk. At

least you can get different color note pads. I use two or three pads at the same time. That's how much I'm depended on those sticky pads because they help me to remember things. The Holy Spirit is the greatest sticky note pad of all time. The Holy Spirit wants to remind us about Jesus and about how to live a Holy life, and reminds us what His Truth is. Let's be honest, most of us forget things and that includes knowing God and His Holy Word. It amazes me how I can't remember Scripture hardly at all. However, His Spirit will put Scripture in my head when I need to remember how to live a Holy life or to handle a situation. It's like reading a sticky note pad but better. The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us all the things needed for living out this life through Jesus.

Finally, let's turn to John 16: 12-16 where we read this, "¹² 'There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.' (NLT – Biblegateway.com)

I like this piece of Scripture. To me, this Scripture tells me the line of communication is always open to those who love the Lord with everything they have. When Jesus wants us to know about the future, His Spirit will let us know so I don't have to rely on a TV preacher who is interesting in writing a book about the future of this world. I can get all I need from Jesus through His Spirit. I get my information straight from the main source. Plus, all the Spirit does brings glory to Jesus. In fact, Holy living brings glory to Jesus when we are depended on this Holy source that lives within us. Then, Jesus tells us in verse 15 how all three work as one – good example of the Trinity. All three working together to help us to live on this earth. So, you see, it's hard to explain the Holy Spirit to someone, but you can tell someone what the Spirit does within us. Aren't you glad today that you know Jesus and that His Advocate lives within you to help you on a daily basis. You have your own sticky note pad living within you. How thankful we should be today for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank the Spirit today.