

Lesson 6: The Holy Spirit, The Disciple's Guide

1. This lesson is a continuation of the lesson on authority, and deals specifically with the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Later we will look more in-depth at the Holy Spirit, but for now we will contain ourselves to His nature, purpose, and leadership in decision making.
2. In the following chart, read each verse and give the appropriate **name**, **description**, or **activity** for the Holy Spirit:

Verse	Name, Description, or Activity
Genesis 1:2	Spirit of the Lord
Nehemiah 9:20	_____
Job 33:4	_____
Isaiah 11:2 (<i>give 4</i>)	_____

Zechariah 12:10	_____
Romans 8:2	_____
Romans 8:15	_____
Ephesians 1:13-14	_____

2 Timothy 1:7	Gives us _____

3. Read The Gospel of John chapter 14 . This chapter records Jesus' last words to His disciples. What two names does Jesus give the Holy Spirit and what does He say the Spirit will do?

Name	What the Spirit will do
(v. 16) _____	(v. 16) _____
(v. 17) _____	(v. 26) _____

4. The name Jesus most often used for the Holy Spirit is *parakletos*. Depending on which Bible translation you use, this word might be rendered "helper," "counselor," "comforter," or "advocate." Actually, each of these words describes one aspect of a *parakletos*, but none of them captures the extensive ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. Paraclete means "one who is called alongside" - *para* means alongside, and *cleo* means to call

5. Read the story in Acts 5. Note especially verses 4 and 9.
 To whom did Peter say Ananias had lied? _____
 To whom did Peter say Sapphira had lied? _____
 From these verses we can conclude that the Holy Spirit is _____ .
6. The Holy Spirit must be obeyed because He is God! He is not an *influence, force, or another god—He is God in us!!*
7. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. In Paul’s description of the benefits of being a Christian he describes the Holy Spirit as the One who seals the believer, *meaning that the believer is marked by God*. If God looks at you and does not see the mark, the Holy Spirit, He does not consider you His child!
 Paul also describes the Holy Spirit in verse 14 as _____ .
 The earnest of our inheritance is the certainty of the receiving of the inheritance. The Holy Spirit is the confidence that what God starts, He finishes (see Philippians 1:6).
8. Note *when a believer receives the Holy Spirit*. Ephesians 1:13 says that *after believing, ye were sealed*. Believing must precede the receiving of the Holy Spirit—nothing else. When you placed your faith in Christ, repented of your sins, claimed Him as Lord and Master, He gave you the Holy Spirit as He promised.
9. Let’s review:
- The Holy Spirit is God.
 - He has various purposes in us: comforter, counselor, advocate, etc.
 - He is the earnest of our inheritance.
 - He is given to us when we become a Christian.
 - Without Him we are not a child of God.
10. For the remainder of this lesson we will consider how the Holy Spirit is our *counselor* in making decisions. Read John 10:4. What are you to hear?

Many things can interfere with you hearing Him.

- **Past failures** can cause you to believe, falsely, that you will fail again. But God loves you and will lead you. Just keep asking Him to speak through His Word and through the Spirit.
- **Poor teaching** can hinder you immeasurably. If you have been taught that God no longer speaks to His children, you will not even be listening. Make sure that your beliefs line up with the Word of God.
- **Personal expectations** can confuse you. Setting aside your expectations is necessary to hearing God. You have to be willing to obey God no matter what He might ask of you.

- **Lack of faith** will always limit your ability to hear God. Hebrews 11:6 says that you cannot please God without faith. Faith opens your ears to hear the Lord's voice more clearly.
 - **Sin** (for example: covetousness) will stand between you and God's voice. You don't have to be perfect, but you must spend time asking God to forgive and cleanse you and thereby keep your line of communication clear.
 - **Deception** (thinking it's God speaking while you are disobeying the clear teaching of the Bible). Always balance what you hear with the Word.
11. Most Christians do not experience God speaking to them in an audible voice. They sense a **strong impression** or **urge** from **within**. Generally it comes as the believer is reading the Word or in prayer. The believer must understand his or her own personality and weaknesses. To assume that one never confuses God's voice with his or her own voice is arrogance, at best, and deception, at worst. The difficulty is in discerning that it is really God.
 12. **Balance is the key.** You must balance these inner promptings with the Word of God, godly counselors, and your situation.
 13. Consider the situation from the lesson on Authority: Should you go to Africa on a mission trip? **Remember the issue is authority.** That which I consider to be my authority will be used to make my final decision. Many people will say that the Bible, Holy Spirit, and counselors, are their authorities; but the truth is, they do not listen to any of them. They do not question themselves enough. You must be honest with yourself. Don't be afraid to question your motives—God will lead you to the right decision. Here are some questions to consider in determining if it is God's will.
 - When did the opportunity come to you?
 - after a prolonged period of praying for an opportunity?
 - after reading the Word and being challenged to win the lost?
 - just out of the blue?
 - Have you considered why **you** might want to go?
 - it would make you look more spiritual
 - going to another country would be exciting
 - just want to see people saved
 - What do godly people who know you advise?
 - you aren't prepared. (maybe you should get trained)
 - you are not spiritually ready (get disciplined)
 - sounds good - go!!
 - What does the Word of God say?
 - God wants everyone to be saved - go!!
 - Do you have the time and finances to go?
 - time is not a problem
 - money can be raised or worked for

Once you seek counsel, search the Word, listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and evaluate the circumstances, you are in a better position to know the will of God.

14. One last caution. There are times when God speaks and others don't agree. *The timing is probably wrong.* Wait for God to confirm His Word to you and then proceed.