

# WHEN GOD LIVES IN YOU

CHARACTERISTICS OF  
THE HOLY SPIRIT

## SERIES OVERVIEW

As we begin another new year, it's easy to think about what kinds of self-improvement we'd like to pursue. Losing weight, spending less, reading more... But what if we began the year with a commitment to pursue something *far more transformative*? This January, we are going to explore four crucial characteristics of the Holy Spirit working within us (truth, power, unity, and life) and consider how we might dwell more richly in His presence in 2026.

## WEEK 1 - THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH OVERVIEW

As Jesus prepared for his death, resurrection, and ultimate ascension, his followers were understandably worried. What would they do without Jesus by their side? Who was going to teach them? How would they know what was true? Jesus' promise in response to these worries was that God would give them "another Advocate," the Holy Spirit, to be with them forever. This promise, which remains true for all Christ-followers even today, is a profound one: that the very presence of Christ would dwell within his followers, guiding them into the truth.

In a time like ours, filled with untruths, misinformation, and teachers with hidden motives, it can sometimes feel like "Truth stumbles in the streets, and honesty has been outlawed" (Isaiah 59:14). But with God's Spirit guiding us, we can find truth through Scripture, through teaching, through the voice of God in our hearts, and through the words of other believers. What might it look like to invite the Spirit of Truth to dwell more richly in us this year than ever before?

*I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.  
He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.*

**John 14:16**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. Read [John 16:5-9](#). Why was it so important for Jesus to return to the Father?
3. What images or ideas come to mind when you think about someone guiding or shaping your direction? What makes someone worth following in your view?
4. Read [Proverbs 19:21](#), [Romans 8:28](#), and [Ephesians 2:10](#). What do these scriptures reveal?
5. If God has a purpose and plan for every life, how might we go about finding it? Read [Psalm 27:11](#).
6. As you learn about the Holy Spirit, does it bring you comfort, or bring up more questions? Why? Read and discuss [John 15:26-27](#), [Romans 8:26](#), and [John 14:26](#).
7. Maron asked "What would happen if, instead of focusing on self-improvement this year, we pursued spirit-empowerment? If we doubled down on seeking to experience more of God's empowering presence in our lives?" What might this truly look like?