

## Presence

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Today I want to demystify our understanding of the Holy Spirit, instead I want to introduce us to my closest friend. I want to introduce us not to a concept but to a person. A person overflowing in creativity, love, strength, wisdom, power and intimacy. A person who can be with us 24/7.

Unfortunately the English language has limitations and a lot can be lost in translation and can cause misunderstandings which can bring fear.

When we look at the name the Holy Spirit it can bring wrong connotations, even worse in older translations of the Bible is the name Holy Ghost.

The words Ghost and Spirit in today's English can bring connotations of spirits of the dead or evil spirits ie demons.

However:

The word Ghost comes from the old Germanic word Geist meaning breath

The English use word Spirit comes from Latin 'Spiritus' Breath, light breeze, energy

These are translations of the

Greek word πνεῦμα blow, breath, wind, spirit/breath of life

Hebrew Ruach breath, wind,

In all cases there is a sense of air in movement and that which animates or gives life

**John 3:8<sup>8</sup> For the (Pneuma) Spirit-wind (pnei) blows/breathes as it chooses. You can hear its (phonen) sound/voice, but you don't know where it came from or where it's going. So it is with those who are born of the (pneumatōs) Spirit!"**

God uses imagery in the Bible to convey truths which are difficult for us to understand. By its nature of being imagery it is not perfect but helps us gain a level of understanding.

By using the image of breath, of wind He shows us that in the person of the Holy Spirit there is no restriction to where He can be as compared to the person of Jesus who as human could only be in one place at any one time.

Wind/breath can also be around a person but also within a person, in the same way the Holy Spirit can be around a person, on a person but also in a person.

Wind/breath can also though invisible to the human eye can bring great change, has great force and power, you can see the effects of the wind but you cannot see the wind. In the same way the Holy Spirit though He is not visible has great power and you can see the visible effects of His presence and His power.

For us to gain greater understanding of who the Holy Spirit is Jesus said to His followers:

**John 14:16-18 NIV<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

ἄλλος παράκλητος allos - another of the same nature, parakletos - one called alongside

He will help us and be with us forever He is the Spirit of truth

It says "but you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you"

WHY because he is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus, the followers will know Him because they know Jesus, Jesus has been living with them, but now Jesus will be returning to the Father, but will not leave them alone as abandoned orphans but will come and live in them through His Spirit, the Holy Spirit the one who has the identical same nature as Jesus, the one who is called alongside every follower of Jesus.

Like Jesus did to His followers the Holy Spirit will teach us and remind us what Jesus said:

**John 14:26 NLT<sup>26</sup> But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.**

Like Jesus did to His followers the Holy Spirit will be friend, comforter, teacher, councillor, helper, enabler, equipper and guide.

The Holy Spirit isn't a force of power to be sought after to wield, He is the presence of God in every follower.

In [Acts 8](#) a man named Simon upon seeing the power of the Holy Spirit at work offered to pay to obtain control of this power, Peter completely rejected this belief as sinful.

We receive the Holy Spirit for free, God chooses to live in us through His presence because He wants to and Jesus death on the cross has made it possible. As God He works in us and through us using His power and enabling. I don't suddenly have power when the Holy Spirit lives in me, I have the personal presence of God working through me, I'm not in control He is... He is God! AMEN

*"We don't seek God's power, we seek His presence. His power and everything else we need is always found in His presence". John Wimber*

While I was preparing this I was having a time of worship and resting in the Holy Spirit's presence and my daughter who was off school came and sat on my lap. She snuggled in and joined me in worshipping and speaking to God.

This to me was a great image of how it is with Holy Spirit, we just want to enjoy His presence, sit with Him, snuggle in and join Him in worshipping the Father. From this place of enjoying His presence everything else evolves.

*"When we have the Holy Spirit we have all that is needed to be all that God desires us to be." AW Tozer*

So do you want to enjoy His presence? Do you want to become all that God desires you to be?

When we choose to accept Jesus we invite the Holy Spirit, God's presence to come and live in us.

But there is a difference between a deposit and being overwhelmed or baptised in the Spirit, this is the difference between simply accepting Jesus and then allowing the Holy Spirit to have full control.

Smith Wigglesworth puts it this way:

*"There are two sides to the baptism: the first is, you possess the Spirit; the second is that the Spirit possesses you." Smith Wigglesworth*

Have you ever taken the step of letting go of control, of allowing the Holy Spirit to overwhelm you and be fully in control?

God can only live in us and work through us to the level we allow Him to.

So how do we receive?

### 1. We need to ask

**Luke 11:9-13 NIV** <sup>9</sup> "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Why wouldn't Father God want to give us His Spirit? If by giving us His Holy Spirit He can be closer to us, help us, give us strength and guide us - isn't that His desire and hope?

### 2. We need to let go of control

**Galatians 2:20 NIV** <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 5:25 NIV** <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

*"God can do way more with your surrender than you could ever do with your control." - Craig Groeschel*

Are you ready to surrender today, are you ready to ask for more of the presence of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit. Are you ready to let your walls down and allow God's presence to overwhelm you. Do you believe God is good and will only give good gifts to His children? Do you want everything that God has for you?