

Rely on God's Resources (1): the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*Do you not know that **you are a temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

1 Corinthians 2:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹²*Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that **we may know the things freely given to us by God.***

Introduction

Over the next few Sundays, we'll explore the divine resources God has made available to us for everyday life. The first—and foundational—resource is the Holy Spirit.

Our understanding of the Holy Spirit must begin with Scripture. So, let's turn to God's Word to discover what it reveals about this powerful, living presence within us.

The Holy Spirit's Power and Recognition

One day, a Christian friend of mine was walking through his neighborhood. He heard loud music coming from a house down the street. Out of curiosity, he headed in that direction. When he arrived at the house where the music came from, he noticed that the gate was wide open. There were several bystanders, too. They all peeked into the house to see what was going on.

My friend joined the crowd. Inside, a shaman was performing rituals and dancing to the drums. Typically, the family would hire a shaman either to bless the house or to cast out an evil spirit that had made someone in the family sick. My friend had never seen anything like this before, so he stood there and watched for a few minutes.

Then, suddenly, the dance and music stopped. Everyone wondered what had happened. A couple of minutes later, the head of the household came out and asked if there were any Christians among the bystanders. No one except my friend raised their hand. Then, the owner begged him to leave so that they could continue with the rituals. My friend asked the owner why. The owner explained that, during the rituals, the shaman had sensed the nearby presence of a spirit far greater than the ones she was trying to appease. Furthermore, the presence of that greater spirit prevented her from continuing her dance. She had to stop and asked the head of the household if there were any Christians in the

family. When the owner said no, then, the shaman asked him to go outside and ask the bystanders. That's how he came to my friend.

As my friend left, he realized for the first time that he indeed carried within him a Spirit that is far greater than any other spirits. It is the Spirit of God, also known as the Holy Spirit.

The same thing happened to Jesus in the Gospel stories. Whenever evil spirits saw Him coming, they all cried out acknowledging Jesus as the Son of the Most High. In fact, these spirits knew who Jesus was long before people did. While people failed to see who Jesus was, all the spirits knew and recognized the Holy Spirit in Jesus right away. You see, in the spiritual world, all spirits know that there is a greater Spirit than themselves. They also know that this greater Spirit lives in believers in Christ. But how many of us know this truth? Not many. This brings us to 1 Corinthians 3:16, where Paul reminds the believers that the Spirit of God dwells in us, in our bodies.

The Temple of God: Our Bodies

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Do you not know? A literal translation would be: **You sure know this, don't you?** The Greek grammar here indicates that Paul expects an affirmative answer from the Corinthian believers. They are expected to respond, "Yes, we do."

Paul's question remains relevant to today's Christians. He's asking us: *You sure know that the Spirit of God dwells in you, don't you?* I am afraid, however, that many believers would still say, "No, I don't." This is one of the greatest spiritual tragedies among believers today. Many are unaware of the presence of God's Spirit within them.

This reflects the spiritual climate of the American Church. The Bible says that God is with us through His spirit in our hearts. Yet many believers are ignorant of this spiritual truth. Of course, we claim and believe that God is with us, yet we don't know how. Somehow, we believe that God is with us in a mysterious and supernatural way but never consider that He is with us in our bodies through His Spirit.

God's Spirit Dwells in You

Paul continues,

You are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells in you: So, here's the truth you must know: You are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells in you. Now, think about God's temple. What is the temple of God? It is the place where God dwells. Not physically, though, but spiritually, since God doesn't have a physical body like we do. He is a Spirit.

God's temple is the place where we come and worship God. It is the place where we offer our prayers and thanks to God. In today's text, Paul the apostle points out that that temple is our bodies where God dwells.

Get this: just as God dwells in His temple through His Spirit, so does He in our body through His Spirit. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 1:22: Holy Spirit in our hearts as mark of salvation, Galatians 4:6, Romans 5:5).

Let's be clear on the understanding of our body. Our body is no longer ours but God's. It belongs to God not to us. God is the owner, and we are stewards. Taking good care of bodies is the same as taking good care of God's temple. For example, a person who smokes, as a matter of fact, fills God's temple with smoke.

The same truth applies to the Church, the body of Christ. The Church is not just another social gathering, like clubs. Rather, it is the place where God dwells among His children. That's why Jesus says that wherever two or three gather in His name, it becomes a church, and God is present.

You may wonder: How can God dwell **in our hearts through the Holy Spirit?**

A farmer's wife in Korea once asked her pastor, "How can the Spirit of God live in millions of believers at the same time?" The pastor answered: "Sister, think of the full moon shining on countless rice paddies — each puddle reflecting the same moon." She understood perfectly. God's Spirit dwells in each of us personally, powerfully, fully.

Now, let me tell you why God has given us His Spirit. We need to go to the second verse in today's reading, 1 Corinthians 2:12.

The Spirit of God vs. The Spirit of the World

1 Corinthians 2:12: ¹² *Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.*

Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from

God: Here, we see the spiritual dichotomy of the two spirits around us. God's spirit vs. the spirit of the world. God's Spirit dwells and works among His children. The spirit of the world dwells and works among non-believers.

Let me repeat: we the believers received the Spirit of God. People who don't know Christ received the spirit of the world. Notice here the *past tense* (i.e., we have received). Not will receive, nor might receive, but already received the Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit in us. Yet, ignorant of this spiritual truth, many children of God live their lives without the Holy Spirit's aid.

The Danger of Spiritual Ignorance

Jesus says, any Christian who walks life's journey without the help of the Holy Spirit is like a spiritual orphan to God. Who are the orphans? They are the children left alone without parental protection and love, and they often become the target of mockery and harassment. E.g., I once read an article about the hard life of children in foster care. One boy named Christopher wrote: *"My brother and I grabbed our trash bags... and were dropped off at the door of an unfamiliar house"* (p. 47, Focus on the Family magazine, April/May 2025).

Naturally, this is exactly what our enemy—Satan, the spirit of this world—seeks to accomplish: to leave us feeling harassed, vulnerable, and lost. His tactics are nothing new. He relies on the same age-old strategies—worry, temptation, and fear—to keep us bound in spiritual darkness. He oppresses and torments us, as if we were spiritual orphans without shelter or defense.

Remember: Satan finds it far easier to harass those who are ignorant of God's truth than those who are well-versed in it. How do we know that God loves us? Because Scripture clearly tells us so. How do we know we are God's adopted children? Because the Bible not only affirms this truth but also explains how we become His adopted children through Christ and in Christ.

If we neglect God's Word, we inadvertently do our adversary a tremendous favor while causing great harm to ourselves. We miss essential truths about our relationship with God through Jesus. We remain ignorant of the depth of our heavenly Father's love. We fail to understand what the Father has done to save us from our sins. Ultimately, we become like spiritual orphans—disconnected and vulnerable—because we do not truly know our Father in Heaven, nor do we understand our own identity as His beloved children.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit: Not Left as Orphans

Good news is this: Before leaving Earth, Jesus did something special for His disciples. He promised them that He would not leave them orphans. Instead, He would send the Helper and Comforter to each believer. Listen to what Jesus said to them in John 14:18, 25-26: *“¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you... ²⁵ These things I have spoken to you while remaining with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.*

In John 15:26, He promised again to send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate: ²⁶ *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify about Me.”* Let's go to 1 Corinthians 2:12.

The Purpose and Benefits of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:12: ¹² *Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.*

The Holy Spirit is given to us **so that we may know the things freely given to us by God:** Through the Holy Spirit, we understand what God has freely given us such as eternal life and salvation. Through the same Spirit, we may bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23): *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

This is your takeaway: The Holy Spirit is the number one resource God has provided in us for our heaven-bound journey. 24/7. Forever. I hope we will cover the baptism of the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit later. For instance, the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. God reveals what He has prepared for us by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

Conclusion

Embracing the Holy Spirit

Like my friend who discovered the power of the Holy Spirit's presence in that unexpected encounter, we too can experience this divine power working in our daily lives.

God never leaves us orphaned. He is always with us and within us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our guide, helper, teacher, advocate, truth-teller, and comforter. It is time that we turned to the Spirit of God within us for wisdom, guidance, and courage.

Let's say it in one voice with confidence, not as a ritual, but as a truth to live by: *"The Holy Spirit is in me. O, Spirit of Truth, guide me into Your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen."*