



Knowing God as Holy Spirit "**Relating to Holy Spirit**"

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Scripture: Ephesians 4:25-31, Acts 8:18-23

We continue our series: "*Knowing God as Holy Spirit.*" For many, Holy Spirit is a less familiar face of God. Through this short series, we will discover that Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force but rather a vibrant, essential *person* who engages fully with Father and Jesus in the glorious life of our Triune God. (And also engages with US).

- If we don't see Holy Spirit as a person, we cannot have a relationship with him.
- Last week, we examined scripture that clearly reveals Holy Spirit is a unique person of

the Trinity - in loving, vibrant relationship with Father and Jesus.

- Holy Spirit's personhood is like our own (more accurately, ours is like HIS). We, as persons, bear God's image. WE have personality and soul (mind, will, emotions) precisely because Holy Spirit has a mind, will, and emotions.
- Holy Spirit is not his name - - GOD is his name! "Holy Spirit" is his function.
- Holy Spirit's soulfulness (mind, will, and emotions) allows him to connect with us.

Holy Spirit helps us to:

1. Think like God thinks. (Holy Spirit has a mind)

- John 16:13 – "he will guide you into all truth... speaking only what he hears"
- Holy Spirit knows everything about everything! He reveals to us the mind of God.

2. Desire what God desires. (Holy Spirit has a will)

- Acts 16:6-10 – Paul and companions were trying to go to Asia to preach the word, but Holy Spirit had other purposes for them (Macedonia) and prevented them from entering Asia.
- Holy Spirit's will is one with Father's. Holy Spirit is our spiritual GPS system.

Romans 8:26-27

- Scripture reveals God's *general will*. Holy Spirit reveals God's *specific will* in the unique circumstances of our lives - - as we seek and listen for his guidance.

3. Feel what God feels. (Holy Spirit has emotions)

- Galatians 5:22-23 expresses the "fruit of the Spirit" – all indicative of emotions.
- Yes, Holy Spirit knows Joy – which means he also knows Grief.
- He is grieved by loss – loss of fellowship/intimacy with us.
We grieve Him when we ignore, rebel, shut him out!

- When we give our attention to our flesh and things of the world, not only we do step into the mess of sin, but we shut off the flow of Holy Spirit's grace in our lives.
- Ephesians 4:30 – "*do not grieve the Holy Spirit*" is surrounded, before and aft, by examples of "grieving" attitudes and behaviors:
 - vs 25 - "falsehood" (dishonesty, deception, pretending)
 - vs 26 - "anger" (holding ONTO anger)
 - vs 28 - "stealing" (often rooted in envy, greed, lack of faith)
 - vs 29 - "unwholesome talk" – about others (criticism, gossip, judgments)
 - vs 31 - "bitterness, rage, anger, fighting, slander, malice"

But let us *delight* Holy Spirit by...

- vs 25 – speaking truth in love
- vs 26 – resolving our anger
- vs 28 – working with our hands to contribute to the common good
- vs 29 – speaking words that build up and benefit
- vs 31 – being kind and compassionate and forgiving each other

Acts 8: 9-28 - the story of Simon the Sorcerer who came to faith and was baptized.

When he later witnessed the apostles imparting Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, Simon offered money to the apostles to purchase this power. Peter condemned him for his "wickedness," declaring his "heart was not right." Simon grieved Holy Spirit in his "bitterness and *iniquity*" - captive to some form of habitual sin (perhaps arrogance, lust for power, greed?)

- Simon thought Holy Spirit was a force, a power, an “it” – that could be purchased. He did not know Holy Spirit as soulful God - with mind, will, and emotions.

Reflective Questions:

1. Which of the 3 *soulful* traits of Holy Spirit (mind, will, emotions) is most confusing to you? (Ask Holy Spirit to teach you). Which is most meaningful to you? (Give thanks!)
2. Are there any attitudes or behaviors in your life right now that are “grieving” Holy Spirit? (refer to the list above from Eph 4:25, or maybe other things). Talk this over with Holy Spirit . . . confession, forgiveness, strengthening, restoration, renewal).