

catalystKIDS

Parent Tools

THE HOLY SPIRIT



cat · a · lyst
kad(ə)ləst

noun

that which evokes a transformative process

kid
/kid/

noun

a child or young person

cat · a · lyst kid
kad(ə)ləst /kid/

noun

a biblically anchored, big-dreaming, world changing child or young person who evokes a transformative process in those around them



A Few Things to Consider

Before we get started, here are just a few suggestions to help prepare yourself for these conversations.

First, use this resource for what it is: a *guide*. There is no “one size fits all” approach to talking about these subjects with children, because there is no “one size fits all” child. You know your child best. ***You know how to best communicate with your child.*** Remember, God chose you and He did so for a reason. Be confident in that truth when talking with your children.

Focus on the relationship behind the rule... love will motivate in ways a law never could

Next, try to avoid saying things like “The Bible says...” when talking about scripture. Instead, say something like “God tells us in His word...”. This may seem like splitting hairs, but phrases like “the Bible tells us...” removes God from the focal point and can set the Bible up as a rulebook in the minds of our children. The most important thing to focus on when communicating scripture to your children is *the motivation behind the commandment*. Always remember, relationships are more important than rules. Sure we need rules, but ***love will motivate behaviors and beliefs in ways a law never could.***

Finally, ***be the example.*** Talking with your kids about prayer? Let them hear when you are praying. Talking to them about the Bible? Let them “catch” you studying God’s word. It can be difficult if we let it be, but ***the more they see these disciplines in us, the more they will begin to show up in them.***

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:7

ho·ly spir·it

/hōlē 'spirit/

noun

1. (holy) dedicated or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred
2. (spirit) the nonphysical part of a person that is the seat of emotions and character; the soul.
3. (Holy Spirit) member of the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit



Who Is The Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father is God and Jesus is God. Together, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit comprise the Godhead, or the Trinity. Although it doesn't appear anywhere in the Bible, the word *Trinity* is commonly used to refer to God when referring to all three *Persons* of God.

To state God is comprised of three *Persons* means there is one God, with three distinct parts, each working together with the others as God. Perhaps the best Scriptural evidence to support belief in the Trinity is found in Matthew 3:16-17 in which we see all three distinct Persons appear simultaneously; Jesus being baptized, the Father speaking and the Spirit descending upon Jesus.

The Holy Spirit can be more difficult than the Father or the Son to understand, especially for children. We all have a concept of what a Father is, and we know Jesus was both God and man, so we can get our heads wrapped around them easier than the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is described as having many personal characteristics we are familiar with: teaching (John 14:26), testifying (Romans 8:16), speaking (Revelation 2:7), and having a mind (Romans 8:27), a will (1 Corinthians 12:11), and feelings (Ephesians 4:30). Keeping these things in mind can help in teaching your kids about the Holy Spirit as a part of the Trinity.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

John 15:26

What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

As followers of Jesus our primary goal is to bring glory to God, the Holy Spirit is the Person of God who helps us do this. In Romans chapter 8, we are told of several ways the Spirit helps us bring glory to God.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Live According to God's Law

In Romans 8:1-4, Paul writes we are free from the requirements of the Old Testament Law through Jesus, and are now free to live according to the New Covenant. The Holy Spirit guides and leads us through the process of learning to change our will (wants and desires) to match God's will. Verses 5-13 further contrast living according to our own will and living according to God's will, or what is referred to as "living according to the Spirit".

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

The Holy Spirit Confirms We Are God's Children

In verses 14-23, Paul continually describes those who have received the Holy Spirit as God's children are free to live as children of the King rather than slaves or servants to the King. The Holy Spirit confirms our adoption into the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Relate to God

The specific example given in verse 26 is of the Holy Spirit interceding on our behalf when we don't know how we should pray. We were created to have a relationship with God, but we don't always know how to respond in that relationship. The Holy Spirit steps in and helps us engage with God when we don't know how to.

Paul then states in verse 27 the Holy Spirit is always interceding, along with Jesus (verse 34) on our behalf, testifying of our forgiveness.

There are other roles fulfilled by the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture. At times, the way in which the Spirit is referred to gives us a clue to what those roles are.



The Holy Spirit is Our Comforter

The Holy Spirit is often referred to by Jesus as an “advocate” or a “comforter”. Jesus tells us in John chapter 14 that the Holy Spirit will be with us always and will comfort us in our times of need.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth

Jesus also refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth in John chapter 14. The Holy Spirit reveals truth, including the truth of our own hearts by convicting us of the sin in our lives. The point of this role of the Holy Spirit is not that we would feel guilt, but that we would repent and be free of our sin.

What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

In Galatians chapter 5, Paul provides a list of Spiritual “Fruit”, which is a fancy, churchy way of referring to virtues of a Godly character, produced in us by the Holy Spirit.

Love

Love is the first to be listed, and some people believe that love makes all the other virtues possible.

True, unconditional love for others is a virtue none of us can possess without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Joy

The type of joy described is not simple happiness, which we can experience apart from the Holy Spirit; rather it is joy borne out of, and in the midst of suffering. In John 16:20-21, Jesus describes this type of joy and compares it to the joy felt by a mother upon the birth of her child. Despite the pain she feels, she is overwhelmed with joy at the sight of her baby.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:22-26

Peace

This is personally, internally being at peace, rather than the absence of conflict or war we generally associate with the word peace. Again, Jesus refers to this type of peace in John 14:27.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

Patience/Forbearance/Perseverance

Like joy, this is patience in the midst of suffering, as indicated by the alternate translations of forbearance and perseverance. This is the type of patience that leads to endurance through hard times.

Kindness

Kindness is not an instinctive human trait, it is learned, and typically shown toward those who are also kind. Kindness as a fruit of the Spirit is given to those we would consider enemies, whether deserved or merited.

Goodness

Contrary to the world around us, the Holy Spirit seeks to produce integrity and generosity in us.

Faithfulness

The Holy Spirit helps us to remain faithful to our word, to our obligations and in our relationships.

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

1 Corinthians 12:1



Gentleness

The Greek word translated as gentleness is also used for “meekness”, which is too often mistaken for “weakness”. This virtue is the opposite: it is strength—but strength which has been properly submitted to the will of God. This type of control in stressful situations is another virtue not likely to appear outside of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

*... to equip his
people for works
of service, so that
the body of
Christ may be
built up.
Ephesians 4:12*

Self-Control

This goes beyond the inner strength to deny yourself another cookie. This virtue affects all aspects of our lives, including the other Spiritual Fruit: love without regulation can become blind, misguided passion, gentleness/meekness without temperance becomes weakness, etc. Self-control ensures good and/or harmless things are properly prioritized and moderated, and bad things are avoided altogether.

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts go hand-in-hand with the fruit of the Spirit, in that the purpose of Spiritual gifts is to produce Spiritual fruit. For example, the Spiritual gift of encouragement can be employed in a situation to foster the Spiritual fruit of peace in another person.

To state it as plainly as possible, some of the Spiritual gifts are strange, particularly those referred to as the “sign gifts”. These are things like speaking in tongues, healing and miracles. However, while they are outside our normal experience, and therefore strange, as Followers of Christ we can not simply disregard or deny their existence, but we must also remember the purpose for these gifts: *to produce Spiritual fruit.*

There are four different lists of Spiritual gifts found in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and 28-30, Romans 12:4-8, and Ephesians 4:11.

It is a good idea to teach children how gifts are given: at the discretion of the Holy Spirit. God decides who receives which gift(s), and all gifts are vitally necessary for the healthy function of the Church. Because of this, there is no need to be jealous of someone else’s gift or to downplay the gifts we have. Simply encourage them to grow in the gifts God has given them and to use them for their intended purpose: *to produce fruit!*

*I baptize you with
water for repentance.
But after me comes
one who is more
powerful than I,
whose sandals I am
not worthy to carry.
He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit
and fire.*

Matthew 3:11

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:4

What is Baptism in The Holy Spirit?

Among the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. To summarize the doctrinal statement, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a promise of God, fulfilled through Jesus. It is a separate experience from conversion, meaning it has no impact on the salvation of the believer, and is for the purpose of giving power and strength for life and service.

With the Baptism of the Holy Spirit comes an “overflowing fullness of the Spirit”, “a deepened reverence for God”, “an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work”, and “and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost”. In other words, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience which draws us closer to God and gives us greater strength and longing to do His will; a deeper relationship with Him. However, it is not healthy, or correct, to consider this experience as some sort of merit badge making those who have had the experience holier than those who have not; it simply means some have experienced it and some have not.

How do you know if you or your child has had this experience? The Assemblies of God believes the initial, physical



While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

Acts 19:1-7

evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. This can be either as seen on the day of Pentecost, in which the Disciples began preaching the gospel in known, human languages, or it can be as seen elsewhere in the book of Acts, as what is sometimes referred to as a prayer language, or a heavenly language. In these cases, there is no translation of the language spoken and so is for the personal encouragement of the believer, rather than to build up others with an accompanied translation.

Again, some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are peculiar. However, we believe God is free to do today that which we see Him do in Scripture. We see God use odd gifts of the Spirit in Scripture, so we believe He is free to continue using those same gifts today, regardless of our response to them.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Why Provide These Tools?

We are providing these tools because we believe in you and because we need you.

God sovereignly chose **you** as the parent of your kid. **God believes in you, so we believe in you.** By equipping you with some simple resources you can use in the difficult discussions that come up, we want you to feel confident in your role as the primary spiritual influence in your kids lives.

It is easy to think of the Kid's Pastor, or some other Kid's Leader as the person with the most spiritual influence in your kids lives, but those people are only around your kids for a couple hours every week. You are the ones that are doing life with your kids and **you have more impact on their spiritual development than anyone else ever could.** We want to partner with you in raising a generation of CATALYST KIDS!

... so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands...Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:1-7



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God Has A Dream For Your Life