The Bible Unpacked

Comprehensive Study Series

The Bible’s teaching compiled for established believers

Paul Mallison
The Bible Unpacked™

Comprehensive Study Series

The Bible’s teaching compiled for established believers

4. The Holy Spirit

Paul Mallison
The work of Paul Mallison in The Bible Unpacked is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The Scripture translations used are not licensed under a Creative Commons license and have all rights reserved (cf. copyright notices below).

The material may be freely reproduced and distributed for non-commercial purposes. Permission must be obtained from the copyright owners of the Scripture translations before the material may be used commercially or freely distributed with changes to how verses of Scripture are used.


Scripture quotations marked “ESV” are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.


Scripture quotations marked “GW” are taken from God’s Word® Copyright 1995 God’s Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked “ISV” are taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version®, Release 1.44. Copyright © 1996–2007 by The ISV Foundation of Fullerton, California USA. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. All rights reserved internationally.

Scripture quotations marked “NCV™” are taken from the New Century Version® Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Quotations designated “NET” are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. http://www.bible.org/ All rights reserved. Scripture quoted by permission.

Scripture quotations marked “NKJV” are taken from The New King James Version / Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers., Copyright © 1982. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Quotations of short phrases from other Bible translations are on occasions included in comments on the verses. The copyright notices for these translations are given below.


Scripture quotations marked “NLT” are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked “NRSV” are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This copy made: 23-Dec-20.
Contents

A Quick Word ........................................................................................................ iv
Suggestions for Study Groups ............................................................................ v

I. General
   a) The Holy Spirit of God ........................................................................... 2
   b) The Holy Spirit’s Being ......................................................................... 4
   c) The Holy Spirit’s Personhood ............................................................... 7

II. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
   a) Mutual Association .............................................................................. 12
   b) Mutual Divine Attributes .................................................................... 15
   c) Mutual Divine Roles ........................................................................... 18

Topics in This Series ....................................................................................... 23
The Seven Editions ......................................................................................... 25
Persecuted Christians .................................................................................... 26
A Quick Word

This series of studies aims to present a compilation of the Bible’s teachings in a clear and readable order. There are 40 booklets in the series, based on the 40 chapters of the book *The Bible Unpacked - Comprehensive Edition*. Each booklet has two sections, which can be used for two or more studies.

The material contains Bible verses. Before the verses are headings, which reflect what the verses say – in particular the parts of the verses in *italics.* The verses are sometimes followed by a comment.

The verses often have a brief introduction. Usually these state who is speaking and often who they are speaking to. Apart from God and Jesus Christ, the main speakers are:

- Moses – who lead the Israelites and taught them God’s laws;
- David – Israel’s greatest king who wrote many of the psalms, most of which are essentially prayers;
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other prophets – who spoke to the people of Israel on God’s behalf; and
- Paul, Peter, John and other leaders of the early church – who spoke to various groups and wrote letters to believers.

Much care has been taken in order to correctly interpret the verses. Nevertheless, if you encounter a verse that is used to teach something that is contrary to or goes beyond your understanding, assess its use by doing such things as: reading the passage it is from; and considering how its teaching fits in with Scripture as a whole (e.g. interpret OT teaching in the light of NT teaching).

For more information on *The Bible Unpacked* and free downloads, go to the website: [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net).

**Users are asked to pray regularly for persecuted Christians** and, if possible, support them financially. These things can be done through organizations that provide aid to them and/or prayer notices, such as those listed under *Persecuted Christians*.

Paul Mallison
Suggestions for Study Groups

Preliminary matters:

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.

- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse’s context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.

- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

Doing the study:

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.

- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments. Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.

General or concluding questions:

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: did not know before; gained greater insight into; or needed reminding of?

- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?

- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
  (a) how you relate to God and/or to other people; or
  (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?

  If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?
I. General

See also:
- *II. God’s Holy Spirit in His People*, Ch 17

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, as often indicated in the Bible. This assertion is reflected by the Holy Spirit’s divine and imposing attributes. However, the Bible also distinguishes the Holy Spirit from God, portraying him as a personal being in his own right.

(Note that in regard to the Holy Spirit and God’s people, see *God’s Holy Spirit in His People*, cross referenced above.)
a) The Holy Spirit of God

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God . . .

**GEN 1:2** Now [in the beginning] the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but *the Spirit of God* was moving over the surface of the water. **NET**

**EPH 4:30** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] And do not grieve *the Holy Spirit of God*, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **NET**

The Holy Spirit is God’s spirit. As such one should bear in mind that when the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit, it is in effect speaking of God himself.

. . . God refers to the Holy Spirit as his Spirit

**EZEK 39:29** I will no longer hide my face from them, *when I pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the sovereign LOR**D**. **NET**

“Spirit” clearly is referring to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is correlated with God’s presence

**1Jn 3:24** [JOHN, TO BELIEVERS:] And the person who keeps his commandments resides in God, and God in him. Now *by this we know that God resides in us: by the Spirit he has given us*. **NET**

This verse correlates the Holy Spirit with God’s presence by asserting that the fact that believers have God’s Spirit verifies that God lives in them.

The Holy Spirit is from God

See also:

- God gave the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, Ch. 11
- a) God Gives the Holy Spirit to His People, Ch. 17

**1Cor 2:12** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but *the Spirit who is from God*, so that we may know the things that are freely given to us by God. **NET**

**ACTS 2:33** He [Jesus Christ] has been exalted to the right hand of God, has *received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit*, and has poured out what you are seeing and hearing. **ISV**
God and the Holy Spirit know each other’s mind

ROM 8:27 And he [God] who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes on behalf of the saints according to God’s will. NET

1Cor 2:10–11 [Paul, to believers:] The Spirit searches out all things, even the deep secrets of God. “Who knows the thoughts that another person has? Only a person’s spirit that lives within him knows his thoughts. It is the same with God. No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. NCV™

What do you think the Bible means in describing the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of God?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

As best you can, explain the connection between the Holy Spirit and God’s presence.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What things does the phrase “the mind of the Spirit” (Rom 8:27) indicate about the Holy Spirit?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
b) The Holy Spirit’s Being

In addition to the following characteristics, as the Holy “Spirit”, the Holy Spirit has no visible form.

The Holy Spirit is everywhere

Ps 139:7–8  [David, to God:] Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  

ESV

Verse 7 links the Holy Spirit with God’s presence, and so along with v. 8 implies that the Holy Spirit is omnipresent – i.e. everywhere.

The Holy Spirit is eternal

Heb 9:14  How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He offered himself through the eternal Spirit as a perfect sacrifice to God.  

NCV™

The Holy Spirit has great power . . .

Isa 11:2  And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him [the Messiah], the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  

ESV

1Jn 4:4  [John, to believers:] You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.  

NET

The “one who is in you” is most likely referring to the Holy Spirit. As such, the description of the Holy Spirit as greater than Satan – “the one who is in the world” – is indicative of the Spirit’s great power.

. . . and the Holy Spirit can enable people to do great things

Zec 4:6b–7  [God, to Zerubbabel:] ‘Not by strength and not by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD who rules over all.” 7 “What are you, you great mountain? Because of Zerubbabel you will become a level plain! And he will bring forth the temple capstone with shoutings of ‘Grace! Grace!’ because of this.”  

NET

Zerubbabel would not rebuild the temple with the aid of outstanding human might or power, but through the power and direction of the
Holy Spirit (v. 6) – who would help Zerubbabel overcome mountainous obstacles (v. 7a).

The Holy Spirit has great knowledge . . .

**John 14:26**  [Jesus, to His Disciples:] But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you. NET

That the Holy Spirit would teach them “everything” and cause them to remember everything Jesus had said to them is indicative of the Holy Spirit’s profound knowledge.

. . . The Holy Spirit even has knowledge of the future

**1Tim 4:1**  Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with deceiving spirits and demonic teachings ... NET

The Holy Spirit has great wisdom

**Acts 6:9–10**  But some men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, as well as some from Cilicia and the province of Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 10 Yet they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. NET

This suggests that Stephen’s profound wisdom was a product of the Holy Spirit – indicative of the Holy Spirit having great wisdom.

Do you think God’s omnipresence (being present everywhere) is through the Holy Spirit?
Are there any attributes listed that you had not previously associated with the Holy Spirit? Can you think of any other attributes of the Holy Spirit that were not mentioned in the verses?

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

How can we be open to the Holy Spirit working through us, enabling us to do great things (cf. Zec 4:6b–7; Rom 15:18–19)?

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Pray for persecuted Christians
c) The Holy Spirit’s Personhood

The Holy Spirit is distinguished from God and Jesus Christ

**John 15:26** [Jesus, to his disciples:] But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 

**Eph 4:4–6** [Paul, to believers:] There is one body and one Spirit, just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The Holy Spirit has a mind

**Rom 8:27** And he [God] who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes on behalf of the saints according to God’s will.

**1Cor 12:11** [Paul, to believers:] But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us. CEV

That the Holy Spirit “decides” such things is indicative of him having his own mind and will.

The Holy Spirit is referred to with personal pronouns

**John 16:13** [Jesus, to his disciples:] But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own authority, but will speak whatever he hears, and will tell you what is to come.

**1Cor 6:19** [Paul, to believers:] Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

The fact that personal pronouns are used of the Holy Spirit suggests that he is an entity in his own right, as well as alluding to him being a personal being.

The Holy Spirit has personal characteristics

**Rom 15:30** [Paul, to believers:] Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to join fervently with me in prayer to God on my behalf.
**Gal 5:22–23a**  But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, and self-control.  

Each of these characteristics is described as a “fruit of the Spirit” because – like fruit from a tree – their source and means of growth is the Holy Spirit. Arguably this implies that as their source and the one who fosters them, the Holy Spirit’s own character is reflected in them.

**The Holy Spirit communicates . . .**

**Rom 8:16**  [Paul, to believers:] The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God’s children.  

**Rom 8:26b**  [Paul, to believers:] But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.  

. . . and the **Holy Spirit interacts in other ways**

**Acts 9:31b**  The church became stronger, as the Holy Spirit encouraged it and helped it grow.  

**Rom 8:14**  For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.  

**Note: Like a person, the Holy Spirit can be treated wrongly**

**Eph 4:30**  [Paul, to believers:] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.  

Note that this verse indicates that – like people – the Holy Spirit has feelings. This further testifies to the Holy Spirit’s personhood.

Some people teach that the Holy Spirit is a thing or a force rather than a personal identity. What aspects of the above teaching suggest otherwise?
How do you find it helpful or encouraging recognizing the personal nature of the Holy Spirit?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Is there anything you find difficult to grasp about the Holy Spirit? Discuss this with the group.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Write down how you would explain the Holy Spirit to someone who had not heard of him.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Pray for persecuted Christians
II. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

See also:

- *Jesus Christ and God*, Ch. 3

The NT speaks of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as three identities, but also shows them as being related to each other in a unique unity. This is in part due to divine attributes and roles being attributed to each of them. Since the 4th century the church has understood their relationship in terms of the *Doctrine of the Trinity*—the concept of them being three “persons” but one substance.

This close-knit relationship between God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is still one of the most intriguing and debated aspects of the Bible. The following provides some basic “building blocks” for coming to terms with it.
a) Mutual Association

God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are very closely associated

**Matt 28:19** [Jesus, to His Disciples:] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit ... **NET**

The phrase “the name of” denotes a single name. Here it is applied to all three of the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. As such it points to a very close relationship between the three.

**2Cor 13:14** [Paul, to believers:] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **NCV™**

The close association of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is pointed to by the attributing of these complementary blessings to the three of them at the one time.

The Holy Spirit is identified with God . . .

**Acts 5:3, 4b** But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back for yourself part of the proceeds from the sale of the land? ... You have not lied to people but to God!” **NET**

Peter indicates that to lie to the Holy Spirit (v. 3) is to lie to God (v. 4). As such Peter identifies the Holy Spirit with God.

. . . and the Holy Spirit is also identified with Jesus Christ

**2Cor 3:17–18** [Paul, to believers:] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled faces reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which is from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **NET**

There are a number of interpretations of “the Lord is the Spirit” (v. 17) and “the Lord, who is the Spirit” (v. 18). The ones that are arguably the most plausible are compatible with a literal reading, demonstrating the very close association between the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit is described as both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus Christ

**Rom 8:9** [Paul, to believers:] You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him. **NET**

This not only closely correlates the Holy Spirit with God and with Jesus Christ, it also associates Jesus Christ with God, with the one Spirit being said to be of them both.

God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit work together in unity of purpose . . .

**John 20:21–22** So Jesus said to them [the disciples] again, “Peace be with you. Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you.” **22** And after he said this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **NET**

The Father sent Jesus Christ to carry out his purposes and Jesus Christ sends his people empowered with the Holy Spirit to continue his work.

. . . Most prominently, they work together in saving people

**Acts 5:31–32** [Peter and the other apostles:] God exalted him to his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses of these events, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him. **NET**

Verse 32 points to the Holy Spirit’s role in the salvation of people, witnessing to them. This work of the Holy Spirit is in conjunction with God’s will, and with what God has done through Jesus Christ (v. 31) to save people.
How does Matthew 28:19 imply a very close association – even a oneness – between God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit’s relationship to God and Jesus Christ?

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

How do God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit work together in saving people? What parts does each of them play?

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

Pray for persecuted Christians
b) Mutual Divine Attributes

The listings here and in the following section of mutual divine attributes and roles are not comprehensive. Note that the subsections usually have three verses – of which the first refers to God, the second to Jesus Christ and the third to the Holy Spirit.

Omnipresence – God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are everywhere

**Jer 23:24** “Do you not know that *I am everywhere*?” the LORD asks. NET

**Eph 4:10** Christ did that to fill everything with his presence. NCV™

**Ps 139:7** [David, to God:] Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you? NCV™

Omnipotence – they each have infinite, sovereign power

**Job 42:2** I know, LORD, that you are all-powerful; that you can do everything you want. GNT

**Phil 3:20b–21** Our Lord Jesus Christ has power over everything, and he will make these poor bodies of ours like his own glorious body. CEV

**1Jn 4:4** [John, to believers:] You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. NET

As noted earlier, “the one who is in you” – who is greater than Satan – is most likely referring to the Holy Spirit. As such this is illustrative of the Holy Spirit’s supreme power.

Omniscience – they each have complete knowledge

**1Jn 3:20** If our conscience condemns us, we know that God is greater than our conscience and that he knows everything. GNT

**John 16:30a** [Jesus’ disciples, to Jesus:] Now we know that you know everything and do not need anyone to ask you anything. NET

**1Cor 2:10b** For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. NET
The Holy Spirit searches out or finds out all things (cf. CEV, NCV, NLT).

**Divine glory**

**NUM 14:21** [God:] But truly, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the **LORD**. NET

**MATT 25:31** When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. NET

**1PET 4:14** [Peter, to believers:] If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the **Spirit of glory**, who is the Spirit of God, rests on you. NET

**Eternal existence**

**PS 93:2** [A psalmist, to God:] Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ESV

**REV 22:13** [Jesus Christ:] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end! NET

Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, used together to depict Jesus Christ spanning all time – as do the subsequent pairings in the verse.

**HEB 9:14A** How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He offered himself through the eternal **Spirit** as a perfect sacrifice to God. NCV™

**Holiness**

**REV 4:8B** “Holy Holy Holy is the Lord God, the All-Powerful, Who was and who is, and who is still to come!” NET

**JOHN 6:69** [The disciples, to Jesus:] We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God! NET

**HEB 10:15A** The Holy Spirit also tells us about this. NCV™
What does the “glory” of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit involve?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What is the significance of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit all having divine attributes?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Are there any differences in any of these attributes in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit? For example are there any differences in their expression of their power?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Pray for persecuted Christians
c) Mutual Divine Roles

Common divine roles reflect the fact that God works through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Note that the latter roles are not exclusively divine in every sense, with believers also having roles akin to them.

God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are each ascribed a primary role in creation

1Cor 8:6  But for us, “There is only one God, the Father. Everything came from him, and we live for him. There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. Everything came into being through him, and we live because of him.”  GW

Job 33:4  [ELIHU:] The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.  NET

They each give spiritual or eternal life

1Jn 5:11b  God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.  NET

John 5:21  For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes.  NET

John 6:63a  The Spirit is the one who gives life; human nature is of no help!  NET

They each make God’s people holy

Lev 20:8  Obey my laws, because I am the LORD and I make you holy.  GNT

Eph 5:25–27  Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, so that he may present the church to himself as glorious – not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.  NET

Rom 15:16b  [PAUL:] I do this in order that I might bring the nations to God as an acceptable offering, made holy by the Holy Spirit.  GW
They each are constantly with God’s people

**Deut 31:8** [Moses, to the Israelites:] The LORD will lead you into the land. He will always be with you and help you, so don’t ever be afraid of your enemies. CEV

**Matt 28:20b** [Jesus, to his disciples:] And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. NET

**John 14:17b** [Jesus, to his disciples:] But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you. CEV

They each strengthen God’s people

**Isa 41:10b** I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will support you with my victorious right hand. GW

**Phil 4:13** I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me. GW

**Acts 1:8** [Jesus, to his disciples:] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth. NET

They each teach God’s people

**Isa 48:17b** [God, to Israel:] I am the LORD your God. I teach you what is best for you. I lead you where you should go. GW

**2Tim 2:7** [Paul, to Timothy:] Think about what I am saying and the Lord will give you understanding of all this. NET

**John 14:26** [Jesus, to his disciples:] But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you. NET

They each give God’s people joy and peace

**Rom 15:13** [Paul, to believers:] Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. NET

**John 15:11** [Jesus, to his disciples:] I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete. NET
**John 14:27** [Jesus, to His Disciples:] *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be distressed or lacking in courage.*  
*NET*

**Gal 5:22–23** But *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, *gentleness, *and self-control.* Against such things there is no law.  
*NET*

How do you explain the same roles or acts being attributed to God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?

________________________________  
________________________________  
________________________________

If God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are so closely identified with each other, why in 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 (for example) does Paul mention Jesus Christ and God the Father separately in regard to a common role, rather than use a single term for both of them – and moreover not mention the Holy Spirit?

________________________________  
________________________________  
________________________________

Are there any differences in the parts played by God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in accomplishing things?

________________________________  
________________________________  
________________________________
Notes
Notes
# Topics in This Series

## Section I. What to Know

### Part A. God and Spiritual Powers

1. **God’s Being**
   - I. Basics
   - II. God’s Pre-Eminence

2. **God’s Character**
   - I. Holy Characteristics
   - II. Loving Characteristics

3. **Jesus Christ**
   - I. General
   - II. Jesus Christ and God

4. **The Holy Spirit**
   - I. General
   - II. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

5. **Angels, Satan and Demons**
   - I. Angels
   - II. Satan and Demons

### Part B. God and the World: Basics

6. **God’s Creation**
   - I. General
   - II. God’s Creation of People

7. **God’s Sovereignty**
   - I. God’s Supreme Authority
   - II. God’s Control over the World

8. **God’s Word**
   - I. General
   - II. Key Old Testament Covenants

9. **The Problem of Sin**
   - I. General
   - II. The Law’s Provision for Israel’s Sin

10. **God’s Judgment**
    - I. Basics
    - II. The Manifestation of God’s Judgment

### Part C. God and the World: Jesus Christ

11. **God’s Promised Messiah**
    - I. The Messiah’s Identity
    - II. The Messiah’s Purpose and Person

12. **Jesus Christ’s Mission**
    - I. God’s Enablement of Jesus Christ
    - II. Ministry, Death and Resurrection

13. **Salvation through Jesus Christ**
    - I. Salvation from Sin
    - II. Salvation for the World

14. **The New Order**
    - I. Jesus Christ and the Law’s Diminished Role
    - II. Key Elements of the New Order

15. **‘The Last Things’**
    - I. Jesus Christ’s Return and the Final Judgment
    - II. The Afterlife

### Part D. God and His Own People

16. **The Standing of God’s People**
    - I. Basics
    - II. Being ‘in’ Jesus Christ

17. **Keys to God’s Interaction**
    - I. Basics
    - II. God’s Holy Spirit in His People

18. **God’s Transformation of His People**
    - I. General
    - II. Spiritual Attributes

19. **God’s Care of His People**
    - I. God’s Saving of His People
    - II. God’s Preservation of His People

20. **God’s Plans for His People**
    - I. General
    - II. God’s Plans for Israel
Section II. What to Do

Part E. Relating to God

21. Being Right with God
   I. Getting Right with God
   II. Staying Right with God

22. Having Faith in God
   I. Faith and Hope
   II. What Not to Do

23. Loving, Fearing and Obeying God
   I. Loving and Fearing God
   II. Obeying God

24. Connecting with God
   I. Being Close to God
   II. Praying to God

25. Exalting God
   I. Instructions
   II. Reasons to Exalt God

Part F. Church Life

26. Being One Body
   I. General
   II. Caring for the Body

27. Worshiping God
   I. General
   II. Offerings

28. Serving God
   I. Preliminary Instructions and Insights
   II. Doing God’s Work

29. Significant Practices
   I. Symbolic Rites
   II. Other Significant Practices

30. Church Leadership
   I. General
   II. Teaching in the Church

Part G. Relating to People

31. Love
   I. Loving Qualities
   II. Antitheses of Love

32. Justice
   I. Justice in Action
   II. Being True

33. Wisdom
   I. Being Wise
   II. Antitheses of Wisdom and Knowledge

34. Common Relationships
   I. Family Relationships
   II. Civil Relationships

35. Spreading the Gospel
   I. Instructions
   II. Insights

Part H. Persevering

36. Standing Firm
   I. General
   II. Spiritual Warfare

37. Rejecting Sin
   I. Encountering Sin
   II. Avoiding Sin and Being Holy

38. Major Pitfalls
   I. Pride
   II. Riches and Sex

39. Hard Times
   I. General
   II. Praying in Hard Times

40. Persecution
   I. The Persecution of God’s People
   II. What to Do in Persecution
The Seven Editions

There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, as shown below. Each edition is an abbreviated version of the next one. Four of the editions have studies based on them, with the same text and questions added. For more details and free downloads, go to www.thebibleunpacked.net.

**Two-Minute Edition** – *Key Bible teachings for everyone.* For giving to non-Christians.

**Pocket Edition** – *Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth.* Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.

**Concise Edition** – *Key Bible teachings for new believers.* For either new or young Christians. Suitable to give to non-Christian friends. Has study series based on it.

**Foundations Edition** – *The Bible’s teaching condensed for young believers.* For newer Christians. Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.

**Intermediate Edition** – *The Bible’s teaching summarized for growing believers.* For developing a sound understanding of the faith. Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.

**Comprehensive Edition** – *The Bible’s teaching compiled for established believers.* For a more comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.

**In-Depth Edition** – *The Bible’s teaching expounded for Bible students.* For pastors, church leaders, Bible students and all who want a deep understanding of the faith. Available in a single pdf file with some 100,000 hyperlinks.
Persecuted Christians

Over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied basic human rights solely because of their faith. (Source: World Evangelical Alliance) Every year many Christians are killed because of their faith.

Through prayer, encouragement and practical assistance we can assist and fellowship with persecuted Christians in their suffering. You can play a vital part in this through contacting one of the organizations listed below. Most produce regular news/prayer letters.

**Barnabas Fund** – [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org)
It provides material and spiritual support based on locally identified needs.

**Christian Solidarity International** – [csi-usa.org](http://csi-usa.org)
CSI works to defend religious liberty and help persecuted Christians.

**Christian Solidarity Worldwide** – [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)
It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

**Open Doors** – [www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org); [www.opendoors.org.au](http://www.opendoors.org.au)
It equips believers for persecution and maintaining a witness to the Gospel.

**Religious Liberty Commission** – [www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc)
RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also [www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org).

**Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin** – [rlprayerbulletin.blogspot.com](http://rlprayerbulletin.blogspot.com)
This site provides weekly prayer bulletins.

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and provides training.

**Voice of the Martyrs** – [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)
VOM helps persecuted Christians spread the gospel. It also gives material aid.

**World Watch Monitor** – [www.worldwatchmonitor.org](http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org)
It reports the story of Christians under pressure for their faith.

*Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.’* Matthew 25:40 NCV
This series of studies is based on the
Comprehensive Edition of The Bible Unpacked.

There are seven editions of The Bible Unpacked. These aim to address the needs of
non-Christians through to mature Christians, from teenagers to adults.

For more information and free downloads go to:
www.thebibleunpacked.net