

→ **Seminar Curriculum:**

1. Who Are You Holy Spirit? [Biblical basis and theology]
2. Life with the Spirit [Roles of the Holy Spirit]
3. Transformation by the Spirit [Fruits of the Spirit]
4. Ministry with the Spirit [Spiritual gifts]
5. Power of the Spirit [Signs, wonders, and manifestations]

→ **Further Reading:**

- *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan (evangelical)
- *Baptism and Fullness* by John Stott (academic)
- *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* by Jack Deere (charismatic)
- *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem (integrative/academic)

→ **Why should we study who the Holy Spirit is?**

- A. The Holy Spirit is probably the least known and most misunderstood person of the trinity, but we live in an era of church history when the fullness of the Holy Spirit is still being discovered and doctrine is being established!
 1. Early Church (30-451 AD)- Established the deity of Christ and nature of God.
 2. Medieval Church (500-1500 AD)- Wrestled through questions of atonement.
 3. Reformation Church (1500-1800 AD)- Established the Protestant distinctive: *sola scriptura, sola fida, sola gratia, solo Christo, and soli Deo Gloria*
 4. Contemporary Church (1800- present)- Rise of the modern missionary and Pentecostal movements.
 5. Post Christian Church (present?)- The reality of a post-Christian Western world is a challenge that needs the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Holy Spirit is whom Jesus promised would come after His death. In fact, according to Jesus, it would be better for us to have the Holy Spirit here rather than have Him. Therefore, Christians are meant to interact with the Holy Spirit in the same way the first disciples interacted with Jesus, yet we know so little about Him! *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)*
→ What does the Spirit on earth allow us to have that Jesus on earth couldn't give?
- C. It is specifically the activity of the Holy Spirit on earth that enables Christians to do the impossible. The Holy Spirit is the one that convicts of sin and need of God, transforms our inner person, and empowers us to do the ministry God has called us to do. When we say, "it is only by God," we are in a sense referring to the activity of the Spirit in our lives. Therefore, the normal Christian life is one that interacts and engages with the person of the Spirit on a regular basis.

HELLO HOLY SPIRIT! (PART 1): WHO ARE YOU HOLY SPIRIT?

→ A Biblical Basis:

- What do you notice about the role of the Spirit in this passage?
- How should we interact with the Spirit according to this passage?
- Do you learn anything new or how is your perception of the Spirit challenged?

<i>Gal.</i> <i>5:16-26</i>	
<i>1 Cor.</i> <i>12:1-11</i>	
<i>John</i> <i>16:5-15</i>	
<i>Mark</i> <i>13:2-13</i>	
<i>Acts</i> <i>2:1-13</i>	
<i>Acts</i> <i>13:1-12</i>	

→ God with us, in us, through us: 3 dimensions of our relationship with the Spirit

A. God with us (Life with the Spirit)

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is like that of a faithful companion or guide and we interact with Him as both a friend and leader. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is a person and not an “it”. He has emotions, He thinks, and has a will.

Therefore, we interact with Him as a person through recognizing and “soaking” in His presence, learning to hear and follow His voice, and inviting Him to walk with us and guide us in every aspect of our lives.

B. God in us (Formation by the Spirit)

The Holy Spirit not only walks along side us, but also actually lives and dwells in us transforming us from “children of wrath” to adopted sons and daughters of God. He does this by first convicting us of our sin and our need of God and giving us new life. Then, as we invite Him into every aspect of our lives he begins to transform our character, our thinking, and our will so that we yield what Paul calls “fruits of the Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is therefore central to the work of salvation and our spiritual formation into the image of Christ.

C. God through us (Ministry with the Spirit in Power)

Finally, the Holy Spirit empowers us to do the ministry that Jesus calls us to do. Through giving spiritual gifts and the supernatural filling and empowerment of our lives, the Spirit allows us to do “kingdom business” that is impossible through human means. This was so central to the ministry of the early church that Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Pentecost before beginning their public ministry (Luke 24:49). We allow the Spirit to work through us by identifying and growing in our spiritual gifts, and stepping into what the Spirit is already doing.

D. These three dimensions of our relationship with the Spirit are all equally important to pursue. Different streams and traditions have a tendency to value one over the others (eg. God with us- Contemplative, God in us- Evangelical/Conservative, God through us- Charismatic/Mainline). The key is not to try to balance each dimension, but rather chase after all three with everything you got!

→ Discussion: What is the primary role and task of the Holy Spirit on earth?