

Sermon outline — Knowing the Holy Spirit

If you have been around church for a while, you have probably heard about the Holy Spirit. We sing songs about him, we read Bible verses about him and sometimes we pray to the Spirit. But do you really know who the Holy Spirit is?

Today, we are going to look at who the Holy Spirit is and how he is at work in your life.

1. The Spirit comes in many forms

Sometimes God shows up in a flashy ‘you can’t miss me’ kind of way. It’s easy at those times to recognise his presence, accept his authority and walk in his power. This happened at Pentecost. But he doesn’t always come to us with gusts of wind and flames of fire.

- 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 — the Holy Spirit in the form of a cloud.
- Matthew 3 — the Spirit comes like a dove.
- 1 Kings 19 — the Holy Spirit speaks in a gentle whisper.
- We can grow our awareness of the Spirit’s presence in our lives in whatever form he comes to us.

2. The Holy Spirit enables us

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, he said that he would send the Holy Spirit to help his disciples (John 14:26).

- 1 Kings 19 — the Holy Spirit revived and reassured Elijah.
- Acts 2 — the Spirit brought confidence, the ability to preach the Good News and the gift of speaking other languages.
- The Holy Spirit has demonstrated that he will show up to help. And he wants to help you too.
- When the Holy Spirit shows up, he brings us gifts to enable us (1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Galatians 5:22-23).

3. The Holy Spirit is for all believers

Throughout the Bible, we find many examples of the Holy Spirit bringing amazing gifts and power to individuals.

- Gideon was able to defeat the entire Midianite army with just 300 men (Judges 7-8).
- Samson defended himself from a lion attack with his bare hands (Judges 14:5-6).
- The disciples preached the Good News and healed the sick (Luke 9:6).
- The Spirit is given to all of us who repent and trust in Jesus to forgive us and make us new.

Conclusion

- In whatever way the Holy Spirit comes to us, he is present and active in our lives, filling us with gifts, enabling us to serve God and others.
- Reflect on the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. How is the Spirit speaking to you?
- Consider how the Spirit has already enabled you with his gifts. Invite him to bring you more of his gifts so that you can continue to serve God and others.
- Acknowledge that the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit is for all believers. Invite the Holy Spirit to continue to do his work in and through you. If you are not yet a Christian, you might like to ask the Holy Spirit to make you new today by his power.