



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Elder Michelle Smith

Jesse Curney III, Senior Pastor
New Mercies Christian Church

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest misunderstandings in the church is that many people know about the Holy Spirit, but do not truly know the Holy Spirit.

Some reduce Him to emotion. Others reduce Him to power. Still others ignore Him almost completely. But according to Jesus, the Holy Spirit stands at the very center of the Christian life.

Yet in that moment of confusion and sorrow, Jesus gave one of the greatest promises in all the Bible:

John 14:16 – 17 (NKJV)

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth...”

- **Jesus was saying, “You will not be abandoned. You will not be left helpless. I am sending you the Holy Spirit.”**
- **That truth still stands today.**

GOD AT WORK IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

If there were no Holy Spirit, there would be no creation, no conviction, no new birth, no sanctification, no Scripture as we know it, no power for holy living, and no church.

The Holy Spirit is not a side topic in Christianity. He is at the heart of how God works in the life of His people.

In the Upper Room, on the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prepared His troubled disciples for His departure. Their hearts were heavy. Judas had betrayed Him. Peter was about to deny Him. Fear filled the room.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: GOD'S PRESENCE, POWER, AND PERSON IN THE BELIEVER

This lesson's aim is to help believers understand that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but the divine Person of God who indwells, enables, guides, and glorifies Christ in the life of every believer

Central Truth

The Holy Spirit is not optional to the Christian life. He is essential. He is not merely an influence to feel, but God Himself to know, obey, and walk with daily.

PRIMARY TEXT

John 14:16 – 17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ 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.

John 14:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

PRIMARY TEXT

John 16:13 - 14 (NKJV)

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Supporting Texts:

Romans 8:9, 27

Ephesians 4:30

Matthew 28:19

John 16:7

1 Corinthians 2:10–11; 12:11

Acts 5:3–4

John 15:5

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

I. The Holy Spirit Is a Divine Person, Not a Mere Power.

A. The Holy Spirit is a real Person!

- Jesus did not say the Father would send a force, an energy, or an impersonal influence.**
- He said the Father would send “another Helper.” The Holy Spirit is a Somebody, not a something.**

I. The Holy Spirit Is a Divine Person, Not a Mere Power.

The Bible shows the Holy Spirit possesses the marks of personality:

The Holy Spirit has intellect!

1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV)

“The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

Romans 8:27 (NKJV)

“He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is.”

The Holy Spirit has emotions!

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.”

Only a person can be grieved.

The Holy Spirit has a will!

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV)

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Only a person can choose with intention.

B. The Holy Spirit is God!

The Holy Spirit is not less than the Father and not less than the Son. He is fully God.

Acts 5:3 – 4 (NKJV)

“Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...? You have not lied to men but to God.”

That passage clearly identifies the Holy Spirit as God. He is also named equally with the Father and the Son:

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

“Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Notice it says "name", singular, not "names". There is one God in three Persons.

C. Why this matters:

- **If we think of the Holy Spirit only as power, we will seek an experience. But if we understand Him as a Person, we will seek relationship.**
- **Many believers want a spiritual boost, a spiritual rush, or a spiritual feeling. But the Christian life is not sustained by chasing moments. It is sustained by walking with the Holy Spirit.**

APPLICATION

Do not merely ask for power. Learn to know the Person.

Do not merely seek an emotional touch. Seek intimate fellowship with the Spirit of God.

II. The Holy Spirit Is the Believer's Indwelling Helper.

A. Jesus called Him "another Helper".

John 14:16 (NKJV)

"He will give you another Helper..."

The word "another" carries the meaning of another of the same kind. Jesus was telling His disciples that the Holy Spirit would minister to them as He had ministered to them.

The Holy Spirit is not a downgrade from Jesus' earthly ministry. He is the continuation of Christ's presence in the believer by the Spirit.

B. The Holy Spirit abides with us and in us.

John 14:17 (NKJV)

“He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Under the Old Testament, the Spirit came upon people for assignments. In the New Testament, the Spirit indwells believers permanently.

This means the Christian is never spiritually abandoned. The help of God is not merely around you. The help of God is in you.

C. The Holy Spirit enables what we cannot do on our own.

John 15:5 (NKJV)

Jesus said:

“Without Me you can do nothing.”

That is not a suggestion. That is a declaration of our spiritual inability apart from divine help.

The Holy Spirit enables us:

- **to obey God**
- **to resist sin**
- **to endure trials**
- **to serve effectively**
- **to grow in holiness**
- **to live out the character of Christ**

The Christian life is NOT hard and then you do your best.

The Christian life IS impossible apart from the Holy Spirit.

D. The Holy Spirit is better than external help alone!

- **Pastors matter. Counsel matters. Christian fellowship matters. BUT none of these can replace the Holy Spirit. Too many believers run first to people and last to the Spirit.**
- **Human help has a place, but the Holy Spirit must have priority.**

APPLICATION

Before you make the call, before you send the text, before you panic, before you quit, go first to the Helper within you.

Ask:

- **Holy Spirit, strengthen me.**
- **Holy Spirit, help me obey.**
- **Holy Spirit, guide my thoughts.**
- **Holy Spirit, enable me to honor Christ.**

III. The Holy Spirit's Supreme Mission is to Glorify Jesus Christ.

A. The Spirit does not promote Himself above Christ.

John 16:14 (NKJV)

“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

The Holy Spirit's great ministry is to exalt Jesus. He teaches truth, convicts of sin, empowers service, distributes gifts, and produces fruit—but all of it has one central aim: the glory of Christ.

**Where Jesus is diminished, the Holy Spirit is not being honored.
Where Christ is central, the Holy Spirit is at work.**

B. The Spirit works in us so Christ can be seen through us.

- **The Holy Spirit does not come merely to make us impressive. He comes to make Christ visible in our character, conduct, witness, and worship.**
- **That means the question is not merely, “Do I feel spiritual?” The question is, “Is my life glorifying Jesus?”**

C. The Spirit's work and holy living go together.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...? Therefore glorify God in your body.”

Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, our bodies, choices, speech, habits, and relationships all matter.

**The Spirit does not empower fleshly living.
He empowers holy living.**

APPLICATION

If you want the Spirit's help, align your life with the Spirit's purpose.

Ask:

- **Does this decision glorify Christ?**
- **Does this habit glorify Christ?**
- **Does this relationship glorify Christ?**
- **Does my use of time, money, and gifts glorify Christ?**

The Spirit is eager to empower what exalts Jesus.

IV. The Holy Spirit Brings Real Benefits to the Believer's Life

Jesus did not send the Spirit only for doctrine. He sent Him for daily living.

1. The Holy Spirit gives guidance.

John 16:13 (NKJV)

“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”

The Holy Spirit guides through the Word of God, never against it. He does not lead us into confusion, contradiction, or disobedience. He leads into truth. This guidance touches both great decisions and daily needs.

2. The Holy Spirit brings remembrance.

John 14:26 (NKJV)

“He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

He helps us recall the truth of God at the right time. That is why we must put the Word in us. The Spirit often brings back what we have faithfully hidden in our hearts.

3. The Holy Spirit gives peace.

John 14:27 (NKJV)

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...”

The disciples were facing fear, betrayal, uncertainty, and sorrow, yet Jesus promised peace through the coming ministry of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives a peace that is not dependent on circumstances being easy. It is the peace of God’s presence in the middle of trouble.

4. The Holy Spirit assures us that we belong to God.

Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

The Spirit confirms our identity in Christ and testifies that we are God’s children.

5. The Holy Spirit empowers victorious living.

The Christian life is not lived by human striving alone. The Spirit gives power to overcome sin, endure suffering, and walk in obedience.

APPLICATION

The Spirit's benefits are not for spectators. They are for surrendered believers.

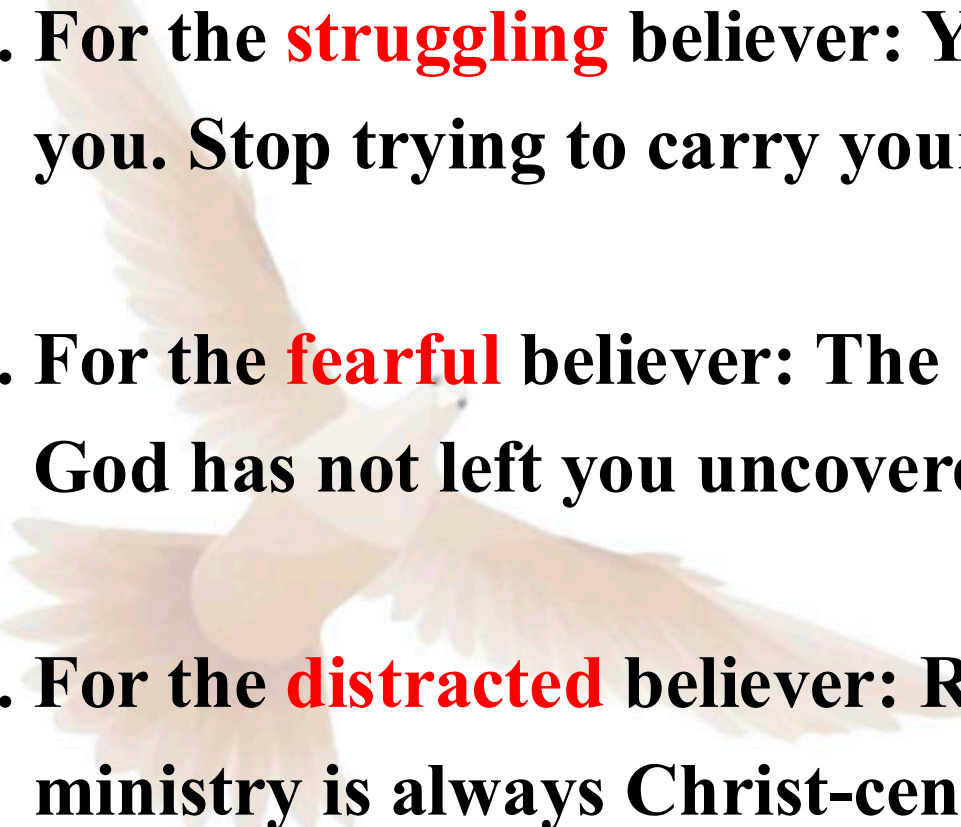
If your fellowship with the Spirit is weak, your experience of His benefits will also be weak.

STATEMENTS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **The Holy Spirit is not a religious accessory; He is the essential presence of God in the believer.**
- **You do not use the Holy Spirit; you yield to Him.**
- **The Christian life cannot be lived by self-effort; it must be lived by Spirit-empowered surrender.**
- **If you only seek power, you may miss the Person.**

- **The Holy Spirit never competes with Jesus; He glorifies Jesus.**
- **The Spirit in you is better than help merely around you.**
- **A defeated Christian does not need more hype; he needs deeper surrender to the Holy Spirit.**
- **The issue is not whether the believer has the Holy Spirit, but whether the Holy Spirit has the believer.**

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

- 
1. For the **struggling** believer: You are not alone. The Helper lives in you. Stop trying to carry your burdens in your own strength.
 2. For the **fearful** believer: The Spirit gives peace in unstable times. God has not left you uncovered.
 3. For the **distracted** believer: Refocus on Jesus. The Holy Spirit's ministry is always Christ-centered.

4. For the **immature believer: Grow in fellowship with the Spirit through prayer, Scripture, obedience, and worship.**

5. For the church:

A Spirit-filled church is not just a loud church, an emotional church, or a gifted church.

A Spirit-filled church is a Christ-exalting, truth-loving, holy, obedient church.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is it important to understand that the Holy Spirit is a Person and not merely a force?**
- 2. In what ways do believers sometimes rely on outside help before seeking the Spirit's help?**
- 3. What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ?**
- 4. Which benefit of the Holy Spirit do you most need right now: guidance, remembrance, peace, assurance, or power?**
- 5. What would change in your daily life if you truly lived aware that the Holy Spirit dwells in you?**

CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit is where the Christian life begins, and He is how the Christian life is sustained.

He is the divine Person sent by the Father in the name of the Son to dwell in every believer forever.

He is our Helper, our Guide, our Teacher, our Enabler, and our ever-present source of spiritual strength.

The disciples were shaken in the Upper Room, but Jesus steadied them with this promise: “You will not be left alone.” That same promise belongs to us today.

So the call is clear:

- **Do not ignore the Holy Spirit.**
- **Do not reduce Him to emotion.**
- **Do not treat Him like a power source to plug into only when needed.**
- **Know Him. Walk with Him. Yield to Him.**
- **Let Him glorify Christ through your life because when the Holy Spirit has His rightful place in us, then Jesus Christ is seen more clearly through us.**