

Study Guide: The Holy Spirit. Lord and Giver of Life

To study the topic of the Holy Spirit, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. Why is it important to note that Christians are baptized in the **name** (not the *names*) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit? (CCC 232-233)
2. Which doctrine is the “central mystery of Christian faith and life”? Where does it stand in the “hierarchy of truths”? (CCC 234)
3. How do we know that the Holy Spirit is a divine person? [Hint: Look up the Scripture passages in the notes and pay special attention to the pronouns.] What did the Second Council of Constantinople (381) say in the Creed to indicate that the Holy Spirit is God? (CCC 244-245).
4. If the Holy Spirit doesn’t “speak of himself” and “we do not hear the Spirit himself,” how do we know the Holy Spirit? Since the Church is the place where we know the Holy Spirit, in what ways do we come to know him there? (CCC 687, 688)
5. When the Father sends his Word, what does he always send with it? How will the joint mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit be manifested? (CCC 689-690)
6. What are some of the names that Jesus calls the Holy Spirit? What do the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles call him? (CCC 692)
7. What are some of the Biblical symbols of the Holy Spirit? (CCC 694-701) Which symbol appeals most to you? Why?

8. When the Church reads the Old Testament, what does she search for in connection with the Spirit? Who are the “prophets” as the Church understands them? How does Jewish tradition divide what we call the Old Testament? (CCC 702)

9. Read paragraphs 703-716 in the Catechism. What are some of the ways the Spirit prepares mankind for the coming of the Messiah?

10. How is John the Baptist “more than a prophet”? What is the Spirit doing in and with John? (CCC 717-720)

11. How were the “wonders of God” that the Spirit was to fulfill in Christ and the Church manifested in and through Mary? (CCC 721-726)

12. How does Jesus reveal the Spirit in the Gospels? At what point does the mission of the Son and the Spirit become the mission of the Church? (728-730)

13. What does the gift of the Holy Spirit accomplish in us? (CCC 733-736)

14. How does the Holy Spirit bring Christ’s faithful to share in his (Christ’s) communion with the Father? That is, how does the Spirit work in human beings? (CCC 737)

15. Is it true to say that the mission of the Church is added on to that of Christ and the Spirit? Why or why not? What is the mission of the Church? (CCC 738)