

THE  
**HOLY SPIRIT**

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AN INTRODUCTION

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**COURSE GUIDE**

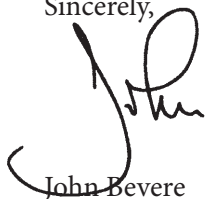
# Introduction

Welcome! I'm so glad you've decided to go through *The Holy Spirit: An Introduction* course. Sadly, God's Spirit is frequently misunderstood, leaving many clueless about who He is and how He expresses Himself to us. The Holy Spirit is often portrayed as something "weird." But the Bible makes it clear that the Spirit is not *something*; He is *someone*—a Person who has promised to never leave your side.

Throughout this course guide, you'll discover lesson summaries, reflective questions, additional devotional content, and challenges designed to maximize your course experience and draw you closer to the Holy Spirit. Remember, this study is only an introduction to God's Spirit, and it will equip you with the understanding you need to cultivate your relationship with Him.

May the intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit be with you always!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bevere'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial 'J' and a cursive 'Bevere'.

John Bevere

## LESSON ONE

# Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the most ignored Person in the church. This is because many do not know who He is and why He is here. For three years the disciples had been with Jesus, walking with Him and hearing everything He had to say. Yet Jesus told His closest friends that He needed to leave them so that the Holy Spirit could come and that they would be better off because of it. If this was true of the disciples—who spent every day with Jesus—how much more do we need the Holy Spirit actively involved in our lives today?

In this lesson, we learned:

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead who carries the fullness of God the Father and the Son.
- ❖ He is not an “it” or a mystical power; He is God.
- ❖ He is not limited by time or space; He can communicate with and assist an unlimited number of people all at the same time.
- ❖ He was intimately involved in the lives of early believers, and He yearns to be involved in every area of our lives today.
- ❖ There is virtually no Christian life without Him, but there is an abundant life of adventure to those who embrace His awesome fellowship.
- ❖ You can know the Holy Spirit personally!

## REFLECT

1. Where is the Person of Jesus right now? As a believer, is He living in your heart? What is a better, more accurate way of describing our salvation experience and the mystery of how God makes your heart His home?
2. The involvement of the Holy Spirit was common among early believers, but it is rarer among believers today. What do you think are some reasons we have drawn back from enjoying, seeking out, and depending on the leadership and powerful influence of the Spirit of God?

3. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is our Helper—our *parakletos*. This means He is “*permanently called alongside us to coach and counsel us in our daily walk with God.*” In what ways does this knowledge motivate and encourage you in your daily relationship with Him?
4. What new characteristic of the Person of the Holy Spirit do you now see that you didn’t see before? How has this opened your eyes and enriched your understanding of who He is in your life?

### WIND CATCHER

*“The Holy Spirit is not enthusiasm . . . He is a Person. Put that down in capital letters—that the Holy Spirit is not only a Being having another mode of existence, but He is Himself a Person, with all the qualities and powers of personality. He is not matter, but He is substance . . . The Holy Spirit has will and intelligence and feeling and knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think and hear and speak and desire the same as any person has.”*

—A.W. Tozer, from *A Treasury of A.W. Tozer*.

### WIND WORDS

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

John 14:26

### GO WITH THE WIND

The Holy Spirit is a Person. Throughout your day and week, begin to acknowledge Him as a Person. You can start first thing in the morning when you wake up by saying, “Good morning, Holy Spirit.” The more you practice this, the more you’ll think of God’s Spirit as a person.

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## LESSON TWO

# The Personality of the Holy Spirit

In order for us to enter into a close relationship with another person, we must first seek to understand what makes that individual tick. A greater knowledge of a person's likes, dislikes, aims, and ambitions will help develop a deeper friendship. Likewise, if we are to be intimate with the Holy Spirit, we must first seek to understand His personality.

In this lesson, we learned:

- ❖ The Holy Spirit desires ongoing communion with us.
- ❖ Communion includes fellowship, partnership, and intimacy.
- ❖ Fellowship is staying connected through communication and sharing life together.
- ❖ Partnership is about working together; it adds action to our communication.
- ❖ Intimacy is the deepest level of friendship in which we share our most personal thoughts, desires, and secrets with the Holy Spirit, and He shares His with us.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit, who is fully God, has chosen to make His home in our hearts (spirits) permanently.
- ❖ We must be careful not to grieve Him, for He is tender and gentle and can be greatly saddened by our actions.

## REFLECT

1. The Holy Spirit wants to have unbroken communion (*koinonia*) with us as sons and daughters of God. This communion includes fellowship, a friendly relationship of sharing life together. Why is it important to welcome and be keenly aware of the Holy Spirit's companionship? What might happen if we don't?
2. Communion with the Holy Spirit goes even deeper than just fellowship and partnership. It also includes intimacy—close, mutual association. How can we as believers develop this level of communion with the Holy Spirit?

3. The Holy Spirit’s primary function is to reveal who Jesus is and to bring Him honor and glory. He will reveal Christ and manifest Himself where He is genuinely honored. What are some specific ways we can honor the Holy Spirit individually and corporately as His Church?

### WIND CATCHER

*“The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way . . . It isn’t necessary that we stay in church in order to remain in God’s presence. We can make our hearts personal chapels where we can enter anytime to talk to God privately. These conversations can be so loving and gentle, and anyone can have them.”*

—Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

### WIND WORDS

*The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.*

2 Corinthians 13:14 MSG

### GO WITH THE WIND

The Holy Spirit is very gentle, tender, and comforting in nature. If we are not careful, we can grieve or quench the Spirit—we can sadden Him greatly and cause Him to draw back His activity in our lives. Carefully meditate on Ephesians 4:29–32 and identify some of the actions that grieve the Spirit. Make a list below.

How is this grieving different from quenching the Spirit, as talked about in 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22? How can we guard against these actions?

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## LESSON THREE

# Three Levels of Relationships

The Spirit of God desires to be your friend, and He yearns for your close fellowships. Through His abiding presence, the deepest level of relationship—the spiritual level—is available to you. On this level, you will discover an intimacy with your Creator unlike any other.

In this lesson, we learned:

- ❖ If we want a deep, intimate relationship with God, we have to know Him by His Spirit.
- ❖ Only the Spirit knows and reveals the thoughts, feelings, and purposes of God's heart.
- ❖ We have been given God's Spirit; He is the ultimate Teacher who guides us into all truth.
- ❖ To maintain friendship with the world—the selfish pursuit of status and pleasure—is to be God's enemy.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is a gentleman; He will not force His will or friendship on us.
- ❖ The three levels of relationship are: physical (lowest and most superficial), soul (or personality), and spiritual (deepest and most intimate).
- ❖ Knowing God by His Spirit is deeper and more intimate than knowing Him only through interaction with the physical Person of Jesus.

### REFLECT

1. The Holy Spirit yearns to be our best friend and is jealous for our intimate fellowship. What things in the world would you say have stolen the attention and affection of the Church (believers) away from the Spirit? What will happen if we flirt with the world, seeking its pleasures, possessions, and status more than communion with the Spirit?

2. Name and describe the three levels of relationships that we can have with others. Which is the deepest level and why? How can we get connected with people on this level?
3. We have been given a tremendous gift in the Holy Spirit: the ability to know God intimately. Carefully read 1 Corinthians 2:11–14. What is the Holy Spirit speaking in this passage about truly knowing God?

### WIND CATCHER

*“Spiritual things are more real than material things. They have to be, because God, who is a Spirit, created all material things. God’s unseen ability brought into being everything we know upon the earth in the natural realm by simply saying, “Let there be.” You cannot know God, or touch God, or become acquainted with God physically. You cannot know God, or touch God, or communicate with God mentally. God is a Spirit. And, thank God, you can reach Him with your spirit. Your human spirit can come to know God. Your spirit can become acquainted with God. Your spirit can communicate with God. Your spirit can worship God.”*

–Kenneth E. Hagin.

### WIND WORDS

*For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

1 Corinthians 2:11–14



## GO WITH THE WIND

Your body is God's temple. Right where you are, close your eyes and consider the fact that God's Spirit lives in you. Spend five minutes pondering this thought and record any impressions you feel below.

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## LESSON FOUR

# Empowered by the Spirit

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift promised to all believers. It is an experience which cannot be earned or purchased. As we are endued with power from on high, we are set free from the power of sin and equipped with supernatural gifts that enable us to do greater works than Jesus did while He was on earth.

In this lesson, we learned:

- ❖ The empowerment of the Spirit is essential to all kingdom work.
- ❖ The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience that follows salvation.
- ❖ Salvation repositions us in Christ; the infilling of the Spirit empowers us to live like Him.
- ❖ Tongues have not ceased; they're in operation until we see Jesus face to face.
- ❖ There are four types of tongues: tongues as a sign for unbelievers, tongues for interpretation, tongues for personal prayer, and tongues for intercession. The first two are for public use, and the second two are for private use.

## REFLECT

1. It is important to understand that there is a difference between the Holy Spirit coming to make His home in us at the time of salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. How would you describe these two extraordinary experiences?
2. Why do you think Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the infilling of the Holy Spirit before moving forward to do anything for His kingdom? What can we learn from this principle of *waiting to receive power from on high*, and how can we apply it in our lives today?
3. The Bible speaks of four kinds of tongues. Read the following passages and name the four categories of tongues, explaining why God has given these different manifestations of the Holy Spirit to His Church.

- a) 1 Corinthians 14:22
- b) 1 Corinthians 12:10
- c) 1 Corinthians 14:14–15
- d) Romans 8:26-28

### WIND CATCHER

*“I can never estimate what the baptism of the Holy Ghost has been to me . . . It is a luxury to be filled with the Spirit, and at the same time it is a divine command for us . . . I maintain that with a constant filling you will speak in tongues morning, noon and night. As you live in the Spirit, when you walk down the steps of the house where you live, the devil will have to go before you. You will be more than a conqueror over the devil.”*

–Smith Wigglesworth, *Ever Increasing Faith*

### WIND WORDS

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.*

Ephesians 5:18 AMPC

### GO WITH THE WIND

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is to be a recurring experience rather than a one-time event (Ephesians 5:18). Today, ask the Lord to give you a fresh infilling of His Spirit.

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## LESSON FIVE

# The Spirit's Language

God has given us a heavenly language that connects us more deeply with Him. Through the gift of tongues, we have direct contact to Him. The exciting news is that the journey of knowing God intimately through His Spirit begins now and will continue throughout eternity. Don't settle for what you've heard, seen, or known. There will always be more that He longs to reveal to you.

In this lesson, we learned:

- ❖ Expressions of intimacy with the Spirit, including praying in tongues, have a proper time and place.
- ❖ Don't ignore, despise, or abstain from the gift of tongues because some have misused it.
- ❖ When you pray in tongues, you are speaking the mysteries of God, and you can ask Him to give you the interpretation of your prayers.
- ❖ The Spirit's power is given to the humble. Humility unlocks the door to God's mysteries.
- ❖ We can pray in the Spirit when we need wisdom, desire to worship God on a deeper level, or want to intercede for others. The Spirit exponentially expands our abilities in all these areas.
- ❖ God's direction often comes in the form of peace; when we pray in the Spirit and have peace about something, the Holy Spirit is bearing witness with our spirits and telling us to move forward.
- ❖ Praying in tongues refreshes, rejuvenates, and builds up our entire being. Take time to pray in the language of the Spirit every day!

### REFLECT

1. Praying in tongues (the language of the Spirit) is extremely beneficial. List as many of the benefits as you can remember. Of these, which is most valuable to you at this time in your life?

2. Abiding in communion with the Person of the Holy Spirit allows hidden “mysteries” to be revealed. These mysteries include things like where we should go to church, who we should marry, which job we should take, which house we should buy, how to pray for others, how to be a better spouse or parent, and how to deal with difficulties at work. How has praying in the Spirit unlocked the answers to one or more of these situations for you?
3. First Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to “pray without ceasing.” What does this mean and look like to you?

### WIND CATCHER

*“Far too much modern Christian prayer has insisted on words, on logic, on getting everything clear and out into the open. This is of course important and indeed vital—as one aspect of the whole. But prayer, if it is to be Christian prayer, cannot be a grasping at control. It is precisely a relinquishing of control—to the one who is capable of doing far, far more than we can ask or imagine. It is saying ‘Thy will be done.’ It is therefore appropriate that, at some times and in some ways, that prayer should pass beyond the merely rational and wordy and engage with God, as Paul says in Romans 8, at a level too deep for words.”*

—N.T. Wright.

### WIND WORDS

*Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

### GO WITH THE WIND

When we need wisdom on what to do in a situation, praying in the Holy Spirit is a vital key to receiving divine direction. Commit to God an area of your life in which you need His wisdom and take time praying in tongues and listening for His answer.

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