

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Story

The Holy Spirit has many names in the Bible. Comforter, Helper, Guide, Advocate, Spirit of the Living God to name a few and oh how He has shown up in those ways in my life. As a sophomore in college I found myself in a really dark place. Through some Christian counseling and a solid community I found a whole new way of living with the Holy Spirit as my guide and as my dear friend. I grew up as a believer, raised in the church and in a Christian home. I always knew the Holy Spirit existed as a part of the Holy Trinity, but I didn't know that the Holy Spirit was active and living today, here to be with me every step of the way, and comfort me in times of trouble.

*Read: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever-" - John 14:16 (BSB)*

*Share: What is your relationship like with the Person of the Holy Spirit? Do you feel like you have one? Why or why not?*

Some of us are fearful when it comes to this mysterious, miraculous part of the Trinity, but many are just scared of what they do not understand and/or cannot control. We may never understand the ways or reasons of God and the way He chooses to manifest Himself and move in our lives. It is important to know that the Holy Spirit is God. And because God is good and God is love so is the Holy Spirit, therefore we can trust Him and be open to Him.

*Read: "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." - John 14:26 (NIV)*

*Share: What are some of the fears that people face? How about your fears? Do you have any fears regarding the Holy Spirit, such as, "What if God doesn't show up?" (question from Forgotten God study listed under book recommendations)*

*Would you be willing to follow the Lord, no matter how risky it would be, or is there a level at which you would cut off your willingness to risk it? (question from Forgotten God study)*

Now the Holy Spirit is different. Unlike the physical Jesus that walked the earth and our Father God in Heaven, the Spirit lives within people. What an amazing gift that God allows us, mere humans, to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are able to live full of the Spirit, and are able to see and do things we could never do on our own! The hard part is that people are flawed, broken, in process, and this is where we often get into trouble. The beautiful miracles, healings, and experiences of the Holy Spirit can be twisted, manipulated, or abused by us; people, pastors, mothers, fathers, friends, and neighbors. We need to see the Holy Spirit in His purity. It is the Spirit that inhabits our praise and our hearts when we ask Jesus to become Lord of our lives. The Holy Spirit is a person who wants to help you, guide you, encourage you, speak to you, comfort you, and give you peace, but most importantly empower you--for it is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, living within you! May you walk around this earth able to love when it's impossible to love, have peace when at war, have the words of wisdom when all hope is lost, and have confidence in a faithful God when everything seems to be spiraling out of control.

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*Read: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." - Acts 1:8 (ESV)*

*Share: Where in your life can you use empowerment? How can you invite the Holy Spirit into those spaces to encourage you and teach you a new way of living, to be a greater witness, or testimony of Jesus Christ ?*

What does it practically look like to live life empowered by the Holy Spirit? What is the first step? First, take a breath, it's a big one--the act of surrender. It's not an easy thing, but like all things with Christ we must cast aside ourselves to be able to receive all God has for us. Most of us like the feeling of control over our lives. We like to decide where we will go, and live, and work, and be friends with, but learning the life of surrender will change your life for the better because you are surrendering to a good God who loves you and will never forsake you. You are in good hands.

Secondly, get into a group or a community who will encourage you to seek the Lord's wisdom, where you can learn to wait and listen for God to speak.

Finally, maybe you have been waiting and waiting for God to speak and feel like you haven't heard his voice or gotten a clear answer. You are not alone. We all have been there and sometimes there is not an answer for the mysteries of God are too great for any human mind. Be encouraged, He is with you and whatever you choose or wherever you go His Spirit will walk with you. He is faithful and His Spirit living in us is a demonstration of His love for us.

*Read: "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 (NIV)*

*Share: Is there something today that God is asking you to surrender that may be inhibiting you from fully living a life empowered by the Holy Spirit?*

*Was there something that popped into your head when you were reading this prompt? No matter how strange or far off it may seem, it could be God surfacing something in you. Would you take a moment and close your eyes, bring it to God and let the Holy Spirit come and minister to you. Listen to the voice of the comforter, the advocate, the helper and our guide.*

### **Additional Verses**

*"But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."  
- 1 Corinthians 2:10 (BSB)*

*"Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear."  
- Acts 2:33 (BSB)*

*"However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come."  
- John 16:13 (BSB)*

### **Book Recommendations**

*Abbas Child - Brennan Manning*

*Forgotten God - Francis Chan*

*Hosting the Presence - Bill Johnson*

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