

# PNEUMATOLOGY

Understanding and Living by the Holy Spirit

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Pneumatology: Understanding and Living by the Holy Spirit  
Adult Bible Study Leader's Guide

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# How to Use *Truth for Living*

## **Truth for Living:**

A comprehensive, trustworthy curriculum that presents the truth of God's Word without compromise. The curriculum plan includes through-the-Bible courses as well as topical courses. Perfect for adults who want a guide in using all of God's Word as God intended.

As you prepare to teach these lessons, keep these two factors in mind:

- The FOCUS of productive adult Bible learning is the learner. The intent of teaching is not teaching, but learning—the learner's learning.
- The GOAL of productive adult Bible learning is an appropriate life-response to Biblical truth. You do not teach simply to impart information; you teach so that the Holy Spirit of God can use the truths of the Word of God to change the child of God into the image of the Son of God.

## **The Lesson Plan**

Each *Truth for Living* lesson has three distinct parts. GETTING STARTED is the attention-getter. The questions and activities “set the table,” as it were, for the study. SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES is the heart of the lesson. A series of study questions leads the teacher and learners through the Biblical text. MAKING IT PERSONAL applies the truth to life.

As is true of any teaching experience, you can adapt the parts of the lesson to fit your particular class. You may choose to alter the beginning activities or change the focus of the application. You will find more material in the study than you can probably cover in one class session.

## **The Study Book**

This leader's guide is designed to accompany the Bible study book. We encourage you to distribute Bible study books to your learners. Urge them to complete the study before class. The more your learners have studied on their own, the better the class discussions will be. Most of the questions in the leader's guide are picked up from the Bible study book. You will notice the question numbers in parentheses after the questions. The answers to the questions are in italics following the questions.

## **Other Resources**

The resource CD has PowerPoint presentations for every lesson. They incorporate the resource visuals and provide a good way for teachers and learners to track the lesson. The resource CD also has Prezi presentations for some of the lessons. Instructions for using the Prezi presentations are on the CD. Other resources include lesson outlines and verse cards.



# Preface

Phones, pads, computers, and watches give people instant access to the world, making today's common person more powerful than at any other point in history. A few words sent into cyberspace has the potential to reach millions of people almost instantly. That is quite empowering.

But most of those same empowered people are ignorant of the greatest power connection of all—the connection to the Holy Spirit. As believers, we have the Holy Spirit in us. He is waiting for us to tap into His power. And He is far more powerful and influential than anything bouncing around in cyberspace.

So what are we waiting for? There are no new upgrades to the Holy Spirit. No new features coming out. He has always been wireless, and He needs no batteries, charger cords, or adapters. He is infinitely powerful and always present in us. He is ready to influence this world through us if we will but plug into Him.

This course seeks to reconnect us with the Holy Spirit by teaching us the basics of Who He is, what He is like, and what He does. The truth presented in this course will confirm that greater is He Who is in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Challenge your learners to pay attention to the Spirit in them. He makes their potential to make a lasting mark on this world almost unbelievable. Pray for them to know and live by the power of the Spirit as you reintroduce them to Him throughout this course.









# Meet the Holy Spirit

## Topic

Introduction to the Holy Spirit

## Theme

God the Holy Spirit is a person who blesses people with God's grace.

## Desired Learner Response

The learner will determine ways to strengthen his relationship with and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

## Materials

- Resource 1
- Pencils and paper

## Scripture Focus

Ps. 139:7–12; 140:30; John 3:6; 14:26; 15:26; Acts 5:3, 4; Rom. 5:5; 8:26, 27; 1 Cor. 6:11; 12:11; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 10:29; 1 Pet. 4:12–19

## Summary

The one God exists in three eternal, equal persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit conveys the blessings of God's saving, sanctifying grace to people. He is a divine person Who personally relates to humanity.

## Outline

### I. The Holy Spirit Is a Person

- He has the attributes of a person
- He works as a person
- He is referred to as a person

### II. The Holy Spirit Is a Divine Person

- He has the attributes of God
- He works as God
- He is referred to as God

### III. The Holy Spirit Is a Personal Blessing

- He is the Spirit of God
- He is the Spirit of grace
- He is the Spirit of glory

## Memory Verse

*"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16).*

## GETTING STARTED

### What Do You Know?

As learners arrive, distribute pencils and paper. Ask them to write a definition of the Holy Spirit and a short list of what He does. Tell learners not to sign their papers. Collect the papers. Use the answers to gauge the level of the class's understanding and to observe specific areas of strength and weakness, which will assist you in preparation throughout the study. Many believers know relatively little about the Person of the Holy Spirit. Do not assume that your learners have more knowledge than they do.

Since the vitality, power, and fruitfulness of individual believers and of local churches depend upon a right relationship to the Holy Spirit, we must understand Who He is and what He does. Knowledge alone does not make us fruitful Christians but knowledge of the Spirit and His ministry is certainly essential to a vibrant Christian experience. Appropriation of truth is necessary if we would truly be filled with the Spirit and walk in His power.

### Three Words

*Hello! I am a person. Nice to meet you.*

Such a greeting when meeting someone for the first time could be a little disturbing. Perhaps you would question the person's his mental stability.

**ASK:** What would you say in response to such a greeting? (Q1)

**ASK:** What might you conclude about someone who felt compelled to tell you that he is a person? (Q2)

The fact that the Holy Spirit is a person is actually a good starting point in getting to know Him. There is much confusion about the Holy Spirit and His relationships with people. This study introduces the Holy Spirit as a person Who is both divine and personal. Such an introduction will reveal just how vital the Holy Spirit is to your Christian walk.

## SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

### I. The Holy Spirit Is a Person

Because the word *spirit* seems impersonal to many, it is difficult for them to understand that the Holy Spirit truly is a person. Several false concepts about the Holy Spirit share the common idea that He is not a personal being. Some think He is merely a force like magnetism or an influence like gravity. Others believe that the title *Holy Spirit* simply describes the power of God in a picturesque manner. But such views are incorrect. The Holy Spirit is a personal being. God is one God, but He exists in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### A. He has the attributes of a person

Three prominent aspects are included in the concept of personality: intellect,

emotion, and will. That means if the Holy Spirit is a person, then there will be evidence in the Bible showing the Holy Spirit has intellect, emotion, and will. That is exactly what we find.

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1 covering the left column under the title *Divine*. Reveal the title *Person* and the words *Attributes of a Person, Intellect, Emotion, and Will* as you teach this point.

**READ:** Romans 8:27. **ASK:** What phrase shows that the Holy Spirit has intellect? (Q3) *The mind of the Spirit.*

An influence does not have a mind and is incapable of rational thought. While gravity is difficult to fully understand, gravity itself has no intellect. Gravity does not think about keeping us from floating off into space.

The Holy Spirit also demonstrates emotion. He is not an unfeeling power, remote from the emotions with which we humans are familiar. A true person possesses sensitivity, emotions, feelings. If the Holy Spirit were not personal, what sense would Paul's exhortation to *grieve not the holy Spirit of God* (Eph. 4:30) make? The apostle's warning reminds us that the Spirit is extremely sensitive to sin. All sins cause Him grief.

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 12:11. **ASK:** How are spiritual gifts dispensed to believers? (Q4) *The Holy Spirit dispenses them per His will.*

The Holy Spirit also has a will, meaning He is more than just a power emanating from God. He personally decided which believer would get which spiritual gift. That is why ignoring our spiritual gifts or wishing we had different ones is so offensive to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's abilities to know, feel, and make decisions form an important part of the Biblical evidence that the Holy Spirit is a person.

## B. He works as a person

**READ:** Romans 8:26. **ASK:** What work of the Holy Spirit is mentioned in this passage? (Q5) *Prayer, intercession.*

**READ:** John 14:26. **ASK:** What work did Christ say the Holy Spirit would carry out? (Q6) *Teaching the disciples.*

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1, revealing the words *Prays* and *Teaches*.

The Holy Spirit prays, or offers petitions, to the Father, an exercise which only a person could accomplish. Prayer involves knowledge, orderly thought processes, and purpose. The Holy Spirit *helps our infirmities*, or weaknesses (Rom. 8:26). When we don't know what to say, He does. He serves us as a wonderful prayer companion.

We also saw that the Holy Spirit teaches. John 14:26 refers to special revelation of truth which would be given to the apostles in order that they might pen the Holy Scriptures. Obviously, only a person could instruct other persons. Teaching



requires knowledge, logic, and the ability to communicate intelligently.

There are other examples of the Spirit's work as a person. The Biblical evidence is not at all lacking.

### C. He is referred to as a person

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1, revealing the words *Referred to as a Person*.

The Greek word for *spirit* is *pneuma* from which we get such words as *pneumonia* and *pneumatic*. Since this word is in the neuter gender in the Greek language, pronouns referring to *pneuma* would normally be in the neuter gender as well, following the grammatical laws of the language. However, sometimes in the New Testament, masculine pronouns are used to refer to the Holy Spirit. Those pronouns should be translated by the English pronoun *he* rather than *it*. An example is found in John 15:26 where Christ stated, *But when the Comforter is come . . . he shall testify of me*. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is addressed as a person, *he*.

In another passage conveying the same truth, Christ said, *It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment* (John 16:7, 8). The repetition of the masculine personal pronouns emphasizes the Spirit's personality.

**ASK:** Why do you care that the Holy Spirit is a person? (Q7)

The fact that the Spirit is a person means that He can understand and minister to us as persons. It also is comforting to know that when believers are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14), they are not directed by some impersonal force, but by a warm, compassionate, and all-wise heavenly friend. The Holy Spirit knows all about our lives and feels our deepest longings.

## II. The Holy Spirit Is a Divine Person

We have examined some of the Biblical evidence demonstrating that the Holy Spirit is a person. But what kind of a person is He? Perhaps He is a created person, finite and operating within limitations, like human beings or angels. The Scriptures answer clearly. He is God. Three lines of thought serve to prove this.

### A. He has the attributes of God

By *attributes* we mean those personal qualities that are essentially God's, the characteristics that make Him the unique person He is. If qualities that only God possesses in perfection are the qualities of the Holy Spirit, then we can conclude that the Holy Spirit truly is God.

**READ:** Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Titus 3:5. **ASK:** Why do we call the Spirit the *Holy Spirit*? (Q8) *Because the Bible calls Him the Holy Spirit and because He is holy.*

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1, revealing the words *Holiness*, *Omnipresence*, and *Omnipotent* in the left column under the title *Has Attributes of God*.



The Holy Spirit is indeed holy. While man may possess a relative holiness given to him by divine grace, only God Himself is holy in the absolute sense. The Holy Spirit, as a member of the Trinity, is absolutely holy.

**READ:** Isaiah 6:1–7. **ASK:** What did God’s holiness cause Isaiah to recognize about himself? (Q9) *God’s absolute holiness showed Isaiah that he had unclean lips, a reference to Isaiah’s sin.*

The holiness of the Spirit is very important in relation to the believer. *Holy* immediately identifies Him as One Who is utterly and absolutely opposed to all that is wrong. He is the foe of dishonesty, cheating, filth, and all other wicked things that are spawned in the human heart. When a believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, he will begin to note the Spirit’s influence in his life. Negatively, the Holy Spirit will produce guilt and feelings of regret or uneasiness when the believer sins. Positively, the Holy Spirit will help the believer to have holy motives, thoughts, words, and deeds as the Spirit empowers the believer to be holy as God is holy (1 Pet. 1:15, 16).

The Holy Spirit is omnipresent. *Omnipresent* means that He is everywhere present at the same time. The psalmist appropriately asked, *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?* (Ps. 139:7). The writer expressed overwhelming confidence that the Holy Spirit was present everywhere. He would not be absent from the Spirit in any conceivable place.

The Spirit’s attribute of omnipresence helps us understand why it is possible for Him to be present always with each believer on earth. It gives us confidence that no lonely, needy, suffering, tempted, or troubled believer is ever alone. The blessed Comforter is always with him. Even *the darkness hideth not from thee* (Ps. 139:12). The Holy Spirit is everywhere all the time. Why? Because He is God.

**ASK:** Of what help is an awareness of the Spirit’s omnipresence to the imprisoned believer in Iran? (Q10) *The Spirit’s presence strengthens the Iranian believer to persevere and to endure the hardship with joy.*

The Holy Spirit is also omnipotent, meaning He possesses unlimited power. The book of Job speaks of *the spirit of God as the breath of the Almighty* (Job 33:4), equating the Holy Spirit with the Almighty God. There is nothing that is outside of the Spirit’s ability to perform so long as it does not violate His holiness. That is amazing when we consider the omnipotent Spirit lives in all believers. That’s why John could say, greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

## B. He works as God

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1, revealing the words *Creates* and *Regenerates* under the title *Works as God*.

The Holy Spirit does things that only God can do. For instance, Who but God can create? This is an exclusively divine activity, yet the Holy Spirit is stated to have participated in the original creation (Gen. 1:2).

**READ:** Psalm 104:30. **ASK:** What did the psalmist say about the Spirit’s involvement in creation? (Q11) *The Holy Spirit gives life to created beings.*

The Holy Spirit: A Divine Person	
<b>DIVINE</b> Has attributes of God Holiness Omnipresence Omnipotence	<b>PERSON</b> Has attributes of a person Intellect Emotion Will
Works as God Creates Regenerates	Works as a person Prays Teaches
Referred to as God Acts 5:3, 4	Referred to as a person John 14:26; 15:26

Further testimony to the Virgin Birth: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–37.

The mighty Spirit Who is able to create something out of nothing must be God. What about the Holy Spirit's part in our Lord's human birth? Mary was told that her child would be produced by the power of the Spirit (Luke 1:35). Only God could produce a human embryo without human fertilization. Jesus' conception was a miracle, a divine work wrought by God the Holy Spirit.

One further testimony to the deity of the Spirit is His work in regenerating the sinner, bringing him to new life in Christ. Every child of God has been *born of the Spirit* (John 3:6). It is God Who brings us out of our death in sins and gives us life in Christ.

### C. He is referred to as God

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1, revealing the title *Referred to as God*.

In the days of the apostles, a couple named Ananias and Sapphira tried to deceive their fellow church members. They brought an offering to God, pretending to give all the proceeds from the sale of some property, when in fact they were keeping some of the money.

**READ:** Acts 5:3, 4. **ASK:** To Whom did Ananias and Sapphira lie? (Q12) *To the Holy Ghost and to God.*

As Peter uncovered the couple's religious sham, he presented the Holy Spirit's deity. Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit (5:3), Who is God (5:4). The Spirit is no less than God Himself.

We need an emphasis on the deity of the Spirit today when careless living is all too common among God's people. Believers' flesh-driven lives may be hidden from their pastor and other Christian friends, but God the Holy Spirit sees them as they really are.

### III. The Holy Spirit Is a Personal Blessing

The Holy Spirit is not to be thought of as some lonely, remote deity, hidden in celestial glory and oblivious to human need. He is the member of the Godhead Whose responsibility is to relate divine truth personally to people.

#### A. He is the Spirit of God

When referring to His sanctifying ministry, Paul called him the *Spirit of our God* (1 Cor. 6:11). This title for the Holy Spirit is used frequently in Scripture. By this title the Spirit is related to God the Father (*God*) and the believer (*our*). He is the Spirit Who interprets God to us. What does God want us to do? How does He want us to do it? The Spirit makes God *our* God in a very real, daily, and personal sense.

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 6:9–11. **ASK:** What transformations are listed in verse 11? (Q13) *Washed, sanctified, justified.*

This same Scripture indicates that the Holy Spirit works in perfect conjunction with the other Persons of the Trinity. Christ and the Holy Spirit both have a part in the sanctifying of the believer. No jealousy, no rivalry, no antagonism, and no conflict exists between the members of the Godhead, nor has there ever been from





all eternity. The Holy Spirit does not seek to invade the work of God the Son, nor vice versa. The Holy Spirit accomplishes His work in perfect harmony with the other Persons. This serves as a stimulating example to believers in our ministries for Christ.

### **B. He is the Spirit of grace**

A personal designation for the Holy Spirit is found in Hebrews 10:29, where He is called the *Spirit of grace*. Between the sinner and an awful judgment (*without mercy*; Heb. 10:28) stands the Spirit of grace. He pleads with men and unveils the riches of God's grace. He warns of Hell and points men to Calvary. He calls in grace, presents God's grace, and lifts up the Christ of grace.

**ASK:** What difference would it make in your life if the Spirit was void of any grace? (Q14)

What a strong picture of God's concern for a lost world is painted for us in this title. The Holy Spirit works through the Word and faithful witnesses, pointing people to Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. He presents salvation by grace through the hearts and lips of God's people. But hardhearted men have insulted (*done despite*; 10:29) the Spirit of grace. They reject His gracious pleadings and ignore His solemn warnings. How grieved He is at their refusal.

### **C. He is the Spirit of glory**

Christians have always suffered in this world, and they always will because this world is not their home. Its ways, pleasures, ambitions, and methods are not compatible with a believer's heart's desires. In light of these facts, Peter encouraged suffering believers in his day not to despair (1 Pet. 4:12–19). As the Shekinah glory of the Lord hovered over the people of God in the Old Testament (Exod. 33:9, 10), so the Lord will hover over His New Testament saints as they suffer for Him in this world. He will bear them up and encourage them by reminders of the coming glory which they will share with Christ, the Head of the Church.

Peter's expression, *resteth upon* (1 Pet. 4:14), contains the thought of refreshment or strengthening. During fiery trials the Spirit Who lives in us will refresh and strengthen us. He is the witness to our present glory—to belong to God—and is the guarantee of our future glory—to live with and enjoy God forever.

**TESTIMONY:** Share a time when the Spirit encouraged you. (Q15)

## **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

### **The Start of a New Relationship**

**ASK:** Have you trusted in Christ as your Savior? If not, why not? (Q16)

Only believers have their sins forgiven and the Holy Spirit indwelling them. If the Spirit is not in you, then you are lost in your sins and headed for an eternity separated from God. Don't hesitate to trust in Christ as your Savior. Start a new relationship with the Spirit today by believing in Christ for salvation (John 3:16; Acts 16:31).

## **A Relationship Rekindled**

**ASK:** When you think of the Holy Spirit, do you consider Him a stranger or a close friend? Explain. (Q17)

**ASK:** What might you do to strengthen your relationship with and dependence on the Holy Spirit? (Q18)

Pray that your class would not see this course as merely an intellectual exercise. Pray that their understanding of the Spirit would translate into a renewed spiritual life.