**The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

**The Personality and Role**

**of the Holy Spirit Session1**

In our study on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit we will be looking at 4 key areas:

Session # 1 - The Personality and Role of the Holy Spirit

Session # 2 - The Holy Spirit’s role in the church age

Session # 3 - The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

Session # 4 - The Holy Spirit’s work during the prophetic future

No doctrine has been more misunderstood or abused than the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Our purpose in this doctrinal study is help shed light on Who the Holy Spirit is, and how He impacts our life, world, and future within the framework of the Word of God.

One pastor said, “The average church member’s understanding of the Holy Spirit is so vague it is nearly non-existent.” In our study we are going to try and help remedy this.

Greek word – PNEUMATOLOGY – (meaning breath or spirit).



**Personal Note:** In my travels overseas as well as in the United States, I have seen people abuse the power of the Holy Spirit. I have seen people promote false teaching of the Holy Spirit proclaiming that He is not God but just a force or influence. But the Holy Spirt is God, possessing all the same attributes as the Father and Son. (See Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:11; 6:11)

I have also watched as people misrepresent the Holy Spirit by believing or doing something that is in direct opposition to what the Word of God declares. Remember the Holy Spirit will never have us do anything that violates the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity possessing the same divine attributes as God the Father and God the Son. For example, the Holy Spirit is everywhere, all powerful, all knowing, and eternal. His work is to manifest God’s presence in the world and in the church.

**The Holy Spirit’s Personality**

What defines a person? Look up the following Scriptures and discuss in groups of 3 or 4.

1. The Holy Spirit is a person – He is not a force or mystical influence. The Holy Spirit throughout scripture is referred to in the masculine pronoun; “He or Him.” This is used at least 12 times.

**How would you respond scripturally to someone that said that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but just an impersonal force like lightening?**

“I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send **Him** to you. John 16:7

What reasons did Jesus give for saying it would be better to send the Holy Spirit in His place?

John 14:16–17, 26; 16:5–15

1. The Holy Spirit has a mind – Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10
2. He has a will – 1 Corinthians 12:11. He uses this in distributing gifts to the body of Christ
3. He has emotion – Ephesians 4:30. He can be grieved by the sinful actions of believers.
4. He speaks – Acts 8:29; 10:19; 13:2
5. He leads – John 16:13; Galatians 5:18; Romans 8:14
6. He teaches – John 14:16, 26; John 16:13-15
7. He judges – John 16:8
8. He loves – Romans 15:30
9. He is a personal influencer (Helper)
	1. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment – John 16:8
	2. He guides us in all truth – John 16:13
	3. He speaks what He hears – John 16:13

A force or mythical influence does not have any of these.

**The Holy Spirit’s Role prior to the church age:** In the life of the believer, salvation, and world

His role in Creation – Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:24-30

He selectively and conditionally indwelt certain people in the Old Testament (Example: Joseph, Joshua, Saul, David)

His role in the virgin birth – Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:35

His role as an agent of inspiration of Scripture – 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17 and Christ’s resurrection (Romans 1:4 & 8:11). The Holy Spirit takes the Word which is read and preached and enlightens the mind of those who receive it. This is called illumination. (See John 14:25-26; Ephesians 1:15-19; 1 Corinthians 2:7-12

His role as an instrument in a person’s salvation – John 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:7-12. The Holy Spirit enables man to see his sinfulness by turning from sin and turning to Christ for the forgiveness of sin.

It may seem strange or even difficult to understand that the Holy Spirit is a person when we cannot see Him, but Jesus likened the Holy Spirt to the wind. Though we do not see the wind, we can feel Him and see Him move in our midst through the hearts of his people and in creation itself – Read John 3: 5-8

**Group Discussion:**

1. How have you seen and watched the Holy Spirit at work in your life as a follower of Jesus?
2. In what way could a believer misuse the working of the Holy Spirit in a way that is unbiblical?
3. Why do you think people neglect the Holy Spirit?



 [www.equipministriesinternational.org](http://www.equipministriesinternational.org)