

# The God I never knew. Who Is He?

The Holy Spirit is a person. He is our helper and comforter. He is our friend, and He is not weird! The Holy Spirit is God, and we can have a personal relationship with Him.

*Key Scriptures: John 14:16–17, 25–26, 15:26, 16:7–13*

***The Holy Spirit is our Helper.*** *John 16:8–11, 12:31, 14:30; 1 Corinthians 12:3*

The Bible always refers to the Holy Spirit as a person, not as an “it” or a “force.” Because He’s a person, we can know Him *personally*. The Holy Spirit is also our comforter.

---

---

---

---

***He’s my Friend (and He’s not weird).***

Many people don’t want to learn about the Holy Spirit because they’ve seen people act weird and misrepresent Him. Although people can sometimes be weird, the Holy Spirit is not weird. It is Satan’s plan to have people misunderstand and misrepresent the Holy Spirit. The benefits of the Holy Spirit are power, love, fruit, and gifts.

---

---

---

---

***The Holy Spirit is God.*** *John 14:16, 26, 15:26; Luke 3:22; Acts 5:3–4*

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit defer to one another and prefer one another. The Bible is clear that the Holy Spirit is God. In Acts 5:3–4 when Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, the Bible says he lied to God. When you have a vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit, God is able to minister to others through you.

---

---

---

---

# The God I never knew. Who Is He?

## ***Further Consideration***

1. Did you grow up thinking the Holy Spirit was weird? In what ways did this message confirm or change some of your previous perspectives about the Holy Spirit?
2. Sometimes people can misrepresent the Holy Spirit through their own weird behavior. Have you ever been concerned that if you had a relationship with the Holy Spirit you would have to act weird?
3. Read John 16:7–8. Why do you think Jesus said it was to our advantage that He leave this earth so He could send the Holy Spirit?
4. Have you thought of the Holy Spirit as a person or as a force? How do we relate differently to the Holy Spirit when we understand He is a person?
5. Why do you think the Holy Spirit is referred to as a helper and a comforter? Can you think of a time when He has personally helped you or comforted you?
6. In what ways is the Holy Spirit our friend?
7. What are some things we can do this week to cultivate our friendship with the Holy Spirit?

## ***Remember the following:***

- The Holy Spirit is our Comforter.
- The Holy Spirit is our Friend (and He's not weird).
- The Holy Spirit is God.

## ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. I recognize that He is a person, the third person of the Trinity. Thank You for sending us a comforter and helper. Help me to cultivate my relationship with Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# The God I never knew. Is He a person?

The Holy Spirit has a distinct personality. As the third person of the Trinity, He has a soul. He has the mind of God, He knows the will of God, and He has God's emotions.

*Key Scriptures: Matthew 12:18, 26:38; Hebrews 10:38*

## **The Holy Spirit is a person, and He has a mind.** *John 16:13*

If you don't see the Holy Spirit as a person, then you won't develop a personal relationship with Him. A person has a personality and a soul. The Holy Spirit helps us think what God thinks, desire what God desires, and feel what God feels. John 16:13 says that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth. The Holy Spirit knows everything, lives inside of you, and is committed to being your teacher.

---

---

---

---

## **He has a will.** *Acts 16:6; Romans 8:26–28*

If you would like to know God's will, get to know the Holy Spirit. We know the general will of God from the Bible, but we can know the specific will of God when we hear His voice. Romans 8:26–27 says that when we don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit can help us because He knows the mind and will of God. Jesus came so we could have a personal relationship with God. The way we know God's will is to get to know the Holy Spirit.

---

---

---

---

## **He has emotions.** *Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 4:25–32*

All the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 are aspects of the Holy Spirit's personality, and Ephesians 4:30 tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. When a believer walks in sin, it grieves the Holy Spirit because sin brings death and causes us to lose intimacy with God.

---

---

---

---

# The God I never knew. Is He a person?

## ***Further Consideration***

1. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to your mind? Do you see Him as distant and mysterious, or close and personal?
2. Have you ever considered that God has a personality? What are some of His personality traits?
3. We know the general will of God from the Bible and the specific will of God by hearing His voice. In what ways does cultivating a relationship with the Holy Spirit help you to know God's will? Can you think of any examples from your own life?
4. Read Galatians 5:22–23. What does this passage tell us about the Holy Spirit's emotions? How would you use this passage to describe the Holy Spirit's personality to someone?
5. How can we get to know the Holy Spirit better now that we know He is a person?
6. Read Ephesians 4:25–32. What are some things that grieve the Holy Spirit? In addition to this list, what are some other things that grieve the Holy Spirit?
7. Why is it important not to grieve the Holy Spirit?

Take a moment to reflect. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Are there areas of your life that might grieve the Holy Spirit? Take time to surrender those things to God. Ask God to help you not grieve the Holy Spirit.

## ***Remember the following:***

- The Holy Spirit is a person and has a mind.
- The Holy Spirit has a will.
- The Holy Spirit has emotions.

## ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, thank You for the person of the Holy Spirit. I want to get to know the Holy Spirit. God, please teach me what is on Your mind. Show me Your specific will. Please help not grieve the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# The God I never knew. Is He Pentecostal?

Pentecost in the Old Testament was a celebration of when God gave the law to Moses. In Acts 2, God gave the Holy Spirit to believers and wrote the law on people's hearts. You can still experience Pentecost today.

*Key Scriptures: Acts 2:1–9*

## **What is Pentecost?** *Acts 2:1–4*

There were three primary feasts in the Jewish tradition: Passover, Pentecost, and Feast of Trumpets. Pentecost was a celebration of when God gave the law to Moses. Although the word literally means “fiftieth,” many people are afraid to talk openly about the truth and significance behind this event.

---

---

---

## **What happened at Pentecost?** *Acts 2:5–8, 11*

In the New Testament, new Christians were celebrating Pentecost. While they were praying, God poured out the Holy Spirit on them, and tongues of fire rested on each of them and they spoke in new tongues. In the first Pentecost of the Old Testament, there was a loud noise, a cloud descended, there was fire, the law was written on stone, and 3,000 people died. In the New Testament Pentecost, there was a loud noise, a cloud (the Holy Spirit) descended, there was fire, the law was written on hearts, and 3,000 people were saved!

---

---

---

## **Can you experience Pentecost?** *Acts 1:4–5, 2:3–4, 38–39*

Today, most Christians would say you can experience Passover when you receive Jesus, the Passover lamb. You do this when you believe and receive salvation by faith. In the exact same way, you can experience Pentecost when you believe and receive by faith. The Holy Spirit does come to live in us when we are saved. However, Pentecost (or the baptism of the Holy Spirit) allows us to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

---

---

---

# The God I never knew. Is He Pentecostal?

## ***Further Consideration***

1. Did you grow up in a church environment that feared Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, or did you have a positive perspective?
2. Why do you think the enemy would work so hard to make people afraid of the Holy Spirit?
3. Read Acts 2:1–9. Imagine for a moment that you were gathered with the believers during Pentecost. What would have been your thoughts and reaction if you had lived through and experienced the Pentecost story in Acts 2?
4. What have been your personal experiences regarding Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Have they been positive, negative, or neutral?
5. What is the difference between the Old Pentecost when the law was written down on stone and the New Pentecost when God's law is written in our hearts? What does this look like in our lives today?
6. Read Matthew 7:7–11. What does this passage say God will give to those who ask? Why do you think Jesus would say this?
7. Have you fully received the Holy Spirit?

Take a moment to reflect. Ask: Have you fully received the Holy Spirit? Have you had an experience where you have been baptized into the fullness of the Holy Spirit? If not, take a moment to ask God. Whether you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit or not, take a moment to ask for the fullness of the Holy Spirit's work in your life.

## ***Remember the following:***

- Pentecost just means “fiftieth” and is a celebration of when God gave the law to Moses.
- Pentecost in the New Testament was when God poured out His Spirit on believers.
- You can experience Pentecost today.

## ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Thank You for writing Your law on my heart. I ask that You would allow me to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# The God I never knew. Is He Charismatic?

Charisma is the instantaneous enablement of the Holy Spirit in the life of any believer to exercise a gift for the edification of others. There are nine gifts of the Spirit that can be broken into three categories.

*Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:1–11*

## **The Holy Spirit is charismatic.**

The word “charismatic” comes from the Greek word “charisma,” which means “grace gift.” If you have a gift God gave you by grace, you are charismatic.

1 Corinthians 12:1 tells us not to be ignorant of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has all nine gifts, and He manifests them through each one as He wills. Any believer can move in any of the gifts when they are empowered by the Holy Spirit. The gifts are to be used to bless other people.

## **The Discerning Gifts.** *Luke 4:14; Matthew 12:28; John 9:29–33*

- Word of Knowledge: To know something specific without knowing it by natural means.
  - Word of Wisdom: A divine answer or solution for a particular event.
  - Discerning of Spirits: To be made aware of the presence of a demonic spirit.
- 
- 
- 

## **The Declarative Gifts.** *1 Corinthians 14:5, 31*

- Prophecy: A message of encouragement from God to a person. It always brings edification, exhortation, and comfort to others.
  - Tongues: A message from God in a language unknown to the person through whom the message comes.
  - Interpretation of Tongues: Understanding and expressing the thought or the intent of the message in tongues. It is an interpretation, not a translation.
- 
- 
-

# The God I never knew.

## Is He Charismatic?

### The Dynamic Gifts.

- Faith: A supernatural impartation of belief and confidence for a specific situation.
  - Gifts of Healings: Supernatural endowments of divine health.
  - Working of Miracles: Divine intervention that alters our natural circumstances. God still does miracles today because He is a miraculous God.
- 
- 
- 

### Further Consideration

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1. Why would God want us to not be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts? How would lack of knowledge or misunderstanding inhibit us from being used by God?
2. Can you think of a situation when you could have used a word of wisdom?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1. Why do you think the Bible specifically tells us to desire spiritual gifts? Why do you think there is the added emphasis on prophecy?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:31. Prophecy is meant to bring exhortation, edification, and comfort. In what ways would a prophetic word bring encouragement? Have you ever received an encouraging prophetic word?
5. Have you ever received supernatural healing?
6. Why do you think Satan would try so hard to discredit the gifts of the Spirit?
7. How can we posture ourselves so the Holy Spirit can give us these gifts to bless others? What does a willing heart look like?

### Remember the following:

- The discerning gifts are words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and discernment of spirits.
- The declarative gifts are prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
- The dynamic gifts are faith, gifts of healings, and working of miracles.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit who distributes all nine gifts. I am willing to be a blessing to others by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me with His grace-gifts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# The God I never knew. Does He Baptise?

The Bible clearly shows three distinct baptisms. The Holy Spirit baptizes us in Jesus; the disciples baptize us in water; and Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit.

*Key Scriptures: 1 John 5:7–8; 1 Corinthians 10:1*

## **The Holy Spirit baptizes us in Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 12:13 teaches us that it is the Holy Spirit who baptizes us into Jesus. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us, and when we repent and believe in Jesus we are saved.

---

---

---

## **The disciples baptize us in water.**

Romans 6:3–4 says that when we are water baptized we are buried with Him into His death. Our old life is put away when we get water baptized. After salvation, a believer makes a conscious decision to get water baptized.

---

---

---

## **Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit.**

All four gospels (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33) confirm how Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live our new life in Christ.

---

---

---

## **Scripture confirms all three baptisms.**

1 John 5:7–8 shows that the blood (salvation), water (baptism), and Spirit (baptism in the Holy Spirit) are all in one agreement. Acts 2:38 tells us to repent (salvation), be baptized (water baptism), and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (baptism in the Holy Spirit). Five years later in Acts 8:12–17, people are told to believe, and then they were water baptized. Afterward Peter and John prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit. Twenty-five years later, in Acts 19, the same pattern of all three baptisms occurred.

# The God I never knew. Does He Baptise?

## ***Further Consideration***

1. The first baptism is repentance and belief (salvation). Take a moment and consider your salvation experience. What happened that caused you to repent and believe in Jesus?
2. Were you water baptized after you were saved? What that experience was like. What made it special?
3. Read Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33. Why is it significant that this is in all four gospels?
4. Read 1 John 5:7–8 and 1 Corinthians 10:1–2. How do these scriptures show the symbolism of all three baptisms? Have you seen this pattern in Scripture before, or is this the first time you have seen this pattern?
5. Read Acts 19:1–5. How does this passage show the importance of all three baptisms? What was your perspective of the baptism of the Holy Spirit when you first got saved?
6. Read Luke 11:11–13. What is the promise in this scripture? Have you asked to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If not, take time right now to ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

## ***Remember the following:***

- The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Jesus.
- Disciples baptize us in water.
- Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit.

## ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, thank You for the three baptisms in Scripture. Thank You for the gift of salvation and water baptism. Thank You for baptising us in the Holy Spirit so we can be empowered to live a victorious life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# The God I never knew.

## Does He speak in Tongues?

Speaking in tongues is biblical. The Bible teaches that speaking in a prayer language builds you up. It is a grace-gift (*Carisma/Charismatic*), and you can choose to pray in tongues.

*Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 14:14–17; Luke 11:11–13*

### **Speaking in tongues is biblical.** *1 Corinthians 14:2, 14–18, 39*

The entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 14 gives direction and clarification about both the gift of tongues (which needs interpretation) and praying in tongues (or praying in the Spirit). Verse 14 says when you pray in tongues, your spirit prays.

---

---

---

### **Speaking in tongues is a benefit.** *1 Corinthians 14:4; Ephesians 6:17–18; Jude 20; Genesis 11:1, 6; Zephaniah 3:9; Acts 2:1*

1 Corinthians 14:2 teaches us that when you pray in tongues, you are speaking to God, and verse 4 says whoever speaks in a tongue edifies himself. And in Ephesians 6, part of putting on the armor of God includes praying in the Spirit.

---

---

---

### **Praying in tongues is a choice.**

In 1 Corinthians 14:15, Paul writes that he chooses to speak in tongues. In the same way we choose to exercise any gift (for example: the gift of giving), we can exercise the gift of praying with tongues. It takes faith and is a decision.

---

---

---

# The God I never knew. Does He speak in Tongues?

## ***Further Consideration***

1. What have you been taught in the past about speaking in tongues?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1–5. What is the difference between prophesying and speaking in tongues? Is Paul teaching that we shouldn't do either one, or is he showing the appropriate usage for each?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 14:14–15. Why do you think it is significant that, although Paul says you cannot understand a prayer language, he still prays and sings in the Spirit?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:39. What stands out to you in this passage? How does knowing this scripture affect how we handle speaking in tongues?
5. Have you ever experienced a prayer language? What was it like the first time you prayed in the Spirit? How did you grow more comfortable?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:5. Why do you think Paul said he wishes everyone spoke with tongues?
7. Read Ephesians 6:14–18. How can you make wearing the armor of God and praying in the Spirit a regular part of your life?

## ***Remember the following:***

- Praying in tongues is biblical.
- Praying in tongues is beneficial.
- Praying in tongues is a choice.

## ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, thank You for the benefit of praying in tongues. Thank You for giving me a way to speak directly to You and to be built up in the process. Please give me courage and faith to regularly pray in the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.