



## Who is the Holy Spirit?

'The Holy Spirit took control of everyone and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak' (Acts 2:4)

So, I am sitting here 10 minutes after the very last deadline for this article to be finished and I am still not sure what to write. I would like to say that I only knew of this article yesterday, but that would be lying. I have, in fact known for a few weeks. As the deadline approached I was filled with panic as to what I could write. What is the Holy Spirit? WHO is the Holy Spirit?

And it strikes me that maybe quite a few of us Christians are really not sure of the answer to these questions. Some of us would be fine, others may know the answer but not be up to putting it into words and others, well we just don't know!

We often hear the Holy Spirit referred to as a dove, fire or even an advocate, however one word that keeps popping into my head every time I think of this painful article is a more down to earth word. A word that is more practical and humble, a tangible word that has an affect on my life: worker.



About a year ago I asked a group of Confirmation candidates if they thought they could pray to the Holy Spirit. Without exception, the resounding response was 'no'. It was said in a way that made me feel I had asked a ridiculous question. As time went by I used this example quite considerably when talking about where young people are at with their faith today. I made it seem as if things were different when I was their age, I would have known that you could pray to the Holy Spirit. It then struck me that as much as I would like to think I knew the answer, the truth is that I had never done it. I had never prayed to the Holy Spirit. Even when surrounded by people who were, even when in a room when our only purpose was to ask the Holy Spirit to be with us I had always replaced the Holy

Spirit with God the Father or Jesus.

I often find myself in situations where I feel out of my depth. I often have to speak to large and small groups of people about things I am not confident or don't feel I have the authority to say. I have found that recently I have had to call on the Holy Spirit not to help me or support me or guide me but to take over; to relinquish

the power and fear that I have and allow the 'spirit of God' to live through me. I am still scared, of course but things go well. God takes over.

I also find that I pray now that the Spirit goes before me. It calms the way. I walk into situations know that God has been there first, is there and will be there after I have gone.

So, as we approach the time of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit took control of Jesus's disciples we are given a prompting to pray to the Holy Spirit. In preparation we could ask ourselves 'what do I need from the Holy Spirit?' In what situations do I need the Holy Spirit to take control?' and 'How will I allow the Holy Spirit to take control?'