

# Growing Deep in the Christian Life: Returning to Our Roots

The Spirit Who Is Not a Ghost

JOHN 16:6–14



## The Heart of the Matter

"I believe in the Holy Ghost. . . ." These are familiar words to those who have ever attended a church where the Apostles' Creed is recited during the service. Six words commonly heard yet seldom thought through. What, exactly, do they mean? Do we believe the Spirit is a person? But the creed calls Him a ghost. Do we believe the Spirit is present today? But Jesus has left the earth; didn't the Spirit leave with Him? And even if the Spirit is here today, how does His presence differ from that of the Father's or the Son's? Is there some distinction? In the final analysis, is the Spirit really that important? Would it be all that different if He and His influence were suddenly removed from earth? These questions (and more) are the ones that we must answer.



## Discovering the Way

1. Some Things the Holy Spirit Is **Not** (Selected Scriptures)

When it comes to the Holy Spirit, many people get confused about the third Person of the Godhead and begin to believe errors. Let's dispel four such errors from our thinking right now.

2. Some Reasons the Holy Spirit Is **Here** (John 16:6–14)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is beautifully summarized by Jesus. Basically, the Spirit ministers in two realms: among unbelievers and within believers.

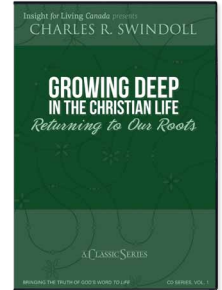


## Starting Your Journey

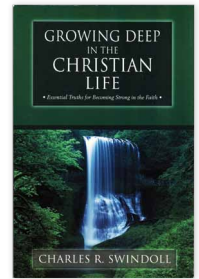
The Holy Spirit is felt in our lives in at least four ways. First, He heals our relationships. Second, He comforts us in our sorrows and guides us. Third, He gives us power and perseverance. Fourth, He controls and transforms our circumstances.



## Tools for Digging Deeper



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