

GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part 32 of Foundations 260. John 14:15-17.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 5, 2025.

THE FORGOTTEN GOD

Today's message centers on God, the Holy Spirit.

- The often-overlooked and misunderstood Person of the triune God.
- He is the “forgotten God.”
- Yes, he has an essential role in the life of every believer.

JOHN 14:15-17: CONTEXT AND TEXT

Jesus told his disciples about his imminent betrayal and death. No doubt, they were devastated.

- So, Jesus consoled them with the promise of heaven:

John 14:1-3 (CSB) Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

- Then, he consoled them with the promise of the Holy Spirit:

John 14:15-18 (CSB) 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

THREE ASPECTS OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN OUR LIVES

1. The Holy Spirit Is Our Counselor - verse 16.

- The Spirit lives in everyone who loves and follows Jesus.
- “Another” is literally “another of the same kind.” He is God with us, just as Jesus was God with us.
- A “Counselor” comes alongside to help us, guiding, encouraging, and empowering us to do God’s will and work.
- He is God’s helping presence.
- The Spirit’s presence reveals a foundational truth: The Christian life cannot be lived without the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Philippians 2:13 (CSB) ... it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. (Also Galatians 5:22-23).

2. The Holy Spirit Is the Spirit of Truth - verse 17.

- Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). What would happen after he left?
- He promised the Spirit of Truth to continue to guide his followers:

John 14:25-26 (CSB) “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.”

- The Spirit “moved” the apostles to write Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- Today, the Spirit helps us read, believe, and understand the Bible.

1 Corinthians 2:10, 12b, 14 (CSB) Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ... 12 ... so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. ...

- This is why we pray for “illumination” before reading or teaching the Bible.

- Prayer for illumination:

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. The Holy Spirit Is With Us and In Us Forever - verses 16, 17.

- Jesus promised the Spirit would live in us permanently.
- One theologian commented on the necessity of the Spirit's indwelling:

"Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away, Christ stays in the past, the Gospel is a dead letter, the Church is simply an organization ... and Christian living is a slave morality" (Sorry, I lost the citation).

- Whatever we're going through, the Spirit is there, encouraging, guiding, empowering, and redirecting us and also pouring God's love into our hearts (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:16-19).

THE WONDERFUL SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Have you discovered the wonderful Spirit-filled life?

- It's a life where you know with confidence that God is with you and at work in you. You're never alone.
- The Holy Spirit is in you so you can ...
 - Count on him to help you understand and apply the Bible.
 - Trust him to guide you and give you wisdom.
 - Experience his power to do God's will and work.
 - Serve supernaturally in the grace gifts the Spirit gives you.
- Live the wonderful Spirit-filled life. Trust the Holy Spirit to be your Counselor and your supernatural helper every day.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's October 5th teaching and study guide. For more resources, visit www.famousgod.com/small-groups.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

- Why do you think some Christians might feel anxious, cautious, or hesitant about focusing on the Holy Spirit? What would it look like to correct misunderstandings while staying biblical?
- How does the Spirit's permanent presence help you in everyday life? Can anyone share a time when this truth felt especially real or needed? Have you ever tried to live for Christ without relying on the Spirit? What was the result?
- According to John 14 and 1 Corinthians 2, the Holy Spirit teaches and illuminates God's Word for us. When has the Spirit helped you understand or apply Scripture in a way you couldn't on your own?
- Can you describe a situation where you sensed the nudging, wisdom, or strength of the Spirit in making a decision or living out your faith?

Prayer Focus

- Pray to trust in and expect the Holy Spirit to help you do God's will.
- Pray that Cornerstone Church may become a truly Spirit-filled community.