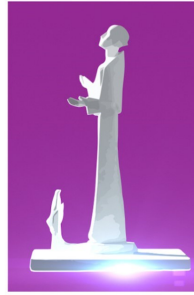


# EXPLORING THE BIBLE

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## Theme 5: The Bible's Big Themes

### Question 5e. Who does the Bible say the Holy Spirit is?

1. Read Acts chapter 2 and notice the actions of the spirit. Paul suggests that it is God's spirit that enables our ongoing connection to Christ, and the connection of others in other times and places.
2. Notice the impact that the gift of the Spirit had on those early Christians. In what ways is God's Spirit evident in your community?
3. Ever heard a new word for the first time, and suddenly everyone seems to be saying it? Well, read up on the gifts of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-26, and look out for them in the coming days and weeks.

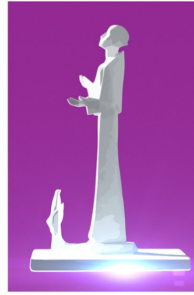
#### **Peter Kline**

So the Bible has lots of different things to say about the Holy Spirit from all different sorts of angles. One of the central themes in the New Testament though comes from Paul, and for Paul you might say that the Holy Spirit is what connects us to Christ, or what enables our ongoing connection to Christ and Christ's ongoing connection to us. So Paul often uses the phrase, 'the spirit of Christ'. For Paul the spirit is very intimately connected to who Christ is and vice versa. The spirit is what enables Christ to be open to the whole world. Christ was one person, but because of the spirit, Christ, in a way, can be present with and united with the whole world.

Also for Paul the spirit is what forms the church as the body of Christ. So the spirit is what knits believers together joins us together as members of Christ's body and that's a central thing for Paul. The Holy Spirit is what

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forms the Christian community as a community of love; this is also a central emphasis of Paul so if you think again of the fruits of the spirit, in Paul, in Galatians, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness etc these are all the gifts of the spirit that are given to believers as they are joined to Christ and as Christ is joined to us.

## **John Roundhill**

We get to find out about the Holy Spirit in the New Testament and in particularly at the story of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. It makes the disciples kind of go round and do these crazy things but it truly empowers them and they in a sense become the church.

So one way of seeing the Holy Spirit is this empowerment of God's people to become God's church. Christians believe the Holy Spirit is one part of the Trinity, you know, you've got the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and it's the sense that the Holy Spirit being God with us, in us, within us, working with us to be who we should be.