

APOLOGIA

Finding Answers to Life's Most Interesting Questions

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4 WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Sam the Skeptic says, "Sure, I've heard of the Holy Spirit but to me the Holy Spirit is some kind of mystical force...like "May the force be with you." How can people believe otherwise?"



A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

1. Why is the Holy Spirit misunderstood by so many people today?
2. What evidence do you see in your own life that the Holy Spirit is a person, not a mystical force?
3. How would you describe the Holy Spirit to a new believer?

B. Is the Holy Spirit really a person?

1. 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Romans 8:26-27
2. Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30; Romans 15:30
3. 1 Corinthians 12:11

C. How does the Holy Spirit encourage you?

1) John 14:17

2) Romans 8:16

3) Romans 14:17

4) Ephesians 3:16

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

D. Ten ways the Holy Spirit works in your life

	The Holy Spirit	Scripture	How does this help you?
1	Lives within you	1 Cor. 6:19	
2	Sanctifies you	1 Cor. 6:11	
3	Convicts you	John 16:7-8	
4	Renews you	Titus 3:5	
5	Helps you with your weaknesses	Romans 8:26-27	
6	Teaches you	John 16:15	
7	Guides you	John 16:13	
8	Assures you	Rom. 8:16	
9	Produces "fruit" within you	Gal. 5:22-23	
10	Gives you gifts	1 Cor. 12:4	

E. What fruit does the Holy Spirit produce in my life?

Definition: Spirit-produced fruit is defined as Christian thinking and living in obedience to Scripture that honors God.

1 The fruit of _____ (Gal. 5:22-23).

FRUIT	DESCRIPTION
Love	
Joy	
Peace	
Patience	
Kindness	
Goodness	
Faithfulness	
Gentleness	
Self-control	

2 The fruit of _____.

So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10 NIV).

3 The fruit of _____.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that openly profess his name (Heb. 13:15 NIV).

4 The fruit of _____.

The faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world -- just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace (Col. 1:5-6 NIV).

I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. (Rom. 1:13 NLT)

5 The fruit of _____.

For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth (Eph. 5:9 NIV).

6 The fruit of _____.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (Jas. 3:17 NIV)

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

DEFINITION: Spiritual gifts are *special abilities* God gives to each believer for the purpose of building up the church body.

The "building up of the body" is referring to helping fellow believers in a way that enables them to mature spiritually, to become more Christ-like, and to remain united as a body of believers (1 Cor. 7:7; 12:8-10; 28-30; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11).

A. What are the purposes of spiritual gifts?

- They are for developing the unity of the Body of Christ (church)
- They are for adding to the Body of Christ
- They are for bringing about spiritually maturity in the Body of Christ
- They are for reflecting the likeness of Christ as a Body

B. Spiritual gifts are not:

- Necessarily natural talents
- Supernatural manifestations (i.e., occult practices, fortune telling, divination, casting spells, etc.)
- Chosen by the believer
- The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Intended to attract attention or bring glory to the believer

C. What personal benefits do spiritual gifts bring?

- You experience the joy of knowing that God is working through you in a special way
- You become a contributor to the building-up process of the church
- You discover that you have a unique way of edifying others
- You glorify God through them

D. Seven principles of spiritual gifts

- Principle No. 1: There is diversity and purpose in spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:4; Ephesians 4:11-12).
- Principle No. 2: We are accountable to Christ for the use of our spiritual gifts (2 Cor. 5:10; Luke 12:48b)
- Principle No. 3: You need others and others need you (1 Cor. 12:12-21)
- Principle No. 4: Every believer has at least one gift (1 Cor. 12:7)
- Principle No. 5: They are to be discovered (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- Principle No. 6: Unity of the Body results from their usage (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- Principle No. 7: Gifts are manifested in varying degrees of strength (1 Peter 4:10-11).

E. Pitfalls to avoid

- Not being aware of the nature and need for spiritual gifts
- Selecting a gift without seeking God's choice
- Comparing your giftedness to others
- Being too reluctant to use your God-chosen gift
- Placing more of an emphasis on gifts than on a personal daily relationship with Christ
- Not using your gift because you don't like what you see in others
- Putting personal needs above the needs of others
- Failing to be persistent when opposed by the enemy
- Neglecting to remain dependent on the Holy Spirit for power

F. How to discover your gift(s)

- Make yourself neutral
- Ask God to help you know what gift(s) you have
- Explore your desires
- Experiment
- Look for confirmation
- Remember: discovery may take time

G. Remember

- You may have a gift mix
- Ask: will it build up the "body"?
- Check your gift motives against I Corinthians 13:1
- Don't be surprised if it results in a new ministry
- Use the gifts with the strength God provides you (Romans 12:3; I Peter 4:11)
- You experience the joy of knowing that God is working through you in a special way
- You become a contributor to the building-up process of the church
- You discover that you have a unique way of edifying others
- You glorify God through them

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan; Intervarsity Press, 1994, 2000.

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