

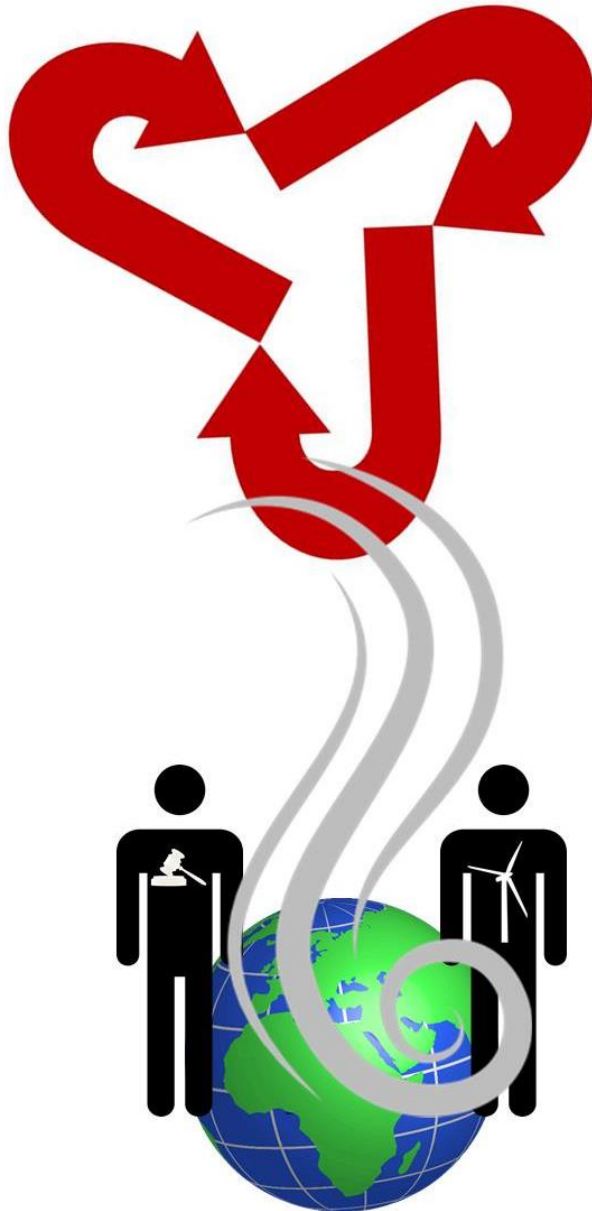
PICTURE THIS!

The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!
September – December 2016*

Week #3 – The Holy Spirit

Picture It!



Caption It!

The Holy Spirit is God's personal working presence in the world, convicting unbelievers and indwelling believers for spiritual life.

Save It!

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:14, 16

Picture it!

1. The Holy Spirit is God!
 - a. The Holy Spirit is represented by one of the three red arrows that depict the Trinity of God.
 - b. As we have learned, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit form a perfectly unified relationship in which each person selflessly loves and honors the others sacrificially.

2. The Holy Spirit is Spirit!
 - a. In the Bible, the word spirit is the same word as air or wind. This is why the Holy Spirit is represented in the picture as a wind flowing from the bottom red arrow of the Trinity diagram.
 - b. Of course, it isn't just the Holy Spirit that is spirit! The Bible says that God is Spirit (John 4:24). Although God the Son has taken on an eternal body, His resurrected body has both a physical and spiritual reality.
(see Luke 24:36-43).

3. The Holy Spirit is a Person!
 - a. Although it is easy to think of the Holy Spirit as a spiritual force, the Bible describes the Holy Spirit as a person:
 - i. The Holy Spirit is referred to with a male personal pronoun even though the Greek word for spirit (pneuma) is a neuter word (neither male or female).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).
 - iii. The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
 - iv. The Holy Spirit is a paraclete (John 14:26, translated helper, comforter or advocate) which is a person who comes alongside someone to help them.
 - v. The Holy Spirit is the giver of life (Romans 8:10).
 - vi. The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed against (Mark 3:29).
 - vii. The Holy Spirit is a teacher (Luke 12:12).
 - viii. The Holy Spirit intercedes for believers (Romans 8:27).

4. The Holy Spirit is Powerful!

- a. The wind in the picture represents the spiritual nature of the Holy Spirit, but it also represents the power of the Holy Spirit! Just as the unseen wind can power sailboats and produce electricity, the Holy Spirit, as God, is also very powerful.
 - i. The Holy Spirit creates! (Psalm 104:30).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit empowered the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:14; Matthew 12:28).
 - iii. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11).
 - iv. The Holy Spirit birthed the church (Acts 1:8).

5. The Holy Spirit is at Work!

- a. The Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who provides the working presence of God in the world. This is why the picture includes the world and shows the wind blowing down upon it.
- b. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (John 16:8). (Notice the judge's gavel shown in the stick person on the left.)
- c. The Holy Spirit produces salvation from start to finish.
 - i. The Holy Spirit Illuminates for salvation (1 Corinthians 2:10).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit brings about the new birth (John 3:6-8).
 - iii. The Holy Spirit seals believers permanently (Ephesians 1:13-14).
 - iv. The Holy Spirit indwells and empowers believers (Romans 8:9-11).
(Notice the wind turbine shown in the stick person on the right.)
 - v. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers (1 Cor. 12:4-11).
 - vi. The Holy Spirit produces godly fruit in believers (Gal. 5:22-24).

Panorama!

God is a relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the working presence of God in the world, inviting us into the relationship of the Trinity by making His home in God's people. Without the Holy Spirit, we would be enslaved to sin, unable to understand God's truth. The Holy Spirit produces salvation from start to finish. He gives life, He empowers and He seals the believer for eternity.

Selfie!

God wants to have a relationship with me that is deeply personal and powerful! The Holy Spirit will convict the unbeliever of his need of salvation. He also indwells believers to provide spiritual life and reassurance of their relationship with God. Through the power of the Spirit, I can be transformed into the likeness of Jesus and enabled to serve God and other people. This requires me to be filled with the Holy Spirit by faith.

Instagram!

Though the concept of the Trinity is a mystery, the person of the Holy Spirit reminds us that God is at work in the world and He made people for a spiritual relationship with Him! The Holy Spirit is able to transform any life through the new birth and empower every believer to live as a child of God.

Key Story!

The Holy Spirit Empowers the Church – Acts 2:1-14

- On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit arrived to convict the world of sin and to empower the followers of Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit filled believers to boldly preach the Gospel, even though they had previously been afraid to identify with Jesus.
- Before receiving the Holy Spirit Peter was a coward who denied Jesus, but after the Holy Spirit filled Him, he powerfully preached the Gospel at great risk.
- The Holy Spirit brought three thousand souls to salvation!

Key Questions!

1. Why is the Holy Spirit described as a wind? What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit?
2. What do the two people in the picture represent? Why does one have a wind turbine and the other a judge's gavel?
3. How is the Holy Spirit at work from the start to the finish of salvation?
4. In John 14:15-20 Jesus said it was better that He leave His followers so that He could send the Holy Spirit to them. What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit indwelling believers today?
5. Is the Holy Spirit a person or a force? How can we prove this from the Bible?
6. What does the Holy Spirit do in and for a believer? Find as many examples as you can from the Bible.
7. Who is responsible for producing the fruit of the Spirit in the believer? What is the believer's responsibility in this process? (Galatians 5:16-26).
8. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:7-21)? How does faith play a part in this filling?
9. What are some areas where you sense the Holy Spirit is at work in your life? What are some areas where you would like to see the Holy Spirit at work?
10. The Greek word 'paraclete' is used for the Holy Spirit in John 14:16, 26; John 15:26 and John 16:7. Notice how this word is translated in different versions of the Bible. You may even want to use the Internet to learn more about the meaning of the word 'paraclete.' What do these verses teach us about the Holy Spirit and His presence in our lives?