

# 1 You Have a Friend— the Holy Spirit

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Today, more than ever before in the history of the world, people are talking about the Holy Spirit and His work. They have discovered that He is a Person, not just an influence. He has brought new life and power into thousands of churches. And millions of people today are discovering what the early Christians meant when they talked about being filled with the Holy Spirit.

In *The Pentecostal Evangel*, Robert C. Cunningham writes,

What does it mean to be filled with God . . . We know what it means for a person to be filled with fear, do not we—or filled with envy, or anger! . . . It means that these strong forces urge him to actions which express the spirit that has gained control of him.

Here then is the real glory of Pentecost. God the Holy Spirit comes into the lives and bodies of men and women to such an extent that they are filled with His presence . . . The Lord suddenly comes and fills His temple! Human beings become temples of God—think of it! May we learn again the unutterable wonder of being filled with God.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. He Is a Special Friend
- B. He Will Help You
- C. He Will Teach You
- D. He Will Make God Real to You
- E. He Will Fill Your Life with Love

## ***The Goals***

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1. Describe how the Holy Spirit can be your Friend.
2. List the seven titles the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit.
3. Describe the Holy Spirit's role as the Spirit of truth and wisdom.
4. State how God makes himself known to us.
5. State five aspects of God's love.

## **A. HE IS A SPECIAL FRIEND**

**Goal 1.** Describe how the Holy Spirit can be your Friend.

What kind of friend would you like to have? You would want him or her to love you, to care about you and your problems, to share in your happiness. You would want this friend to be honest, to tell you the truth even when it hurts, and to point out your faults with kindness in order to help you do better.

Maybe you would like your friend to be wiser, stronger, and better than you are. And the more time you would spend together, the more like your friend you would become—stronger, wiser, better than you are now.

Jesus Christ was this kind of friend to Peter, James, John, and the other disciples. He was a friend of sinners. He forgave their sins and gave them clean, new lives. He was a friend to all who wanted His friendship: rich or poor, sinner or saint,

ignorant or well educated of any race or nation. He gave them a richer, deeper, more unselfish love than they had ever known—the love of God.

But a human body limited Jesus. He could be in only one place at a time. He could not be with all of His friends who needed Him. So Jesus told His followers that He would return to heaven and send them another Friend and Helper who could be with them all at the same time, wherever they were.

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16–17)

This helper that Jesus promised to send is the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity. He is just like God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son in His nature, power, and purpose. He knows all things and has all power. He does not have a physical body but can be everywhere at the same time. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, as promised, so that the Holy Spirit could live in those who would receive Him. He has come to do for you what Jesus did for His followers.

“I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7)

Do you sometimes feel that no one understands you or cares about your problems? God understands and cares about you! He knows just what you need. He loves you so much that He sent His Holy Spirit to be your special Friend and Helper. In this course you will learn about how the Holy Spirit came, what He did for the early Christians, and what He will do for you. With the Holy Spirit as your Friend, you never need to be lonesome or helpless again.

## Application

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- 1 Memorize John 14:16–17. Think about what Jesus did for people and what the Holy Spirit will do for you.
- 2 The “Helper” Jesus promised to send is .....



## B. HE WILL HELP YOU

**Goal 2.** List the seven titles the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised to send another Helper. The word He used in Greek was *Paraclete*, which is sometimes translated “comforter.” It means, “someone called alongside to help.” The other titles of the *Paraclete* show what His powers and responsibilities are and how He will help you. He is called the Spirit of life, the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of Christ, and the Spirit of God. Whatever your problem may be, your Helper has the solution.

### The Spirit of Life

Do you need healing for your body? In different parts of the world sick people are being healed miraculously today in answer to prayer. Deaf ears hear again. Blind eyes see. Paralyzed people throw away their crutches and walk once more by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of life who gives life to all living beings. He has worked through Jesus to heal the sick and still does the same work.

In the next lesson you will study more about how the Spirit of life gives you life and health for both body and soul—a joyful, satisfying life on earth, and glorious, everlasting life in the world to come. But to enjoy the life that the Spirit gives, you must let Him lead you.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with

the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8:5–6)

### Application

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- 3 In your notebook, list the seven titles the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit.
- 4 Would you like to have the Holy Spirit as your Friend and Helper? .....
- 5 Do you want to know the Holy Spirit better? .....
- 6 Read Romans 8:5–6. Think about the changes the Holy Spirit can make in your life.



### The Holy Spirit

Do you find it hard to live the right kind of life? Do you want to be a better Christian? Your Helper is the Holy Spirit, or Spirit of holiness. *Holy* means “separated from sin and given to God.” The Holy Spirit shows us how terrible our sins are and helps us get rid of them. As we give ourselves to Him, He leads us closer to God and away from sins such as pride, selfishness, stubbornness, bad temper, prejudice, hatred, resentment, laziness, self-pity, rebelliousness, greed, and immoral thoughts or actions.

Maybe you need help to get rid of some bad habit. If you are a Christian, your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. He will help you get rid of any habits that would harm your body. The Holy Spirit has set thousands of drug addicts free. Medical science and social workers had been able to give them only temporary relief. In a last desperate effort to “kick the habit,”


they turned to God for help. After accepting the Lord Jesus as their Savior they asked the Holy Spirit to fill them and give them power to live for God. Then the Holy Spirit filled them and delivered them from the drug habit. He filled them with the love of God and the desire to help others. Many are now preaching the gospel. Their lives are clean because of the Spirit of holiness in them.

### ***Application***

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**7** Do you have any sins or bad habits from which you want the Holy Spirit to free you? In your notebook, write them down. Ask Him to deliver you from these things.

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## **C. HE WILL TEACH YOU**


**Goal 3.** Describe the Holy Spirit’s role as the Spirit of truth and wisdom.

### **The Spirit of Truth**

Just as Jesus taught His disciples the truth, the Holy Spirit will teach you and will answer your questions about God. He will show you the purpose of life and help you understand the Bible. Things that used to puzzle you will suddenly become clear. Jesus said, ““But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth”” (John 16:13).

### ***Application***

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- 8** Memorize John 16:13.
  - 9** Do you want the Spirit of truth to teach you? . . . . .
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### **The Spirit of Wisdom**

Do you wonder what you should do or how to solve your problems? The Spirit of wisdom has come to help you. He will

lead you and show you what is best for you. In Lesson 4 you will study about how He will do it.

Do you want wisdom to work for God? In Acts the deacons had to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to do their work, as they should. Maybe you teach in Sunday school, do personal evangelism, or preach. The Spirit of wisdom wants to fill you and help you just as He did the workers in the early church. Acts 6:10 records of Stephen, “They could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.”


## ***Application***

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**10** Do you need to be filled with the Spirit of wisdom?

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## **D. HE WILL MAKE GOD REAL TO YOU**

**Goal 4.** State how God makes himself known to us.

### **The Spirit of God**

Does God seem real to you? Is He a far-off Ruler that you call on only in times of great crises? Or is He a loving heavenly Father who cares about every detail of your life? Are your prayers little speeches that you make because of a sense of duty? Or are they frank conversations with your Father? The Spirit of God has come to help you know God better. The apostle Paul writes,

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.  
(1 Corinthians 2:10–12)

Your teacher will be praying for you as Paul prayed for the Christians at Ephesus:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength. (Ephesians 1:17–19)

### ***Application***

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**11** Read Ephesians 1:16–19. Make this prayer your own. Pray it for yourself and others.

**12** According to 1 Corinthians 2:10–12, how does God make himself known to us?



## **The Spirit of Christ**

The Holy Spirit of Christ made Jesus real to you when He saved you. He let you know that Jesus is more than a great Teacher who lived long ago. He introduced you personally to Jesus, the Son of God, and helped you accept Him as your Savior, Lord, and King. He joined you to Christ and made you a member of His body, the church. This union is so real that Christ lives in you by His Spirit. Romans 8:9 says, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

The Holy Spirit was with the followers of Jesus before the Day of Pentecost, but Jesus promised that He would come in a new way and fill them. Jesus himself would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. When he baptized them, the Holy Spirit taught



them more about Jesus and gave them power to tell others about Christ.

In the same way today, all those who have been born again have the Spirit of Christ. But Jesus wants to baptize them in His Spirit so that they can be more effective witnesses for Him. Jesus said,

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.” (John 15:26)

“He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” (John 16:14)

## ***Application***

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**13** Would you like for the Spirit to make Jesus more real to you? If so, ask Him to do it.

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## **E. HE WILL FILL YOUR LIFE WITH LOVE**

**Goal 5.** State five aspects of God’s love.

What our world needs most is unselfish love, the love that only God can give. God can use you to help meet that need if you let the Holy Spirit fill you with this kind of love.

In the Old Testament God showed the prophets His love, and they conveyed His love to the people. But many people still thought of God only as a strict judge ready to punish them for their sins. They did not understand that He wanted to save them from their sins and be their Father.

Then God sent His Son Jesus Christ to live among people and show them what God is really like. In Jesus’ teachings you learn about the wonderful love of God for all humankind.

In Jesus' life, we see this love in action. And in His death and resurrection is the proof of God's love for you.

But what happened 2,000 years ago may seem far away. We get taken up with the problems of today—hunger, violence, crime, wars—and wonder if God really cares. We need to meet Him personally and find out for ourselves that He does love us.

So the Holy Spirit has come to give you a personal encounter with God. Just as Jesus came to reveal the love of the Father, the Holy Spirit has come to reveal the love of the Father and of the Son. He will pour into your life a love that you cannot describe. He begins to do this when you are converted. When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit you may seem to have even more capacity for God's love. And through the years you can overflow constantly with the love of God as you are filled again and again with the Holy Spirit. Paul writes, "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" (Romans 5:5).

A five-way love fills your life:

1. God's love for you
2. Your love for God
3. Love of other Christians for you
4. Your love for other Christians
5. Your love for everyone else

Persons who have been filled with the Spirit describe their experience this way:

"It was a baptism of love. I suddenly had a great love for God and for His Word."

"The Holy Spirit gave me a new love for my family, friends, other Christians, and even for persons who had been my enemies."

"The Holy Spirit made Calvary real to me. My heart was filled with gratitude to God. A great

love for God welled up in me and burst from my lips in praise to Him.”

“Sobs shook my body as God’s love for lost souls filled me and the Holy Spirit prayed through me for their salvation.”

Modern experience follows the pattern in the early church—a pattern of love. Wherever you go you will appreciate the love of Spirit-filled brothers and sisters in the Lord. And you can enter into a life more joyful than you had dreamed possible as you let the Holy Spirit fill you with love.

## ***Application***

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**14** Memorize Romans 5:5.

**15** In your notebook, draw the sketch of five-way love.

**16** While studying this course, read at least a chapter a day from the book of Acts in your Bible. Underline the name of the Holy Spirit wherever you find it. Later you will report on this.

**17** If we want the Holy Spirit to help us, the first step is to recognize our need. Write an N after each of His titles where you have a definite need (help from the Helper, etc.).

Helper	.....	Spirit of Truth	.....
Comforter	.....	Spirit of Christ	.....
Spirit of God	.....	Spirit of Wisdom	.....
Spirit of Life	.....	Spirit of Holiness	.....

Now go back and write an E (for experience) by each title where you have already experienced the help of the Holy Spirit. Next, thank the Spirit for what He has done for you already. Then pray for your needs where you have written an N. You may want to write these needs out on a separate paper and keep it in your Bible to remind you to pray for them and to thank God as He answers.



## ***Check Your Answers***

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The answers are not given in the usual order. This is done so you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

**12** He makes himself known to us by means of His Holy Spirit.

**2** the Holy Spirit.

**15** Now, show your sketch or diagram for someone else and explain it.

**3** The titles are (in any order): a) Comforter, b) Spirit of Life, c) Holy Spirit, d) Spirit of Truth, e) Spirit of Wisdom, f) Spirit of Christ, and g) Spirit of God.