

Conversation Starters

- What comes to mind when you hear “Holy Spirit”?

Discuss

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity; that He is personal, having all the components of personality; and that He is in every person who invites Christ into their life. The agenda for the Holy Spirit is to make us more and more like Jesus.

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

“But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all).” ([Romans 8:9, NLT](#))

- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is available to you make you feel?
- What comes to mind, in relation to your own life, that might be keeping the power of the Holy Spirit from working in your life?

Only the Holy Spirit can bring the power of God for life change into our lives. To do this, we have to allow Him to; we have to “be being filled.” If you’re a Christian, while you have the Holy Spirit *in* your life, the deeper question is how much the Holy Spirit has *of* your life.

“[Now that you have the Holy Spirit] ... be filled with the Spirit.” ([Ephesians 5:18, NIV](#))

- When was the last time you felt a clear prompting from the Holy Spirit? Did you obey it?
- What do you know, right now, you are doing in your life that is grieving the Holy Spirit?

To follow Jesus means that your heart is fully His; not half-hearted or watered-down, but fully committed. The apostle Paul knew that everything else pales in comparison to being in a fully devoted relationship with Jesus:

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him....” ([Philippians 3:7-9a, NIV](#))

- Is there anything worth more to you than Jesus?
- Is there anything delaying you from following Jesus?
- Is there anything you need to give up to follow Jesus?
- Are you using your one and only life to *almost* live for Jesus, or *completely* live for Him?

Next Steps

Reflect on your relationship with Jesus. Do you have one? Do you need to start one? Is there something God is asking you to do that you need to do in order to keep in step with Him? Take the next step appropriate to you for growing in your relationship with Him.

Mar. 23: [The Purpose and Practice of Prayer](#)

Mar. 24: [The Grounds Online Book Club: “After I Believe”](#)

Mar. 27: [Second Harvest Food Bank Serve Day](#)

Mar. 28: [Baptism](#)

Continued Reading

Read [Psalm 139:7](#); [John 16:7](#); [Romans 8:9](#); Ephesians [4:21-32](#); [5:18](#); Luke 9:[23](#), [57-62](#); [Philippians 3:7-9a](#).

Prayer

God, you are so loving to be with us in all that we do. Thank you for your presence and work in our lives. It's us who often fail to keep in step. Keep working in us and prompting us to completely follow you with all of our lives.