

Session 8

**Who**  
is the **Holy Spirit**

For a long time in the church the person and work of the Holy Spirit has been:

- Ignored
  - Sometimes a greater concentration on the Father and the Son, but the Holy Spirit is biblical and third person of the Trinity.
- Misunderstood
  - “Holy Ghost” sounds like an impersonal force. But the Holy Spirit is a person, not an “it.”
- Resisted
  - Fear of what He does, but the Holy Spirit is gentle.

## 1. HE WAS INVOLVED IN CREATION

- Bringing order out of chaos (Genesis 1:1–2)
- The Creator Spirit—giving life to mankind (Genesis 2:7)

## 2. HE CAME UPON PARTICULAR PEOPLE AT PARTICULAR TIMES FOR PARTICULAR TASKS

- Bezalel—for artistic work (Exodus 31:1–5)
- Gideon—for leadership (Judges 6:14–15, 34)
- Samson—for strength and power (Judges 15:14)
- Isaiah—for prophecy (Isaiah 61:1–3)

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### 3. HE WAS PROMISED BY THE FATHER

- The promise of a “new thing”
  - “I will put my Spirit in you.” (Ezekiel 36:26–27)
  - “I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26–27)
  - “I will pour out my Spirit on all people.” (Joel 2:28–29)

However, the prophecies remained unfulfilled for at least 300 years.

With the coming of Jesus there is a great activity of the Spirit—not just for particular people at particular times but for everyone.

- Everyone surrounding the birth of Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit:
  - Mary (Luke 1:35)
  - Elizabeth (Luke 1:41)
  - John the Baptist (Luke 3:16)

### 4. JOHN THE BAPTIST LINKS HIM WITH JESUS

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’” (Luke 3:16)

- Jesus was filled with the Spirit
  - Jesus received power through the anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism. (Luke 3:22; Luke 4:1, 14, 18)

## 5. JESUS PREDICTS HIS PRESENCE (John 7:37–39)

However, He tells them to wait for the gift promised by the Father (Acts 1:4–5,8; Luke 24:49).

- At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit and received:
  - New languages (Acts 2:4–12)
  - New boldness (Acts 2:14)
  - New power (Acts 2:37–41)

We live in the age of the Spirit. God has promised to give His Spirit to every Christian (Acts 2:37–39).

**“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flowing from within.”**

**(JOHN 7:37–38)**

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