

Native New Day

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The Holy Spirit: God

Often those who don't understand Native culture think Native people worship nature or regard nature as God. They don't understand that Native Christians

believe they *understand* the Creator better *through* the beautiful things He has created. We can see what the Creator is like in the gentleness of the flowers, in the balance of nature, in the purity of the snow, and in the strength of the mountains. These are the works of His hands.

Key Thought. As we meditate on God’s creation, we understand many things about His character and His love. It isn’t the creation, but only the Creator Himself who can guide our minds and change our lives. It is the work and privilege of the third member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, to give us strength to overcome temptation if we will just allow Him to.

BIBLE ANSWERS

1. In addition to the Father and the Son, what other member of the Godhead was present during the creation of this world? Genesis 1:1–2. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . And the _____ was hovering over the face of the waters.” *(All quotations from the Bible in these lessons are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.)*

I t isn’t the creation,
but only the
Creator Himself
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NOTE: The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Godhead who shared in creating our world. The fact that He is called a “Spirit” doesn’t mean He is just an “influence.” He is a distinct person, not a vague blurry “something.” The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is a personal being who thinks and shows feelings (grieving) when we sin (Ephesians 4:30).

2. What did Jesus call the Holy Spirit? John 14:16.
“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another _____.”



Through life’s trials, when we are lonely or discouraged, God will give us strength.

NOTE: When we are lonely, discouraged, or frustrated, remember Jesus said that through the power of the Holy Spirit He will come to help us (John 16:5-8; Matthew 28:20). Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit has a personality. He will comfort us by His protective presence. He will give us emotional and physical strength through our trials and answers to our questions.

The Godhead, which includes Jesus and the Holy Spirit, have our best interests in mind. They are the same in their love for us.

3. How do we know that the Holy Spirit has a personality? Ephesians 4:30. “And do not _____ the Holy Spirit of God.”

NOTE: One reason we know the Holy Spirit is a personality is because we can't “grieve” an influence or a force which lacks thinking and feelings. The Bible gives us an example of a man named Ananias who grieved the Holy Spirit by deliberately lying concerning spiritual matters, not listening to the Holy Spirit's leading (Acts 5:3-4).

4. How does the Holy Spirit work with us? Isaiah 30:21. “Your ears shall _____ a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’” (See also John 16:8, 13.)

NOTE: Have you ever been lost on a dark, cloudy night and wondered how to get home? Then as you come over a hill you see the lights of your house in the distance. That light gives you hope and is a guide which leads you home. The Holy Spirit has promised to guide



us through the problems of life. Some people have actually heard a voice telling them what to do. Others have had a strong impression in their minds which gives them direction. All of us are directed by the principles of Scripture which the Holy Spirit guided the prophets

and apostles to write. These are some of the ways the Holy Spirit works with you and me.

5. Of what three things will the Holy Spirit convict us? John 16:8. “And when He has come, He will convict the world of _____, and of _____, and of _____.” (See also John 14:26.)

 **On a dark night, a light gives us hope and guides us home. The Holy Spirit is like that.**

NOTE: How do you know when you have done something wrong? There is something inside of you that we call a conscience that tells you when you have sinned. And how does this come about? It comes by the Holy Spirit speaking to your mind. The Holy Spirit leads you to understand what you have done wrong and that you need to truly repent of your sin. He helps you see your need of Jesus and urges you to turn to Him for forgiveness and help.

The Holy Spirit teaches us about Jesus (John 15:26). Through Scripture the Holy Spirit tells us how Jesus won the right to forgive our sins. He longs for us to allow Him to guide us through our frustrations and to give us strength to overcome destructive habits.

This is only the beginning of what the Holy Spirit will do for you and me. He has gifts to give you. Two of the gifts He offers to you are joy and peace, in a world where few have peace today (Romans 14:17). These gifts are ours just for the asking.

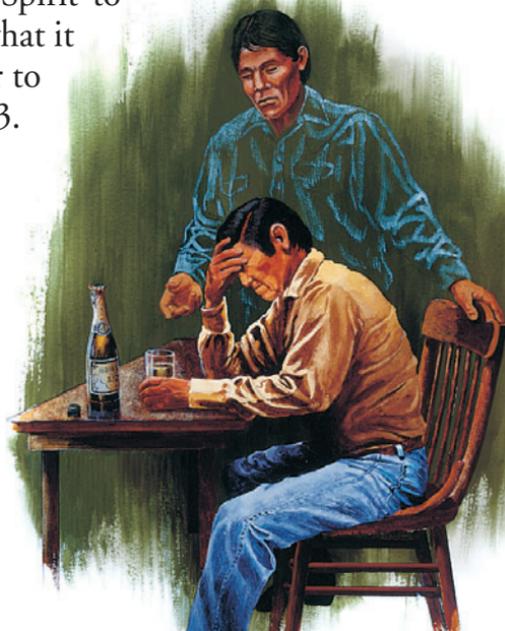
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he Holy Spirit helps us see our need of Jesus and urges us to let Him help us.

6. What will the Holy Spirit pour into the hearts of those who believe in Jesus? Romans 5:5. “Now hope does not disappoint, because the _____ of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

NOTE: The Holy Spirit can make us unselfish individuals. One of the most remarkable things that happens when a person decides to let God lead him/her is the change that takes place in his/her life. That person becomes much more kind and considerate of others. People can't help but see the change. The Holy Spirit puts in our hearts the desire to be a blessing and a help to other people. This change comes to everyone who chooses to allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. This is what it means to be “born again” or to walk a new path (John 3:3. See also John 14:17-23.)

7. What did David ask God not to take away from him? Psalm 51:11. “Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your _____ from me.”



NOTE: There is a limit to how long the Holy Spirit will continue to work with a person who doesn't want to be led by Him. The limit is totally determined by the person, not by the Holy Spirit. We can choose to accept or reject the urging to do what is right, which the Holy Spirit gives us. True peace and fulfillment are experienced by those who allow the Holy Spirit to lead them. But helpless, hopeless feelings can come to those who reject the Holy Spirit's encouragement to follow Jesus and do what is right.

In a world where few have peace today, true peace can be experienced by those who allow the Holy Spirit to lead them.

Closing Thought. A story is told about a young man who had spent many months training a mourning dove to eat food from his hand. The timid dove had learned to trust the man. When it needed food the young man would be there with his hand open. People were amazed to see how the pet dove was not afraid to come to him.

As time passed, the young man began to have personal problems with drinking and drugs. He didn't pay much attention to the dove. Then, he began to tease the bird by opening his hand with food in it. When the dove flew to him and lit on his hand, the young man teasingly closed his hand as the dove tried to eat the food.

The dove would fly away and then return again for the food. But when he again tried to eat, the man again



closed his fist. He kept this up until finally the dove learned that the hand would be closed when he came. So the dove flew away, never to return.

The same is true of our hearts. The Holy Spirit can help us and give us wonderful gifts only if our hearts are open. He will not force Himself on us. If we continue to close our hearts to the call of the Holy Spirit, He eventually has no choice but to leave. The aim and goal of every Christian should be to always keep the heart open to God's leading. You will experience wonderful new life the Holy Spirit wants to give you if you will allow Him to live in your heart.

Next Lesson. We will find out why the Bible is the most important book ever written.



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The Great Spirit: God

Read through the lesson, then fill in this Answer Sheet. You should refer back to the lesson to find the correct answers. Referring to the lesson helps fix the answers in your mind.

Place an X before each TRUE statement.

1. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is:

- simply the “influence” or “force” of God.
- a separate, equally powerful personality and one of the three members of the “Godhead.”

2. As a member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit:

- has the same loving concern for us that we see in Jesus.
- does not become involved with human beings.

3. Because the Holy Spirit is an actual being and personality:

- He can “feel” our sorrows and be “grieved” by our rejection of His leading.
- nothing we can do will have any effect on Him at all.

4. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

- To be our “Comforter.”
- To force us to do right.

5. The Holy Spirit convicts us of right and wrong in order to:

- help us recognize our sins and repent of them.
- assist us in overcoming our sins.

6. What changes does the Holy Spirit make in our lives?

- He helps us to become kind and loving people.
- He helps us understand all of the Bible.

7. Why does the Holy Spirit stop trying to influence some people?

- Because a person forgets to pray every day.
- Because a person chooses to continually reject the influence or leading of the Holy Spirit.

Answers to questions most often asked about the Holy Spirit.

Is God the Holy Spirit a real personality like God the Father and God the Son?

- Yes. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “Him,” not “it” (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit has a mind (Romans 8:27). The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians

4:30). The Holy Spirit speaks to us (Isaiah 30:21). The Holy Spirit can hear us (Psalm 10:17).

Does the Holy Spirit give power and strength to us beyond our own abilities?

- Yes, when we are “born again . . . of water and the Spirit” (John 3:3-5), the Holy Spirit gives us “newness of life” (Romans 6:4). This is a new quality of life with new capabilities that translate into “the fruit of the Spirit . . . love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23). And “the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses” and in our prayers and “makes intercession for us” (Romans 8:26).

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