

session four

the Holy Spirit

Please read [John 14:15-18](#)

It is important that you understand that there is one God in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All equal, all powerful, all God.

Here is an illustration to help you:

Water is one substance but it can exist in 3 forms – water, ice and steam. This helps to understand God - He is One in 3 Persons.

After Jesus rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and will return again one day. Until then, Jesus has sent His Holy Spirit to be our Helper.

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ because He is just like Jesus. Here are some other names used to describe the Holy Spirit:

- The Spirit of truth
- Helper
- Comforter
- Counsellor

The Holy Spirit is a Person and not just a force or influence. His primary job is to reveal Jesus to us and to the world. Jesus is in heaven, and has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us always.

The Holy Spirit is God on earth today.

Anyone who has received Jesus as Lord and Saviour already has the Holy Spirit living in them. The bible calls this the “new birth” or being “born again”.

Read John 3:3,5

The new birth is a life-changing experience but there is even more for a new Christian. This is called baptism in the Holy Spirit (*being immersed and filled with God*).

WHY DO WE NEED THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

God has called you to live a different life and to do that you need the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit helps us live a holy life

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27

Since you have become a Christian you have a God-given desire to do things that please God.

Share some examples of how you have changed:

2. The Holy Spirit helps us live like Jesus - doing the same things He did!

Read John 14:12-14

Q: Can you think of some of the things Jesus did?

Jesus began His miraculous ministry at the age of 30 after He was baptised in the Holy Spirit. As soon as this happened Jesus received supernatural power for His life and ministry. Power to heal the sick, heal the broken hearted and set people free.

Q: What miracles would you like God to do through you?

3. The Holy Spirit helps us to be a witness

Read Acts 1:8

Q: What does a witness do?

**The Holy Spirit is your Helper!
He gives you the power to live a holy life,
a miraculous life and to be a witness.**

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRST DISCIPLES?

Read Acts 2:4

Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came something amazing happened to the disciples. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in ‘other tongues’.

God gave them new languages!

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit today, God will do the same. These languages are given for various reasons:

- Initially it was a sign to those who heard them that God was real. The disciples spoke in “languages of other nations”, languages that they had not learned!

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- ‘Tongues’ is also a heavenly language, enabling us to communicate with God – helping us in our prayer life. This is fantastic because at times we run out of things to say in our own language. (ROMANS 8:26)
- Speaking in tongues will also make us stronger as believers. (1 CORINTHIANS 14:4)

However, being filled with the Holy Spirit is much more than speaking in tongues – it is being filled with a Person – **God Himself.**

Points to remember:

The Holy Spirit is given to us so that we can:

- Live a holy life
- Live like Jesus – doing the same things He did
- Be a witness in the world

Action step:

HOW TO BE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ LUKE 11: 9-13

This scripture shows us that we can ask and receive the Holy Spirit. *(It's as simple as that.)*

Here are keys to help you:

- Be hungry for God. (1 CORINTHIANS 14:1)
- Ask forgiveness for any sin. (1 JOHN 1:9)
- Submit your life again to Jesus – tell Him He is your Lord and Saviour.
- Now, ask the Lord to baptise you in His Spirit.
- Believe and thank God He has answered you. Simply receive by faith. Faith means you believe God has given what you have asked for – even if you don't feel anything.
- God has filled you and given you a new language. Open your mouth and being to praise Him and you will speak in other tongues.

Note:

You might just start to speak with a few words – THAT'S FINE!