



WALKING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many of us feel stuck with a faith that lives mostly in our heads.

We believe in God, but feel like something is missing. We long for something deeper—real help, real change, real power. Why is this? Because we were made not to just know about God, but to actually walk with Him. So what does it look like to truly walk with God by engaging His Holy Spirit?

We'll look at Scripture to address some misunderstandings that may be holding you back and discover practical ways to authentically engage the Holy Spirit. You'll walk away not only with clarity about what the Bible actually teaches regarding the Holy Spirit, but also with confidence about how you can get the help and power you need by walking with Him.

BIG PICTURE

A "Biblical Theology" of the Holy Spirit

PART 1: CREATION

The Spirit animates humans by breathing his personal life force into them.

Key Texts

- Genesis 1:1-5; 2:7; 3:8; Job 27:3 (Ruach)

PART 2: FALL

Humans reject God and lose access to the Spirit's full power and life.

Key Texts

- Genesis 3:22-24; 6:3 (Curse)

PART 3: ISRAEL

The Spirit dwells among Israel and empowers specific people for specific tasks.

Key Texts

- Genesis 41:37-40 (Joseph)
- Exodus 16:9-10; Isaiah 63:10-14 (Glory Cloud)
- Judges 3:9-10 (Othniel)
- 1 Samuel 16:13 (David)

PART 4: PROPHETS

The Spirit empowers prophets to unveil his restoration plan.

Key Texts

- Micah 3:8 (Conviction)
- Ezekiel 36:24-30 (New hearts)
- Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Reunification)
- Joel 2:28-29 (All flesh)
- Isaiah 61:1-3 (Messenger)

PART 5: JESUS

The promised Messiah comes to forgive sin and show us what a Spirit-empowered human looks like.

Key Texts

- Luke 1:35 ("Hovers")
- John 1:29-34 (Baptism)
- Luke 4:16-21 (First sermon)
- John 3:5-6 (Born again)
- John 14:15-17 (Helper)
- John 19:30 (Cross)
- Romans 1:4 (Resurrection)
- John 20:22 ("Ruach")

PART 6: CHURCH (YOU ARE HERE)

The Spirit begins to indwell humans again and invites the whole world to take part of the new creation.

Key Texts

- Acts 1:1-5 (Power to witness)
- Acts 2:1-21 (Pentecost)
- Romans 8:1-17 (New life!)
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-14 (New family!)
- Galatians 5:16-26 (New life style!)

What do we Believe?

A "Systematic Theology" of the Holy Spirit

EFCA Statement of Faith: Article 6 "The Holy Spirit"

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

This means the Holy Spirit:

1. Is a person (John 14:16-17)
2. Points lost people to Jesus (John 16:8-11; Romans 3:19-24)
3. Makes sinners into saints (John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
4. Adopts us as sons and daughters (Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:15-17)
5. Fills us with His personal presence (John 14:16-17)
6. Helps us hear God's voice in the Scriptures (John 14:26)
7. Helps us become a counter-cultural community of love (Galatians 5:16-25)
8. Empowers every believer to serve (1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-13)
9. Continually fills us to overflowing (Ephesians 5:18-20; Acts 4:31)

Quick answers to the 15 Biggest Questions

1. Are the "miraculous" spiritual gifts for us today?

- Continuationists (Pentecostals, Charismatics & Global Church) - "Absolutely"
- Cessationists (Reformed, Baptists) - "Absolutely not"
- Cautious Continuationists (Ryan's view) - "Yes, but the main thing is fruitfulness"

The EFCA is open to all the above.

2. How do I know I have the Holy Spirit?

- If you trust Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit. No extra experience required.

3. Is it wrong to want more from the Holy Spirit?

- No. Wanting more is absolutely biblical.

4. How do I find out what my spiritual gift is?

- Start serving
- Ask trusted believers for training and feedback

5. What habits help me walk with the Holy Spirit?

- Prayer, Scripture, obedience, repentance, community and paying attention to God's presence daily. Stay away from anything you wouldn't want in God's temple (you).

6. What mistakes might be holding me back as I walk with the Holy Spirit?

- Underestimating Him
- Ignoring Him
- Chasing ecstatic experiences
- Treating Him like an impersonal force

7. How do I discern whether I'm hearing from the Holy Spirit or the pizza I ate last night?

- Check Scripture
- Seek wise counsel
- Ask: does this seem like something Jesus would do?
- Move forward with confidence and humility

8. What is the difference between spiritual gifts and natural talents?

- Natural talents are how you are wired and can be about your own mission.
- Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities the Spirit gives to contribute to *His* mission.
- Both talents and gifts require training.

9. Can I grieve or resist the Holy Spirit?

- Yes - the Holy Spirit is personal. Sin, stubbornness and pride can dull your responsiveness.
- The Holy Spirit may not love what you do, but He always loves you.

10. Does the Holy Spirit speak audibly today?

- God can do anything, but most guidance comes through Scripture, wisdom and in community.

11. Do I need a dramatic testimony to prove the Spirit is at work in me?

- No - faithfulness over time matters more than a flashy moment.

12. Can the Holy Spirit guide two Christians differently?

- Yes - the Holy Spirit leads personally but never contradicts Scripture or unity. This is why Christians should always disagree with humility and gentleness.

13. Should I pray to and worship the Holy Spirit?

- Yes - He is God and worthy of worship. However, you'll realize that since the Holy Spirit is in you, He will usually shift the focus off Himself and onto Jesus. He LOVES Jesus!

14. What is the simplest way to describe life in the Spirit?

- Daily dependence on God's presence and power that moves you forward in the Jesus mission.

15. What about blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? Am I in danger of committing that?

- Probably not! Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is an intentional, explicit rejection of Jesus by knowingly calling the Spirit's work evil.

How do I walk with the Holy Spirit?

A "Pastoral Theology" of the Holy Spirit.

Walking with the Holy Spirit Self-Assessment

How's your walk with the Holy Spirit? Use this Bible-based self-assessment to gauge your spiritual health. Use the results to further growth.

1 = Strongly disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neither agree nor disagree | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly agree

1. <i>I have a growing sense that I belong to God and am loved by Him</i>	1	2	3	4	5
2. <i>I can see the Holy Spirit strengthening my character over time</i>	1	2	3	4	5
3. <i>I am becoming more sensitive to my sin</i>	1	2	3	4	5
4. <i>I look to the Holy Spirit for guidance in my everyday decisions</i>	1	2	3	4	5
5. <i>I experience growing love for the lost</i>	1	2	3	4	5
6. <i>I have a growing love of worshipping Jesus</i>	1	2	3	4	5
7. <i>I enjoy being with other Christians</i>	1	2	3	4	5
8. <i>I enjoy reading the Bible and it makes sense to me</i>	1	2	3	4	5
9. <i>I live with hope that carries me through difficult times</i>	1	2	3	4	5
10. <i>I am discerning, developing and using my spiritual gifts</i>	1	2	3	4	5

Prayer Guide

Want to grow in your dependence on the Holy Spirit?
Use these biblical prayer prompts in your personal prayer time.

1. "Help me share my testimony boldly and effectively." (Acts 1:8)
2. "Help me know God, especially through His Word." (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
3. "Help, I have no idea how to pray right now!" (Romans 8:26)
4. "Teach me what to say to my non-Christian friends and family." (Luke 12:11-12)
5. "Make me more like Jesus." (2 Corinthians 3:18)
6. "Give me more of the Holy Spirit." (Luke 11:13)
7. "Give me confidence that I'm your beloved son/daughter." (Romans 8:15-16)
8. "Help me love the things You love." (Galatians 5:16-17)
9. "Increase my ability to overflow with God's love." (Ephesians 3:16-19)
10. "Help me be a peacemaker." (Ephesians 4:2-3)
11. "Show me my gifts and where I fit in the Body of Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:31)
12. "Help my friend see how their sin is leading them down a dark path." (John 16:8)
13. "Please bring revival to our church." (Acts 2:42-47)

Want to keep learning?

Here are some recommended resources:

<i>Forgotten God</i> (book by Francis Chan)	A passionate, motivating call to take the Holy Spirit seriously in daily life.
<i>The Familiar Stranger</i> (book and YouTube podcast by Tyler Staton)	All about relating to the Holy Spirit personally.
<i>Guide on the Holy Spirit</i> by the Bible Project: bibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit/	A visual guide to what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit.
<i>Delighting in the Trinity</i> (book by Michael Reeves)	A simple, beautiful book from a renowned theologian about how the Holy Spirit draws us into relationship with the triune God.
<i>Gift and Giver</i> (book by Craig Keener)	A short, thoughtful conversation by a renowned New Testament Scholar that cuts through the confusion about Spiritual Gifts.
<i>A Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit</i> (book by Trevor Burke & Keith Warrington)	A thorough overview of how the Holy Spirit shows up in the biblical story from Genesis to Revelation.
<i>Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God</i> (book by Gordon Fee)	A theological examination of Paul's writing about how the Holy Spirit shapes Christian identity and community.