

Complete the Picture
Week 2: The Draw

Do you have a complete picture of God? Not having the full picture could give you a **wrong impression**. Living with the wrong impression of God could cause you to **miss what he wants to do in your life**.

Did you notice the picture at the bottom? Look what we added. **Add Dove to the logo for the series.**

Here is how the Holy Spirit completes the picture of God. If you grew up in church, you probably have heard the word **"Trinity"**. Trinity means 3 in 1. God is three and still one, **God the Father, God the Son Jesus, and God The Holy Spirit.**

You may have grown up in church and never heard a series on the Holy Spirit. The joke in the American church is that the Trinity has become **Father, Son, and Holy Scriptures**. We have made such a point out of the Bible being infallible, that we forgot to look at what is in it. Yes, the Bible is important, **but it is not God**. It is God's word, and God's word **says a lot about the Holy Spirit.**

Maybe people avoid the Holy Spirit because it seems like God the Father and his son complete **what I need from God and what is the important part**. They are the ones that help me deal with my sin issue. **They get me into heaven.**

The father is important because he is the creator of everything and he's Jesus' dad. **Jesus is important** because he died for my sins.

The Holy Spirit is like extra credit. It's not really necessary, but it's an **enhancement**. It makes it more **fun, livelier**. Or maybe we think that the holy Spirit is for those unstable, **overly emotional people**. It's too **touchy feely**. I want the facts. Or maybe **you know someone** who is totally about the Holy Spirit and he's always talking to them, but in your mind, this person is **unreliable**. **Whatever the reason, people tend to read right past the Holy Spirit.** He's like the **missing person in the trinity**. In this series we want to complete the picture.

Here's how you can picture that.

Trinity pic 1. This slide describes the trinity of God 3 in 1. It has a line with no beginning or end that creates **three loops or flower pedals**. One has a crown representing God the Father, the next has a cross which describes Jesus and, finally, the third, which is a dove; that describes The Holy Spirit.

Trinity pic 2, This diagram, or picture, demonstrates how the **three persons of God are distinct**, the father is not the son... But they are still all God.

Trinity pic 3, This is a little more involved. It has the three being separate, or distinct, and yet they **are in one another**, i.e. the spirit is in the son and the son is in the father. Also it describes how they **each glorify** the others. This means that there is **no competition**. They are in perfect unity.

Kind of like **Bill Greiner is a father, son, and husband**. These are three roles where I operate differently, but I am still one man. Or, H₂O is water, ice and steam/vapor.

Here's our verse **from last week**, which is also our verse for this week. I'm going to call these verses **The Five to Thrive**. You will get five total verses that we are going to challenge you to feed on every day. In the process of reading them over and over and asking the Spirit to speak through them, **you might just have them memorized**. **25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. 27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:25-27**

The Holy Spirit is called an advocate. In this case, it is like a counselor who walks with you through life, reminding you of what Jesus said, giving direction, courage, and hope. The Holy Spirit is our **second advocate**. Jesus is the first, but he was more like a **legal advisor, defense attorney**, who brings a good case for us in front of God the father, the righteous and just judge.

The book of John has a lot about the Holy Spirit. **Particularly chapter 14**. I encourage you to read that whole chapter.

Here's a starting point for completing the picture of God by understanding His Holy Spirit. This is a quick way to tell the story of the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit was sent to us...** When Jesus ascended into heaven, the Father sent the holy spirit. Why? **to be the presence of the risen Christ...** Jesus promised **not to leave them** as orphans, but to never forsake them, so his presence is now in spirit form, **taking up residence in his people...** No longer is the presence of God in a tabernacle, temple, or one nation, like Israel. It is in everyone who puts his or her trust in Jesus, **giving them what they need to be His presence, doing His work!** Now God's people can be who they were created to be, **make the Kingdom present** for others, and help others learn to follow Jesus. That's the **quick fly over.**

Here's the main scripture for this week. It is also from the book of John. ⁵ "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. ⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. ⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, Let's stop right there. This is inconceivable to these men. The one promised by the ancient prophets has come and he has invited you to be in his inner circle. You have seen him do only things God can do and now he says that he is leaving and that is really for the best. But wait, there's more. because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. ⁹ The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. ¹⁰ Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. ¹¹ Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. ¹² "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.' John 16:5-15

Here's the big idea for this sermon...**The Holy Spirit brings us to God.**

One of the jobs of the advocate is to bring the person to God. **The holy Spirit gets the person's attention, takes them by the hand, and shows them God.**

We don't find our way to God. He finds us. He always gets there first. It's not that those who are living for God have cracked the code and now know what God is about. **It's not that they have done great things,** allowing them to drag

themselves close to God. It's not like they are **smarter, more disciplined, or more sensitive** to spiritual things.

No, God always gets to someone, they don't get to God. God isn't on the top of a mountain and like one of those puzzles where you **have to find the path through the maze**, you get to the top and "find God." Or it's just all our doing as we slog our way up the mountain and finally get to the summit where God says, "here I am."

God always gets there first, and it is the Holy Spirit that begins its work there where...He draws us closer.

It's that itch that you need to scratch. There's something that **attracts my attention and grabs it.** I have this **strong desire to get closer.**

The holy Spirit gives a quick glimpse of God who, when seen for who he is, will always be attractive. The holy spirit is our first glimpse. Part of his job is like **that first peck on the cheek, or brief conversation** from the one you are falling in love with. You want more. **You didn't initiate this, but you want to pursue it.**

⁴⁴ For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. ⁴⁵ As it is written in the Scriptures, 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. John 6:44-45 NLT

Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit hadn't been sent yet. That is why he is using the word, Father. **When the Holy Spirit is sent, then this becomes his job.**

This makes it even more clear. **Not only does the Holy Spirit draw us to God, but we can't get there without being drawn.** We aren't going to **crack the code, slog our way up the mountain through our own grit and intelligence.** We must be invited. **We don't have it in ourselves because of our sin and separation from God.** But once the Spirit gives us that first glimpse of God and how life can be different, full, meaningful, then our part begins; we move.

Take another look at John 16:8. **⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. John 16:8**

The delusion of my goodness has been shown to be foolishness. God's righteousness and my sinfulness. You can't have one without the other.

The Holy Spirit brings us to God by drawing us and...**He brings conviction.**

This is a term used a lot more **when I was a kid**. We would say when a person is feeling God drawing them and yet resisting, they were **"under conviction."** They have seen what God is calling them to, but **out of fear or a desire to "run their own life" are saying no**. A person under conviction was miserable. They have received that glimpse, that peck on the cheek and know it's God, **but still want to be their own God**.

This is the brutal clarity of the real state of our heart. We get a glimpse of a **righteous and good God** and then we see **what we are at a heart level**, and it isn't pretty. I am a sinner no matter how much **I try to rationalize** or dress myself up, covering this from the sight of the world. **The Holy Spirit allows me to see what God sees and that is my sin, and how it has separated me from this beautiful God I've gotten a glimpse of**. I am drawn by God and repelled by the reality of my sin.

It's like this, **"God is righteous and good, I am a sinner, Jesus is my only hope, but I must put my trust completely in him to the point of denying myself."**

Have you been there, and you remember saying yes to the Holy Spirit. Yes, I am a sinner without any hope, and yet in your goodness you provide Jesus as my hope, my path.

Have you been there and said no to the Holy Spirit? Continuing to say no can cause a person to become **numb to the Spirit's touch**. It's like that **voice that you have ignored so long that you can no longer hear it**. That's dangerous territory.

It's vitally important that we know the reality of our situation as we stand outside of God's love and protection. Sin brings separation. **Jesus brings us into a relationship, and it is the Holy Spirit that makes us aware of all of this**.

The Holy Spirit brings us to God by drawing us and...**He brings conviction...He helps us to hear God's voice.**

In other words, he enables us to understand spiritual things.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezekiel 36:27 NIV

The Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out when we give our allegiance to Jesus and allow him to present us innocent in front of God. We get a new heart or source of motivation. We are now able to understand the things that the spirit whispers in our ears. Spirit speaks to a new spirit in us.

Still not clear, how about this from the Apostle Paul. ¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. ¹¹ No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and **no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.** ¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), **so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.** ¹³ When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, **we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.** ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. ¹⁵ **Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.** ¹⁶ For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" **But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16**

Paul is very clear that we cannot understand the thoughts of God without his Spirit enabling us. But through the Holy Spirit we can know "the wonderful things God has freely given us." These things are free, but without the spirit, we can't access them.

What's the next logical step? If we know can hear God's voice telling us all of these wonderful things now, we can speak those same things to others. We have the ability to "explain spiritual truth." Yes, that means you. It doesn't say that

this is for pastors only. **These are the Spirit's words that we get to express into the world.**

Oh, but it gets even better. If we can hear God's voice and then speak the words of the Holy Spirit instead of simple human wisdom, then **we can evaluate anything that crosses our path.** But those who don't know Christ **can't really evaluate us,** because again they don't see the things of the spirit.

And what does this all mean? **We have the mind of Christ because the Holy Spirit in us is the presence of the risen Christ!**

This doesn't mean that we can become arrogant. There are already too many arrogant Christians yelling at everyone who doesn't agree with them. After all, it says we are able to evaluate all things. **This means that the Holy Spirit is in us, speaking to us through our broken humanity.** That's why we must test out what we think The Holy Spirit is saying, based upon God's Word, His creation, and His people.

That's why Bridge groups are so vital. This is where we get to reflect with other people who have the Holy Spirit and can see spiritual things.

Do you understand what this means? You can hear God's voice, the voice is the Holy Spirit who, if you are saved, is in you. **It would be unnatural for you not to hear God's voice.** The problem is, we have been confused about this not having the complete picture of God and so we don't know what to listen for.

Maybe this will help. When the Holy Spirit is speaking he...**Gives me the "want to..."**

What does that mean? The Holy Spirit gives us the want to. **This is the beginning of transformation and that is a change in desire.** I want something that I hadn't previously wanted. **This is a full proof way of discovering where the Spirit is talking and about to do something amazing.**

What I'm about to read to you is one of the most important scriptures you can hear and grab ahold of. **¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation,** (Yes, grace isn't anti-effort its anti-earning)

obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ **For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.** Philippians 2:12-13

Ever had a changed desire. Where you noticed over time that your mind was no longer dwelling on something that it used to? The most obvious one was when I started having a desire to be a **lead pastor**. This was completely foreign to me. I wanted to work with High School and middle school kids. **I liked hiding in the weeds** when the senior pastor was taking incoming fire.

My dad had the desire to smoke taken away from him and a desire for God's Word. He smoked and flew a fighter plane in World War 2. **Excitement, the hubris of youth and nicotine went away and a desire to read, understand and apply what God wanted to teach him in the Bible.** Ninetyseven years and ten months later I got to see a man transformed into the likeness of Christ.

God is promising to give us two things through his Holy Spirit. The first one is "want to" that changed desire. Once we have a changed desire that is something that looks like Jesus, then we need to act upon it. We need to start practicing or exercising that desire.

For my dad it was...He was hitchhiking through the western part of the US and he began to read the New Testament. He was broken and didn't know what to do with his life.

For me, it was that I started talking to people who I respected to see if I was crazy or did they see this in me. I also started preaching more.

But here's how it's still about the Holy Spirit even after we are given a new heart and are able to hear his voice. **The Holy Spirit gives us the "want to"...****And the power to...**

Having a desire for something doesn't mean that now I can accomplish or achieve what I have a desire for. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to grasp what he gives us a desire for.

Illustrating both would be how Cultivate came about in Sanford...We had a desire to multiply, start new platforms for reaching people. God gave us the ability to open Cultivate #1 in the mall and God has blessed it. We had a desire to see this

spread, but we didn't have the ability or the opportunity to actually do it. Then a person from Sanford approached us. A shop was available downtown, Meridian church decided to champion it in the community, we were given money from the closing of North Bradley church and other donors to renovate what had been destroyed by the flood.

Steps of Obedience:

1. Respond to the Holy Spirit's invitation.

One way to do that is to feed on the memory verse and lean into this teaching. But it can be simply to say this phrase and mean it, "Speak Holy Spirit I am listening." Proof of listening is to step out in obedience to what you believe the spirit is saying.

2. Invite someone to come with you.

Refer back to last week's scripture card and three people.

Ask the question, "have you got some names and have you made an initial contact?" If not, here's some things that can help.

Explain the invitation card and visitor letter.

invitation card pic

Come forward as your step of obedience and pick up what you need. This is your commitment that you are going to make the invite. It is the holy spirits business to draw, woo or even nudge.