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Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
Morning Bible Study 11am
November 11, 2026

What Every Christian Should Know
"Who and What is the Holy Spirit?"

Earnest Salsberry, Jr., M.Div. | Pastor of Worship

Main Scriptures: John 14:15–17, 25–26
Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 1:2; John 16:13–15; Acts 5:3–4; 1 Corinthians 2:10–11

The Holy Spirit is not an emotion, an atmosphere, or an impersonal force. The Holy Spirit is God, personally present and active in the lives of believers. You cannot catch it, and you cannot create it.

John 14:16–17
Jesus promises His disciples another Helper who will remain with them.
Focus on three truths.

1. **The Holy Spirit is a Spirit that manifest in Person.**
   When Christians describe the Holy Spirit as a Person, it does not mean that the Spirit has a human body. We mean that the Spirit is personal rather than an impersonal force.

   Characteristics
   Speaks (Acts 13:2)
   Teaches (John 14:26)
   Guides (John 16:13)
   Can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
   Knows the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10–11)

2. **The Holy Spirit is God**
   In Acts 5:3–4, Peter speaks of lying to the Holy Spirit and then lying to God. This passage contributes to the biblical foundation for understanding the Spirit's deity. The Holy Spirit is not a lesser divine being or merely a representative of God. He is fully divine.

3. **The Holy Spirit is distinct from the Father and the Son.**
   In John 14:16, Jesus says He will ask the Father to give the disciples another Helper.
   Notice the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the passage. This introduces the doctrine of the Trinity, which we can explore more fully in another lesson.
   "The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being."

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Has the Holy Spirit always existed, or did it begin at Pentecost?

Genesis 1:1-2

Christians first encounter with the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts on the Day of Pentecost, but that was before Pentecost.

Old Testament
The Spirit hovered over the water, earth, and creation.
Anthropomorphic
Empowered people to do supernatural things.

New Testament
Evidence of Jesus promise
Empowerment of humanity (Helper)
Comforter
Teaches and Guides into truth.

Disclaimer: Everything thought, feeling and intuition is not the Holy Spirit. Spiritual discernment should also be accompanied and the foundation spiritual awareness.

The Holy Spirit is not something that we need to invite into the worship space. The Holy Spirit is always present and is God with us in the Spirit.

Reflection Questions:
Before this lesson, what did you think the Holy Spirit was before this lesson?
Did you know how the Holy Spirit functioned in the Trinity?
How will knowing the characteristics of the Holy Spirit help you in your walk with God?
How would you explain this lesson to someone that did not know about the Holy Spirit?