

HOW TO RELATE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Note to discipler: Each point in this lesson introduces an important concept that the disciple needs to consider and clearly understand early in the Christian walk. As you cover each point, help the disciple to recognize the consequences of not understanding that concept; for example, what would be the typical result of not thinking of the Holy Spirit as a Person? Explain how Jesus was limited by a physical body, but the Holy Spirit is “omnipresent”.

1. I SHOULD INTERACT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A PERSON, FOR HE IS GOD HIMSELF. I SHOULD NOT THINK OF HIM AS JUST AN “INSPIRATION”, OR AN “INFLUENCE”, WITHOUT PERSONALITY.

Acts 5:3-4 ... Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

1 Cor. 2:10-11 ... the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (Phil. 2:1)

Eph. 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption

Job 33:4 “The Spirit of God has made me, ...

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is not an influence, or a force, or an inspiration, but God Himself. He is like a best Friend, yet so much more. My relationship with Him is in many ways to be similar to a good spousal relationship. What are the implications of such a relationship? Respect? Communication? Interaction? Nurturing? How would you treat a “force”?

2. HE LIVES IN ME, HIS TEMPLE. HE OWNS ME (WHETHER I BELIEVE IT OR NOT). HIS OWNERSHIP DOES NOT BECOME TRUE AFTER I BELIEVE IT.

1 Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

God’s ownership of the Christian is a factual truth, which is not dependent on the believer’s acknowledgment of it. I do not bestow ownership, I can only acknowledge and act upon what He states to be already true. New believers will typically not be resistant to this truth, because they don’t have preconceived ideas of God’s expectations. In contrast, older believers tend to accept this truth intellectually, but be resistant to the implications. What are the implications of ownership? What rights or authority are generally understood to be conveyed by ownership?

3. HE IS THE SEAL (DEPOSIT, GUARANTEE, EVIDENCE) THAT I AM GOD'S CHILD

Rom. 8:9, 14-16 ... if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
... For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ... The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,
2 Cor. 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. (See also 2 Cor. 5:5)
Gal. 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, ...
Eph. 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge (down payment, guarantee, deposit) of our inheritance, ...
1 John 3:24 ... We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (See 1 John 4:13)

The Holy Spirit is God's evidence of my salvation. We should actively seek after the Holy Spirit and be open to His guidance and instruction. A disciple should grow increasingly more dependent on the Holy Spirit and increasingly less dependent on a discipler. A disciple should increasingly recognize the Holy Spirit's promptings in his everyday life.

4. HE HAS A PLAN FOR EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE. HE WANTS ME TO LEARN TO FOLLOW AND OBEY HIM. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO FOLLOW MY PLAN.

Psalms 139:16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.
Jer. 10:23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.
Jer. 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'
John 14:16-17 (Jesus said) "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ...
John 14:26 "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 that I said to you.
John 16:13-15 "... when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. ...
1 Cor. 2:9-14 ... just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; ... Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

A disciple needs to fit into God's plan for his life. God wants me to follow Him, He does not want me to view Him as my Servant, fitting into my plans and assisting me whenever I determine I need His help. I should feel free to make tentative daily and future plans, while always being mindful that He may want to change my plans.

5. HE INTERCEDES TO THE FATHER FOR ME AND TEACHES ME TO PRAY.

Rom. 8:26-27 *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ... He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

Eph. 2:18 *for through Him (Jesus) we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*

Eph. 6:17-18 *... With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.*

Jude 20 *But you, beloved, ... praying in the Holy Spirit.*

A disciple needs to maintain a **continual active** communication with the Holy Spirit, through conversational prayer, reading and studying the Word, listening to teachings, etc.

6. HE BAPTIZED ME INTO THE UNIVERSAL BODY OF CHRIST, WITH ALL TRUE BELIEVERS. (REFERS TO “SPIRITUAL” BAPTISM, NOT TO WATER BAPTISM).

Matt. 3:11 (John the Baptist said) *“... I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

1 Cor. 12:12-13 *For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

A disciple needs to understand his **oneness** with **all** members of the universal Body of Christ, the **one** and **only** true Church, bonded together by the Holy Spirit. There are some doctrinal and cultural differences between Christians that should not create divisions or resentments.

7. HE WANTS TO USE ME TO TESTIFY ABOUT JESUS TO UNBELIEVERS.

Mark 13:11 *“When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 10:19 / Luke 12:11)*

John 15:26 *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,*

John 16:8-11 *“And He (the Holy Spirit), ... will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ...*

Acts 1:8 *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

The Holy Spirit desires to use His children to attract **unbelievers** to a believing faith in Jesus Christ. This should be through **spoken words** as well as the **example** of a life yielded to Him. St. Francis of Assisi is quoted as saying – “preach the gospel – and if necessary use words”.

8. HE WANTS TO USE THE SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) HE HAS GIVEN ME FOR OTHERS.

Mark 9:35 ... He ... said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Rom. 12:4-8 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor. 12:4, 7-11 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Phil. 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Each disciple is unique in the plan and purposes of God. The Holy Spirit wants to produce interaction and involvement between believers. (Jesus said "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:35) He wants to minister to other believers through me. He doesn't want me to simply be focused on how others can meet my needs. Discuss the concept of spiritual reproduction; i.e., investing my resources (time, energy, possessions) in other believers to help them toward spiritual maturity and fruitfulness.

Important: In the physical human body each member functions to serve the body, not the body to serve the members.

9. HE ALONE CAN PRODUCE SPIRITUAL LIFE IN AND THROUGH ME.

John 6:63 (Jesus said) "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

2 Cor. 3:6 ... the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Eccl. 3:14 I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.

Anything of eternal value must have its origin in the Holy Spirit. I am, and will continue to be, tempted to rely on myself until I leave this body. The disciple needs to be aware of this tendency, so as not to feel that he is somehow abnormal.

