

# SERMON NOTES

## **God's Spirit Isn't Scary (Acts 19:1-7)** **The Ultimate Ghost Story sermon series** **By Pastor David Hillis, 10.01.17**

**BIG IDEA:** The Holy Spirit isn't scary or weird, He is fully real, fully God and longs to know you.

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. **God – eternal and all-powerful.** (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 139:7-8; Zechariah 4:6; John 14:16; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 8:10-11; Hebrews 9:14)

The Bible describes God as one being made up of three distinct persons – Father, Son (Jesus) and Spirit.

2. **A personal being described as a Spirit.** (John 3:8, 16:5-8)

The Holy Spirit isn't just a breeze or force emanating from God; He is God, come to us here on earth in order to be in relationship with us.

3. **A comforter and counselor who convicts us and makes us more like Jesus.** (Isaiah 11:2; John 14:15-30, 15:26, 16:5-15; Ephesians 3:16-19)

The Holy Spirit serves as a counselor, an advocate, and a voice of wisdom and truth. He helps us fully experience what the Christian life can be. What it is meant to be!

When we accept Christ as Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit. He's there; He doesn't leave us. To the extent that we yield, that we surrender to Him, that we welcome Him into our lives and pray to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, our lives will start to look different from the average person. More and more, we'll have the heart of God and the power of God working in and through our lives.

**MY NEXT STEP:** *When was the last time you undeniably saw the Holy Spirit working in or around you? How hungry are you to experience a relationship with the Holy Spirit? Express that hunger to God today.*

### QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Pick up or download a copy of the book *The God I Never Knew* (copies are available each weekend at Grace's Guest Services Center). Read chapters 1-4 this week, seeking to understand who the Holy Spirit really is.
2. Reread Acts 19:1-7, asking God to help you fully consider what it says and how it might relate in some way to your life. Consider a word, phrase or sentence that is especially meaningful to you or that God is calling you to pay attention to, and how God would have you apply that idea or concept to your life today.
3. Make some extended time with God to describe the need you feel for His presence in your life. Think and discuss with God what steps you are willing to take to live a Spirit-filled life.
4. Brother Lawrence, a monk from the 1600's wrote a booklet entitled *Practice the Presence of God* where he describes learning over a lifetime of devotion and practice that God was with him at all times, even in the most ordinary and mundane. Throughout this series, consider adding 3 simple routines to your day to help you come to experience the power of the Holy Spirit:
  1. As you wake each morning, consider how the Holy Spirit might be greeting you to start your day. Take a moment to consider the ways that He has already been working and planning your day for you. Pray to welcome the power of the Holy Spirit into your day, asking Him to fill you.
  2. Pick one task or event that you do every day and purposefully invite the Holy Spirit into this routine. Attempt to do the routine with awareness of Him doing it with you.
  3. As you go to bed each night, reflect on your day and ask the Holy Spirit to show you where and how He was with you.
5. Review all the Scriptures listed next the main points in the sermon notes, to seek to have a better understanding of who the Holy Spirit is.
6. Next week we will continue this series by exploring in depth what it means to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. Read ahead Jesus' words in John chapters 14-16. How would you describe your relationship with the Holy Spirit? Share your thoughts with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Hello" card at [www.myGrace.church](http://www.myGrace.church)!

### PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Victims of Human Trafficking

*Pray for Sold No More, Catalysts4Freedom and all victims of human trafficking around the world. May God grant freedom to those bound in slavery and provide full healing and restoration to deeply hurting victims and survivors. Where shame and fear exist, may God grant renewal and rebirth through His Spirit and Word. Pray for strength for those who investigate and prosecute traffickers and that slavery, in all forms, will be made extinct. Amen.*