

**God the Holy Spirit.** God is Life. God is all around us in living things. God is the creator of all things but especially of all living things. Creatures that are alive receive their life from God. When a baby is born we call it a miracle because a new person has come into the world from God. If you have a pet like a dog or cat or fish, these animals are living creations from a *living* God (Jeremiah 10:10. God gives life to every living thing. That is why we say 'life is sacred' or 'life is holy' for it comes from God. Christians say the Holy Spirit of God is the "Lord and Giver of Life." (Nicene Creed)

God is Life, if you are alive, God is in you. Jesus said, 'The Kingdom of God is within' us (Luke 17:21). The Spirit of God lives in all the children of God (Romans 8:9). God is in us and we are in God (Acts 17:28). That's why we say, 'God lives in our hearts.'

One of the gift from God's Spirit living inside all of us is that little feeling in our hearts that tells us something is good or something is bad, right and wrong. This ability to hear or feel a sense of what is right or wrong is called our **conscience**, and it is a gift of God's Spirit given to all people.

Another power of God's Spirit that lives inside of us is the ability **to give and receive love**. The Bible teaches us (1 John 4):

**12** No one has ever seen God but if we love one another, *God lives in us*, and his love is made complete in us.,., **16** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and *all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them*. **17** And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect.

So God's Spirit lives in us. We know this because God is Love and that is where our own love comes from. And God is good and right and that is where our own conscience (ability to make good choices) come from. All people have these gifts from the Holy Spirit for they are alive and the Holy Spirit is the "Lord and Giver of Life."

**OPTION** for Older Kids: When someone **dies**, we say their body has died but their spirit lives on. Or the spirit has left the body and so the body is no longer alive. This tradition comes for the story of the creation of first humans where God formed our bodies out of earthly materials and then breathed his own breath (spirit) into them to produce living human beings (or living souls) Read Genesis chapter 2.

Questions:

- How does it make you feel to know that everybody has a gift of God living in them?
- Which one of these can love you back: your pet dog or a rock? Why is this?
- The Spirit of God teaches us right and wrong in our hearts. How does He do this?
- How should you treat other people if you know they have God's gift too?

**Attn Teacher:** we are not here speaking of the *filling* or *baptism* in the Holy Spirit associated with the empowering of believers. This is another topic for another time.