

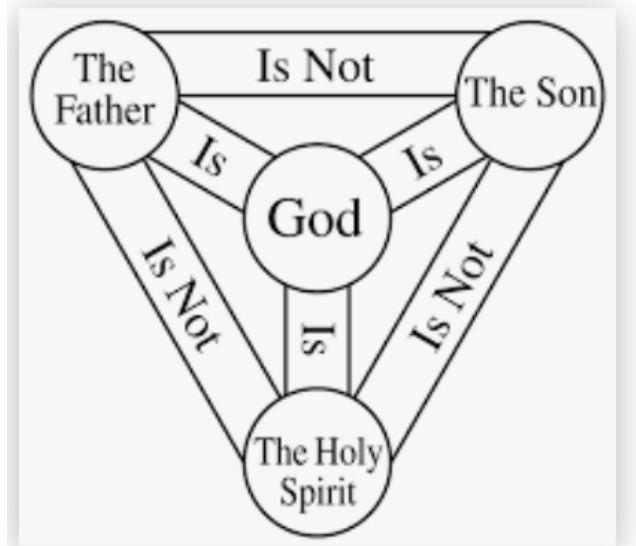
Power of the Holy Spirit

Overcomer

Acts 1:4-8

Participant's Guide

The Trinity can be a tricky concept to grasp. God the Father is comfortable if we had a great dad. God the Son, the Messiah, is God in the flesh, fully human and fully divine. That is a little more difficult to wrap our mind around, but we have probably studied Jesus more than the others. Now THE HOLY SPIRIT—that's the uncomfortable one, the mysterious one, the one inside us, the one that can really tie our brain into a knot. But we have the power. Yes, we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit and we can grow closer to him with prayer, reflection, and study. Here's our chance. Let's do this together.



What's in a Name?

Holman's Bible Dictionary defines and explains the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) this way: *"The third person of the Trinity through whom God acts, reveals His will, empowers individuals, and discloses His personal presence in the Old and New Testaments. It is depicted as a mighty wind or the breath of God. The Holy Spirit is seen as mysterious and powerful. It can be impersonal or very personal. It can work alone or manifest itself through individuals."*

- Look at the diagram above. Discuss the relationship between the Holy Spirit, God, the Son, and the Father. If the Holy Spirit is God, what does that reveal about the power of the Holy Spirit?

Let's look at the way the Holy Spirit is named in the Bible.

Read the following verses and write beside them the name used for the Holy Spirit. If you have more than one translation compare them or compare what you found with other members of your growth group. *(Note: an online Bible app can be very helpful here as you can switch easily from one version to another to compare.)*

Genesis 1:2, 1 Corinthians 3:16

John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13

Romans 8:2

Judges 11:29, Acts 5:9

Isaiah 59:19 (NIV)

Romans 8:9, 1 Peter 1:11

Hebrews 9:14

Psalm 51:11, Matthew 1:18, Mark 1:8, Luke 1:35, Hebrews 8:8

John 14:25

Hebrews 10:29

Romans 1:4

1 Peter 4:14

Numbers 27:18, Isaiah 11:2

Isaiah 61:1

Discuss with your group which names speak to your heart.

Overcome by the Spirit

The Holy Spirit becomes a part of you when you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. The words often used are to be overcome by the Spirit or to be indwelt by the Spirit. But what does that mean? How does it manifest? What does it mean in your life?

Read Acts 1:5 and Luke 3:16.

- How do these two verses describe the process of receiving the Holy Spirit? Compare that with Jesus' baptism in Luke 3:21-22.
- How does this description compare to what you have read about, witnessed or imagined when someone receives the Holy Spirit?

Read John 14:17, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:18-22, and Ephesians 3:16-18.

- What do these verses say about the location of the Holy Spirit? Do you think of the Holy Spirit as being in your mind, your heart, or somewhere else in your body? Explain.
- The Greek words used in these verses mean *inhabit or occupy as in a dwelling*. Sometimes this dwelling is represented as an individual. Sometimes the dwelling refers to a group of faithful believers. Discuss what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit means personally and corporately.

Read Luke 1:35, Acts 1:8, and 1 Thesalonians 1:5.

- What comes with the Holy Spirit in these verses?
- Notice in Acts 1:8 that “...you will receive power **when** the Holy Spirit comes on you...” not **if**. Why is that one word so critical for understanding this verse?
- Chuck Swindoll says, “Without you even knowing it, the Spirit of God took up permanent residence within you...He brought with Him...the vast capacity of His power...” What does it mean to have the **power** of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you?
- Look at the members of your group. Remind yourself that the power of God is inside each one of those people because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within them. How does that change the way you are seeing them?

Power to Transform

When you become connected to the power of the Holy Spirit, you are transformed, changed, made new. The Greek words for power used in the New Testament are *dunamis* as in our word dynamic and *exousia* referring to designated authority. The implication is that we are given authority with miraculous power and strength. This power includes the ability and the energy to move, change, or act forcefully. Some writers call it our “Spiritual Fuel.”

Read Acts 2:1-4 and Acts 3:1-8.

- How were the disciples and original followers of Jesus changed by the Holy Spirit?
- Have you ever been at a service, retreat, or event where the Power of the Holy Spirit was like electricity in the air? What did it feel like to you? Were you energized or frightened?
- It is not unusual to feel resistance to the Holy Spirit’s transforming work. Sometimes fear of change in ourselves or our traditions holds us back. Sometimes our discomfort with the mysterious gets in the way. What has held you back from

fully embracing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? What changes are you afraid of? How can all of us open our hearts to embrace the Holy Spirit more fully?

Read 1 Samuel 10:6, Romans 15:13, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 5:18-21, and 2 Timothy 1:7.

- In what ways can we expect to be changed by the Holy Spirit?
- Share with your group ways in which you have witnessed changes that the Holy Spirit has made in you or in people that you personally know. Were the changes subtle or dramatic?
- Charles Ryrie says, “Spiritual power is not necessarily or usually the miraculous or spectacular, but rather the consistent exhibition of the characteristics of the Lord Jesus in the believer’s life.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain your point of view.
- Pray together for the Holy Spirit to continue the transformation of each person in your group using one of these options.
 - Use the chorus from the song “Holy Spirit” by Bryan and Katie Torwalt to welcome the Holy Spirit into your lives and into your group as you pray by reciting it together and meditating on its words.
 - Sing the song together along with this YouTube video link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFByOX8Fb0M>

Chorus:

Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place
And fill the atmosphere
Your glory God
Is what our hearts long for
To be overcome
By Your presence, Lord.

Resources

Books

Brand, Draper, England, ed., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)

Gregory, S.W and Gregory, D. *Getting to Know the Holy Spirit: Study Guide* (Evansville: Vortex Publishing, 2017)

Ryrie, Charles C. *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1997)

Strong, James, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996)

Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame* (Dallas: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993)

Online

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/browse/search?query=Holy%20Spirit>

www.enduringword.com

www.bible-history.com