# THE HOLY SPIRIT

# Contents


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **02** | Letter | |
| **04** | The Holy Spirit within the Trinity | |
| **05** | The Holy Spirit throughout the Bible | |
| **08** | 26th of July | New Birth by the Holy Spirit |
| **12** | 2nd of August | Eyes Opened by the Holy Spirit |
| **16** | 9th of August | Fighting Sin in the Spirit's Power |
| **20** | 16th of August | New Life with the Holy Spirit |
| **24** | 6th of September | Gifted to Serve by the Holy Spirit |
| **28** | 13th of September | Sent by the Holy Spirit |
| **32** | 20th of September | Our Steadfast Helper, the Holy Spirit |

# Letter

Dear Church,

We're half way through 2026 and God continues to bless us with time together to hear his word, to be transformed by his grace and to rejoice as the family he has brought together in Jesus. This term, we will spend time considering the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

As Christ's church, our attention is primarily focused on the centre of the Christian message: the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. And this is good, right, and evidence of the Holy Spirit working in us! But for many Christians, this right focus can result in overlooking the Holy Spirit which can lead to feeling like he is absent. Among Christians all over the world, he is sometimes misunderstood, neglected, or thought about in ways contrary to what the Bible says about him. So how should we view the Holy Spirit? What part does he play in salvation and in our lives? How should we expect to see evidence of his work among us at WBC?

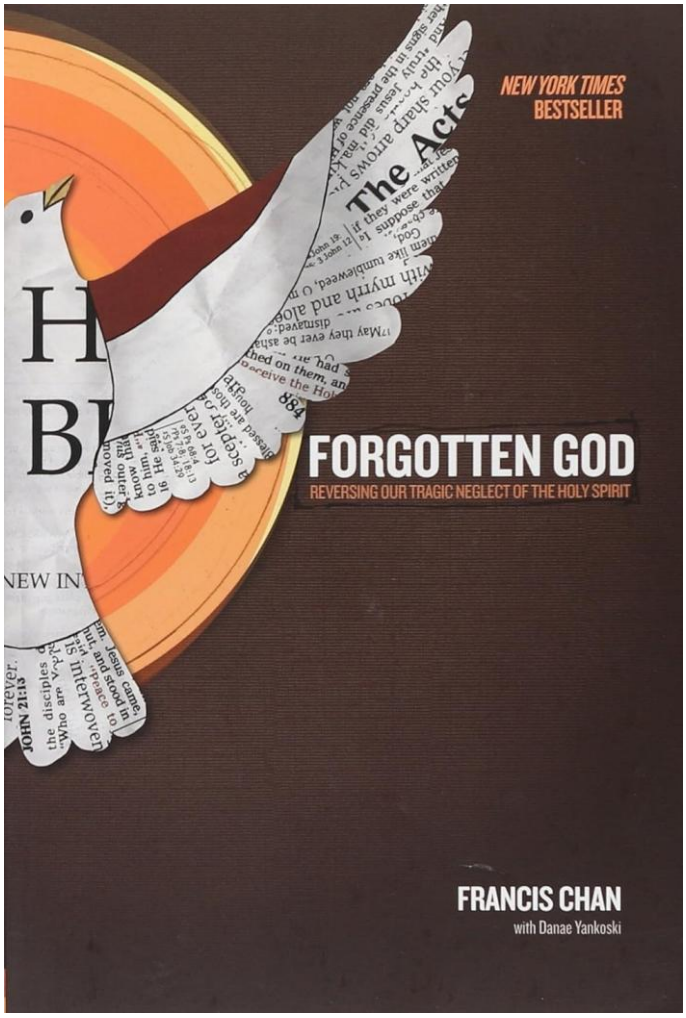
These are the types of questions we'll be grappling with as we make our way through this series. Our prayer across these weeks is that we would come to know the Holy Spirit more deeply, not simply in understanding, but in joy and love at his presence in us. That we would grow in confidence of the work of the Spirit, and walk according to it in following Christ. May this time together encourage us feel transformation he is undertaking in each of us, trusting him to continue the good work God has begun.

Your brother in Christ,

Michael

# BOOK OF THE TERM

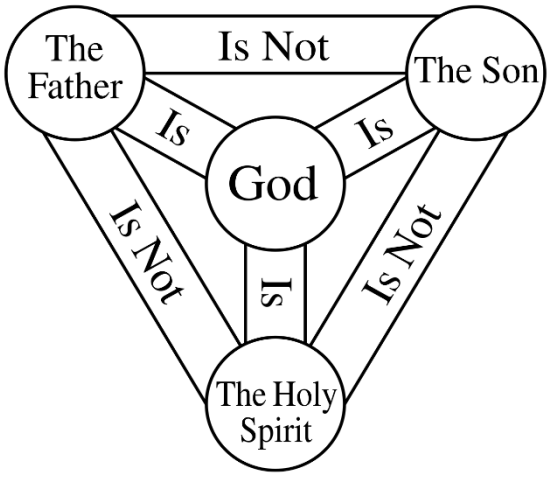
Book of the Term is back and it's a little different! Instead of selling physical books at church, we're encouraging you to source your own copy. Maybe an eBook? Maybe an audiobook? Maybe you could borrow it from a friend or from the library? How ever you get it, book club will be back on the 12th of September to meet and discuss our thoughts and reflections. The book for this term is…




In *Forgotten God*, Francis Chan challenges readers to consider whether the Holy Spirit is truly at work in their lives or whether he has perhaps become a neglected part of their faith. Grounded in Scripture, he explores the Spirit's role in empowering believers to know God more deeply, grow in holiness, and participate in God's mission.

# THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN THE TRINITY

A fundamental truth of the Christian faith is that the God we worship is three in one. There is no adequate analogy we can use to help us understand this truth, but God communicates it to us through his word and asks that we believe. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus commands his disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God the LORD is one." God is three persons in one being: Father, Son and Spirit.




While sharing the same divine essence and participating in some of the same actions (such as creation), the three persons also play distinct parts in the great plan of salvation. It's easy enough for us to grasp something of the Father and the Son, because we see that relationship represented in human families. In Scripture we see that the Father sends the Son and the Son dies to pay for our sin and rises as our eternal king. But what about the Holy Spirit?

Simply put, the Holy Spirit's role is to glorify Christ (John 16:14). As we delve into the Bible throughout this series we're going to see just how he does this: by living and working in the hearts of believers, helping us to understand God's word, making us more like Christ, equipping us for service, and assuring us that we belong to God. He is not an impersonal force or influence, but the third person of the Trinity, truly God and worthy of the same honour, praise and worship as the Father and the Son.

# THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

The word for "spirit" (*ruach* in the Hebrew Old Testament and *pneuma* in Greek New Testament) can be translated as "wind", "breath" or "spirit". This can lead us to think of him as a *part* of God, as something like divine breath. But throughout the Bible, we see that God's Spirit *is* God himself, his presence among and within his people as he guides and teaches them to follow his ways.

The Holy Spirit is there throughout the story of Scripture, revealing God's active presence, power, and work in creation and redemption. In the Old Testament, he's there at the beginning, hovering over the waters of creation (Genesis 1:2). He empowers his people to do his work (Exodus 31:1-5; Numbers 11:16-17), inspires divine words spoken through the prophets (Micah 3:8; Isaiah 48:16), and comes upon leaders and kings to guide them as they lead the people (Judges 6:34; 1 Samuel 16:13). His presence is everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12), he acts to bring supernatural strength (Judges 14:5-6) and new life (Ez 37:1-14).

On top of all of this, the Old Testament also makes promises about the future regarding God's Spirit. First, that he will rest on the coming Messiah (Isaiah 11:1-2, 61:1-3), and second that he will be poured out on his people (Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:26-28; Joel 2:28-32). These promises are fulfilled in the New Testament, where we see the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus and guide him (Matthew 3:16, 4:1; Luke 4:16-21), and we see the Spirit poured out on God's people (Acts 2:1-4, 38-39). And we today are still living out the fulfilment of that promise as he resides within us, having renewed our hearts he continually sanctifying us.

# HOME GROUP STUDY 1

This term our Home Group studies aim to straddle the sermons we hear in church. Each week we'll reflect on what we heard on Sunday in the *Letting it Settle* section, and then we'll think forward toward the next topic in the *Explore* section. For this week, though, we'll set the foundation for the rest of the series by sharing our understanding of the Holy Spirit, and exploring what it means that he gives us new birth and dwells within us!

## *Getting Started*

Share your understanding of the Holy Spirit. How do you think he relates to the Father, the Son and to us? (See Matthew 3:16-17).

What questions about the Holy Spirit do you hope to address through this series?

## *Explore - New Birth by the Holy Spirit*

### Read: John 3:1-8

Jesus tells Nicodemus that to enter the kingdom of God a person must be born again, or born of water and the Spirit. What do you think this means? (See also Titus 3:4-7).

How often do you think about the fact that you've been born again by the Spirit? How often should we think about it?

## Read Ephesians 1:13-14

Paul says the Holy Spirit is a "seal" and "deposit", marking those who have faith. What do you think this means?

Based on this, how do you think we can know whether we've received the Spirit as a deposit? (See also Romans 10:9-10).

What do the verses we've looked at in this study teach us about the Holy Spirit? What part does he play in our salvation?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

# SERMON NOTES

26th of JULY

## NEW BIRTH BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

# HOME GROUP STUDY 2

## *Letting it Settle - New Birth by the Holy Spirit*

Share your thoughts on the sermon from Sunday. What stood out to you?

If you're a Christian then you've been given new birth by the Holy Spirit and he resides within you! How does knowing this affect the way you see yourself and other Christians? (See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Where have you felt the Holy Spirit prompting you to grow or change as you live life according to your new birth?

## *Explore - Eyes Opened by the Holy Spirit*

Have you ever experienced a moment where "the lights came on" for you? Share what happened.

## Read Ephesians 1:13-20

How do these verses describe what the Holy Spirit does for us?

In what ways do you think the Spirit enlightens us to the truth about God and about us?

## Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

What differences are there between someone with the Holy Spirit, and someone without?

How does having the Holy Spirit help us navigate the choices and decisions we're faced with?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

# SERMON NOTES

2nd of August

## Eyes Opened by the Holy Spirit

# HOME GROUP STUDY 3

## *Letting it Settle - Eyes Opened by the Holy Spirit*

What's something you learned from the last sermon? What impact did it have on your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

How should we respond to having our eyes opened to the truths of the Bible through the Holy Spirit?

How can you discern whether the Spirit is guiding you in a particular direction? Share how he has been guiding you lately.

## *Explore - Fighting Sin in the Spirit's Power*

Have you ever broken a habit? Why did you decide to, and how did you do it?

## Read Romans 8:1-13

What's the connection between Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and us in verses 1-4?

Verses 5-13 describe two ways to live. What are they and what are the differences between them?

## Read Colossians 3:1-11

What reasoning does Paul give for the dramatic change he urges in believers?

The Holy Spirit works in us to put off these practices. Share how he's helped you put sin to death up to now, and confess together the areas of your life that still need to change.

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

# SERMON NOTES

9th of August

## Fighting Sin in the Spirit's Power

# HOME GROUP STUDY 4

## *Letting it Settle - Fighting Sin in the Spirit's Power*

Share your reflections from Sunday's sermon. What has God put on your heart lately?

How has God convicted you in the call to put off the old self?

Is there a particular habit or practice you'd like your Home Group to help you with as you live according to the Spirit?

## *Explore - New Life with the Spirit*

Share about a time you decided to make a big change. What was it like?

### Read Colossians 3:12-17

How do these verses describe our relationship with God as those he has changed through the Holy Spirit?

What does this mean for the life we now live and call each other to live?

Read Galatians 5:16-26

What do you think Paul means by “the fruit of the Spirit”?

Have you noticed God changing you in this way? What’s one area in particular you know God wants you to keep growing in?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

## *Break for Two Weeks*

The Home Group studies will pause for the next two weeks while we have our Compassion and Vision Sundays. You could use this break to gather socially for dinner or lunch next week, and then come to the church AGM the following week on the 25th! This is a great night of looking back over the last year and thanking God for what he’s done and praying for his blessing over what’s to come in the future as we seek to serve him.

# SERMON NOTES

16th of August

## New Life with the Holy Spirit

# HOME GROUP STUDY 5

## *Letting It Settle - WBC Vision*

What did you learn from Sermon on Sunday? What are the ways God has worked in WBC that we can thank him for?

How can we encourage each other with our shared vision?

How might you get involved in the ministry God has planned for WBC and beyond?

## *Getting Back into It*

Share your reflections on the Holy Spirit so far.
As we continue on, nominate a volunteer to make a short recording of how they've been challenged or encouraged for the compilation video we'll show in church at the end of the series.

## *Explore - Gifted to Serve by the Holy Spirit*

How do you feel when you use your skills or knowledge to help someone else?

## Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Share your thoughts on these verses. What's the relationship between the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, and the purpose of these gifts?

## Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

How do these verses describe the place of unity and diversity in the life of the church?

It's human nature to compare ourselves with one another. How does this passage reshape that instinct into an attitude that honours God over self? (See also 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

How do you think the Spirit has gifted you? How can you best use your particular gifts in faith and love?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

# SERMON NOTES

6th of September

## Gifted to Serve by the Holy Spirit

# HOME GROUP STUDY 6

## *Letting it Settle - Gifted to Serve by the Holy Spirit*

Share your thoughts on the last sermon. What stood out to you?

The Holy Spirit has equipped you with particular gifts. How does that make you feel? Is there a gift you think you might have, but would like God to grow it in you?

How can we encourage one another in the use of the different gifts God has given us?

## *Explore - Sent by the Holy Spirit*

What do you do when you're given a task that seems too difficult?

## Read Acts 1:4-8

What part does the Holy Spirit play in the sending of Jesus' disciples? (See also Acts 2:36-39).

What does this suggest about what it takes to be onboard with Jesus' mission?

## Read Acts 13:1-5

Share your thoughts on verse 2.

What's the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the church when it comes to mission?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

# SERMON NOTES

13th of September

## Sent by the Holy Spirit

# HOME GROUP STUDY 7

## *Letting It Settle - Sent by the Holy Spirit*

What did you take away from the last sermon? How did it encourage you in how you understand the Holy Spirit?

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus promises to always be with his disciples as they go out on mission. How does this promise help our understanding of what it means to be sent with the Holy Spirit?

Do you feel the prompt by the Spirit to step out on mission with the gospel (either locally or overseas)? Share how you think the Spirit might be working in you.

## *Explore - Our Steadfast Helper, the Holy Spirit*

Have you ever had someone speak or act lovingly on your behalf? Share what happened and how it made you feel

## Read John 14:15-17 and 25-27

Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as an advocate who is always with his disciples. What do you think about that description?

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will help his disciples by being with them and bringing them peace. What do you think this looks like for us? (See also John 15:18-20 and 16:7-11).

## Read Romans 8:22-27

What do you think it means for us to have "the firstfruits of the Spirit"?

Paul says the Spirit intercedes for us. Does this mean we don't need to pray? How do you think we should understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our prayer life?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…

# SERMON NOTES

20th of September

## Our Steadfast Helper, the Holy Spirit

# HOME GROUP STUDY 8

## *Our Steadfast Helper, the Holy Spirit – Letting It Settle*

Spend some time reflecting on the Sermon from Sunday. What stood out to you?

When have you recognised the Holy Spirit's help or comfort in your life?

It can be easy to forget that the Spirit is always with us. How can we help each other remember, believe, and live according to this truth?

## *Wrapping It All Up*

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27 and reflect on how God has fulfilled this promise in your life.

As we've made our way through this series, what's been your biggest takeaway on the Holy Spirit?

Turn back to the beginning of the first study. Have your questions about the Holy Spirit been answered? Is there an area you'd like to keep exploring?

How do you think the Spirit is working in your life? How is the he prompting you to walk alongside your brothers and sisters at WBC?

What has our time considering the Holy Spirit driven you to pray for?

Pray together and thank God for…

Ask him for…