Grace Commons

The Friendly Ghost

Pneumatology 101

A Three-Week Course on the Holy Spirit

Instructor: Anthony Ceder | Sundays, October 11, 18, and 25, 2026 | 1 hour each session

Course Description

The Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity many Christians know least about, and sometimes feel least comfortable talking about. This course takes the old, slightly spooky name "Holy Ghost" and replaces the fear with understanding. Over three weeks we will ask who the Spirit is, what the Spirit does, and what it looks like to live by the Spirit's power in ordinary life and in the church.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, participants should be able to:

- Explain why the Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity and not an impersonal force.
- Describe the Spirit's work from creation through Pentecost and into the life of every believer.
- Identify the fruit and gifts of the Spirit and explain how each is meant to serve the church and the world.
- Name one or two concrete practices for walking in step with the Spirit.

Week 1 | October 11

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Big idea: The Spirit is a divine person, fully God, present with God's people from the very beginning.

Week 1 - Homework Assignments

a. Save an empty chair for him at least once this week and invite Him to be present

b. Read the scriptures below and write a brief letter to the Holy Spirit expressing your gratitude for who He is. Try to lean on scripture to inform your words.

c. Go for a walk with just the Holy Spirit this week. Ask him to communicate with you. Listen.

Key Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 139:7-10; Matthew 28:19; John 14:15-27; Acts 5:3-9; Acts 7:51, Matthew 1:18, John 16:13-14, Isaiah 63:10, Hebrew 10:29, Matthew 12:31-32, Ephesians

Week 2 | October 18

What Does the Spirit Do?

Big idea: The Spirit brings us to new life in Christ and then shapes us to look like Christ.

Key Scripture: John 3:1-8; John 16:7-15; Acts 2:1-41; Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:16-25

Week 3 | October 25

Why does He matter?

Big idea: The Spirit gives every believer gifts for the good of others and invites us to be continually filled.

Key Scripture: Acts 1:8; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; Ephesians 5:18

Optional Reading

- *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan
- *Who is the Holy Spirit?* By R.C. Sproul
- *The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power in Your Life* by Billy Graham
- *Keep in Step with the Spirit* by J. I. Packer
- *God's Empowering Presence* by Gordon D. Fee: the Spirit in Paul's letters

Notes for Participants

No preparation is required. Bring a Bible, an open mind, and any questions you have always wanted to ask about the Holy Spirit. Questions are welcome at every stage of the conversation.

Romans 8:9 says, “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

1 Corinthians 6:19–20: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price” (NIV).

“another Counselor to be with [them] forever” (14:16 NIV).

“It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7 NIV).

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13).

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (2:38).

1 Thessalonians 5:19, “Do not quench the Spirit.”

“What does the Spirit do? His works are ineffable in majesty, and innumerable in quantity. How can we even ponder what extends beyond the ages? What did He do before creation began? How great are the graces He showered on creation? What power will He wield in the age to come? He existed; He pre-existed; He co-existed with the Father and the Son before the ages. Even if you can imagine anything beyond the ages, you will discover that the Spirit is even further beyond.

-St. Basil the Great-”

the book of Job, “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (33:4 NIV).

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

In John 14:17, we read that the Spirit “dwells with you and will be in you.”

“How is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? … What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God” (5:3–4 TNIV).”

“He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Fifth, the Spirit has emotions. For a long time, whenever I read that we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30),

Sixth, the Holy Spirit has His own desires and will. In 1 Corinthians we read that the gifts of the Spirit are "empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills" (12:11).

These are theological words that essentially mean that the Spirit is all-powerful (e.g., Zech. 4:6), present everywhere (e.g., Ps. 139:7–8), and all-knowing (e.g., 1 Cor. 2:10b), respectively.

The Spirit helps us speak when we are in precarious situations and need to bear witness (Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12).

(Ps. 143:10; John 14–16; Acts 9:31; 13:2; 15:28; 1 Cor. 2:9–10; 1 John 5:6–8).

(Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:26; Eph. 3:16–19).

The Spirit bears witness to us that we are His children (Rom. 8:15–16).

(John 16:7–11; 1 Thess. 1:5).

(2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:22–23).

The Holy Spirit works to glorify Christ (John 16:14),

(3:16–19 NIV)

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom. 8:15–17)"

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.