

## Lesson 1-2 Accessing the Truth

1. In lesson 1 we concluded that the word of God is truth. Now we need to know how to access truth. Do you know the truth when you hear it?

2. Since God has given us truth, surely He has provided us with access to the truth and a means of understanding it. In lesson 1 we presented the case that in life there are many lies, distortions of truth, and partial truths. We know that Jesus is truth, but He has been resurrected and seated with the Father in heaven. What provisions has He left for us? Why can't God just come down and show us truth?

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3. Maybe He does, read John 14:25-26, John 14:16-17 and John 16:7 and 13. Write a summary of these Scriptures in your own words.

**John 14:16** Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.

**John 14:25** I have told you these things while I am still with you. But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you.

**John 16:7** But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.

John 16:13 The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen.

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4. God has given us His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and guide us in truth and to help us. How can God have given us anything better?

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5. Look at the following models of receiving truth and guidance, which ones are the best?

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- a. God -> truth -> The world -> You
- b. God -> truth -> Scholars -> You
- c. God -> truth -> The Bible -> You
- d. God -> truth -> Teachers -> You
- e. God -> truth -> The world -> Holy Spirit -> You
- f. God -> truth -> Scholars -> Holy Spirit -> You
- g. God -> truth -> The Bible -> Holy Spirit -> You
- h. God -> truth -> Teachers -> Holy Spirit -> You

6. which of the models in item 5 can result in problems?

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7. The Holy Spirit dwells in believers. Read Ephesians 1: 13-14 who has the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 1:13-14 Christ also brought you the truth, which is the good news about how you can be saved. You put your faith in Christ and were given the promised Holy Spirit to show that you belong to God. The Spirit also makes us sure that we will be given what God has stored up for his people. Then we will be set free, and God will be honored and praised.

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8. We know that the Holy Spirit dwells in us and His job is to communicate with us. But how do we recognize His voice?

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9. How do we recognize our mother's voice?      Our friends' voices?      Any voice?

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10. We human beings are very complicated. What other possible spiritual voices could we hear?

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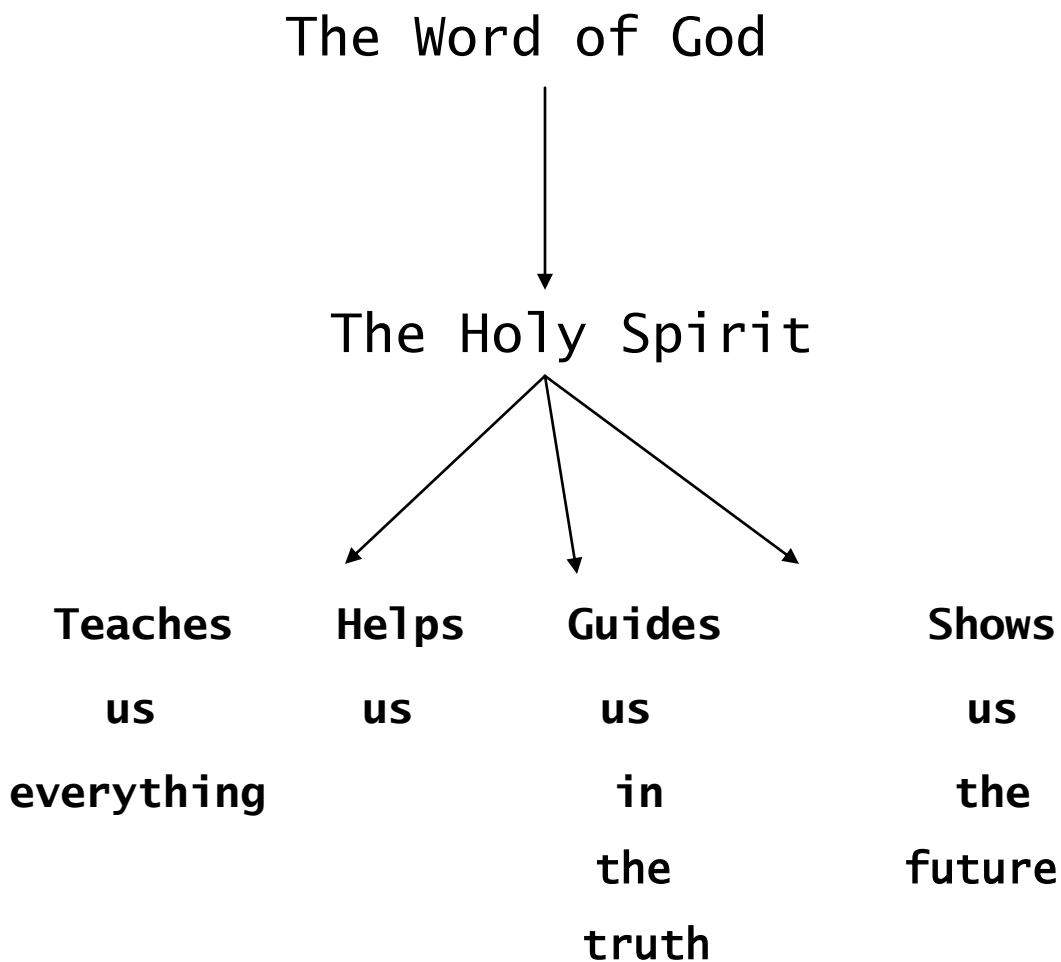
11. Read John 10:2-5 Jesus says that His "sheep listen and know His voice."

John 10:2-5 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

12. Read John 16: 13-15 and John 14:26

**John 16:13-15** The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen. The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking my message and telling it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That is why I have said that the Spirit takes my message and tells it to you.

**John 14:26** But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you.



13. In the world, there are many believers all of whom have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them and speaking to them. Consider a situation with a believer by the name of John; he prays, reads his Bible, goes to church and seeks the will of God. Someone, who is well respected, tells John that the Holy Spirit has revealed to him that John should quit his job and work in ministry. John prays and asks God for direction and truth; after praying, he believes that the Holy Spirit spoke to him clearly that he is to stay where he is and not go into the ministry. Did he do what was pleasing in God's sight?

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14. Consider william who has two job possibilities, and he can't decide with one to take. They are both good jobs and he doesn't want to make a mistake. while reading his Bible, he believes that the Holy Spirit gave him guidance while reading Proverbs 3:5,6. He then made his decision based on this scripture. His first day at work didn't go well, did he make a mistake? what should he do?

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15. Consider Mark and his wife Collette, they have been married for 15 years and are both believers. Mark feels it is time to buy a bigger house and Collette feels that they don't have enough money. They have prayed about it and neither of them feels that the Holy Spirit has shown them truth concerning God's will. what should they do?

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16. To do: Be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in you; listen for His voice; and develop a relationship with Him. When you don't understand something in the Bible, ask Him. When you need Him to guide you, let Him do His job. When you need anything from God, remember He is inside you. Document all your needs and requests in a book.

17. Conclusion: The Holy Spirit has been sent to show us truth, to guide us in truth, and speak truth to us. He dwells in those who believe. God, His Word (Jesus) and His Spirit are one; they are not independent of each other. John 16:13; John 17.

18. Memory verse: John 14:26

John 14:26 But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you.

19. In lesson 1-3 we will be discussing how the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus validate to one another.