

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“the helper”

Key question

What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s and nonbeliever’s lives?

Key text

John 14:16-17

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.”

Introduction

A. **The Spirit in the Old Testament.**

1. The expression “**Spirit of God**” in the Old Testament can refer to:
 - a. The will, mind, or activity of God or
 - b. The **Holy Spirit** (the second person of the Trinity) as in Acts 2:16-21 where Joel 2:28-32 is quoted.
2. Areas where the Holy Spirit is present in the Old Testament.
 - a. Creation - Gen.1:2, Isa.32:15
 - b. Prophetic utterance - II Pet.1:21, Acts 1:16, 4:25
 - c. Skills for special tasks - Ex.31:3-5, Zech.4:6
 - d. Administration - Gen.41:38, Deut.34:9
 1. Judges - Judg.6:34, 14:19
 2. Kings - I Sam.10:10, 16:13
 - e. Spiritual life -
 1. Leading in life - Ps.143:10, Neh.9:20
 2. The anointing of Messiah - Isa.11:2-5
3. There is a coming time when the ministry of the Spirit is to be more complete.
 - a. The coming Messiah - Isa.11:1-5, 42:1-4, 61:1-3
 - b. The promise of the Father - Joel 2:28-29

B. **The Spirit in the life of Jesus.**

1. His conception -

Matt.1:18 “she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.”

2. His baptism -

Matt.3:16 “and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him.” (Mk.1:10, Lk.3:22, Jn.1:32)

3. His leading into the wilderness of testing -

Matt.4:1 “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Lk.4:1-2)

4. His ministry -

Lk.4:14 “And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.”

5. His exorcism of demons -

Matt.12:25-32 “but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him,”

C. **The Spirit in the life of the Christian.**

1. Pentecost was a turning point for the disciples

- a. The Spirit was with them but would now be in them.

Jn.14:17 “that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides **with** you, and will be **in** you.”

- b. The Spirit would not come until Jesus went away.

Jn.16:7 “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

- c. The Spirit would declare the things of Jesus to His followers.

Jn.14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” (15:26, 16:13-14)

Activity	Description of the Activity	Scripture Reference
Convicting	The Spirit convicts a person of sin, righteousness, and judgment.	John 16:8-11
Regenerating	Through the ministry of the Spirit a person is born again, receives eternal life, and is renewed.	John 3:3-8; 6:63; Tit. 3:5
Indwelling	The Spirit abides in the believer. Without the Spirit's indwelling the person does not belong to Christ.	John 14:17; Rom. 8:9, 11; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19
Baptizing	Believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit by Christ, uniting them all into one body.	Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; I Cor. 12:13
Sealing	God seals believers with the Holy Spirit, providing a statement of ownership and guarantee of final redemption.	II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; cf. Rom. 8:16
Filling	The filling ministry of the Spirit can be divided into the general filling relating to spiritual growth and maturation and to special capacities given by the Spirit for special tasks for God.	Eph. 5:18; cf. Acts 4:8; 4:31; 6:3; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9

Guiding	Believers are commanded to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. The Spirit keeps the believer from enslavement to legalism and also provides discipline and direction for the Christian life.	Gal. 5:16, 25; cf. Acts 8:29; 13:2; 15:7-9; 16:6; Rom. 8:14
Empowering	The indwelling Spirit provides victory in the Christian life, development of Christian fruit, and the ability to win against the works of Satan.	John 14:12; Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:17-18, 22-23
Teaching	Jesus promised that when the Spirit came he would lead believers into truth. The Spirit illuminates the mind of the believer to the revelation of God's will through his Word.	John 14:26; 16:13; I John 2:20, 27
Witnessing	The Spirit gives power to bear witness to the resurrected Jesus with boldness and effectiveness.	Acts 1:4-8
Interceding	The Spirit helps the believer in his weakness (not knowing how to pray) with groaning too deep for words.	Rom. 8:26-27
Sanctifying	The Spirit separates us unto God for Christ like living.	Rom. 8

NOTE: Much of the above chart is modified from Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine by H. Wayne House, Zondervan

2. The **PARACLETE** “Comforter”, “Helper”, “Advocate”

- a. The word literally means “called to one’s side as an aid” It is used in a legal context of a “legal assistant” or advocate (defense counsel). It also is used in a context of one who intercedes **I Jn.2:1** “And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;”
- b. The Greek term PARAKLEOS is used of the Spirit in a number of texts.
 1. **Jn.14:16** “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may be with you forever.”
 - a. “**Another**” (ALLOS, another of the same sort not HETEROS, different) suggesting that the Spirit is a PARAKLETE in the same way Jesus was a PARAKLETE. Gal.1:6-9 illustrates the two words translated “another” used in the same context. “⁶I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the Grace of Christ unto **another** [*heteros*] gospel: ⁷ Which is not **another** [*allos*]; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” KJV
 - b. As Paraclete, it is more appropriate to speak of the Spirit as “with” the believer in contrast to “in” the believer. He stands along side as a counselor.
 2. **Jn.14:26** “But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
 - a. We might describe the work of the Paraclete as the shedding of light (truth) on all aspects of life. If Satan is the “father of lies”, the Spirit is the angel of truth.
 - b. One of the most important roles of the Spirit (Paraclete) is that of pointing to Jesus and His teaching. Jn.16:13-14 “¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ he shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.”

3. **Jn.15:26** When the **Helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me.
 - a. In this text we are reminded that the Paraclete is an Advocate for Christ in the believer’s life. The Paraclete may advocate on our behalf before the “accuser of the brethren” (Satan) in some contexts but in this text He is an advocate for Christ to us.
 - b. Our great need in this age of Christ’s church is to relate to the Spirit so that a number of important realities become a part of our experience.
 1. A **Comforter** who assures us of our security in the righteousness of Christ through faith.
 2. An **Advocate** for Christ in our lives that we might continue to be disciples of Jesus.
 3. A **Helper** who gives us power to live holy lives and grow to maturity, integrating the life of Christ into all aspects of our walk.
 4. An **Equipper** who graces us with gifts to serve the interests of Christ in His Church.
 5. A **Counselor** who teaches us and guides us through life.
4. **Jn.16:7** “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Helper** shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”
 - a. This text makes it clear that the Paraclete ministry of the Spirit is unique to the Church (Body of Christ) post Pentecost.
 - b. While Jesus was with the disciples He was the Paraclete.
3. The Spirit as Paraclete is to be understood in the context of the other ministries of the Spirit in the believer’s life. These ministries of the Spirit work together and must each be respected.

<i>Comforting</i>	<i>Convicting</i>	<i>Controlling</i>
Granting us security through faith in spite of sins	Challenging us to change	Empowering us for Godliness
By itself can lead to irresponsible living	By itself can lead to guilt and despair	By itself can lead to unrealistic idealism
Based on what Christ has done for us	Based on what Christ wants to do in us	Based on what Christ wants to do through us

4. There is also tension between three other aspects of the Spirit’s work. We should not neglect the heart of Christ in each of these areas.

<i>The Great Commission</i> <i>“make disciples”</i>	<i>The Great Commandment</i> <i>“abide in me”</i>	<i>The Great Community</i> <i>“love one another”</i>
Connecting with the world	Connecting with God	Connecting with believers
By itself can lead to shallowness	By itself can lead to privatization	By itself can lead to a “holy huddle”
Based on Christ’s heart	Based on Christ’s heart for	Based on Christ’s heart

for the world	the individual	for the church
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D. Our responses to the Spirit

1. The **indwelling** of the Spirit.

- a. The Spirit's indwelling is conditioned upon faith in Christ.
 1. It is a unique feature of the "age to come" (the Kingdom of God). Exek.36:25-26; Matt.3:11-12; Jn.16:7; 20:22
 2. It is a universal experience among believers in this age. Rom.8:9; Gal.3:2
 3. It is related to "regeneration by" and "baptism with" the Spirit in that they each take place at the moment of conversion.
 4. It seems to be the same as the "anointing" and "sealing" of the Spirit.
- b. The Spirit's indwelling results in the potential for living the Christian life.
 1. It is the provision for security, service, and sanctification.
 2. It is an instrument of spiritual growth.

2. The **filling** of the Spirit.

- a. The filling is distinct from indwelling in several ways.
 1. It is often experienced subsequent to conversion.
 2. It is temporary in nature (not permanent).
 3. It is conditioned upon things other than initial faith in Christ as Savior.
 4. It constitutes a state of control by the Spirit.
- b. Luke speaks of two types of **FILLING**.
 1. **PIMPLEMI** (πιμπλημι)--This is a special filling which may be the best word to describe the charismatic experience today.
 - a. It appears in

Acts 2:4 "And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.";

Acts 4:8 "Then Peter, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, said to them . . .";

Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.";

Acts 9:17 "the Lord Jesus . . . has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be **filled** with the Holy Spirit.";

Acts 13:9 "but Saul, who was also known as Paul, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him." Note that this filling is consistently associated with energy to speak prophetically or in praise.
 - b. Before Pentecost, "the filling of the Holy Spirit" was expressed through a sovereign anointing for specific types of service-- Exodus 28:3 (35:30-35), Judges 3:10; 6:2,4; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14. (See also Numbers 11:17,25; 27:18; I Samuel 10:9-10; 16:13; Daniel 4:8; 5:11-14; 6:3)
 - c. Note the unique features of the Old Testament filling:
 1. It had not relationship to spiritual character.
 2. It was associated with a sovereign call to service for a specific task.
 3. It was temporary.

4. John 14:17 suggests that the Spirit's work was from a position of "with" as opposed to "in" the individual.
 - d. Classical examples of this special manifestation of power before Pentecost are seen in Luke 1:15,41;67.
 - e. In short, this PIMPLEMI (filling) is not for every believer, temporary, instant power, related to special gifts of service, given by God's sovereign will.
2. **PLEROO** (πληρωω)--This is a term (translated "full" or "filled") used to describe a state of maturity available to all believers.
 - a. It is not dramatic (like PIMPLEMI) but more a description of character and growing power.
 - b. It appears in

Acts 6:3 "but select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation **full** of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."

Acts 7:55 "but being **full** of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God."

Acts 11:24 "for he was a good man, and **full** of the Holy Spirit and of faith."

Acts 13:52 "and the disciples were continually **filled** with joy and with the Holy Spirit." ("Were filled" is an imperfect passive meaning "they kept on being filled".)
 - c. Some conclusions:
 1. Every true believer is Spirit baptized (indwelt) with the Holy Spirit - ie. Rom.8:9, I Cor.12:13.
 2. Every believer should grow to be "filled" (pleroo) with the Spirit.
 3. Some (but not all) will experience a "filling" (pimplemi) for power ministry, praise, and bold witness. This is what I would call "the charismatic experience".
 - d. The indwelling of the Spirit does not automatically result in the filling of the Spirit because of the old sin nature, which influences the believer to resist the Spirit.
3. **The Sin against the Holy Spirit.**
 - a. **Matt.12:32** "And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him either in this age, or in the age to come."
 - b. A person can reject the ethical teaching and miracle work of Jesus and be forgiven but a person cannot reject the "Word of the Cross" as it comes through the Apostles after Pentecost and be forgiven.
 - c. Believing the Gospel of the death and resurrection of Christ is an essential part of salvation.
4. There are four commands that are given to the believer with respect to the Spirit's ministry.
 - a. **Eph.4:30 "grieve not the Spirit"** "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
 1. To grieve means to make sorrowful, disappoint, or to cause pain (Matt.19:22; Mk.10:22). It is contrasted with rejoicing in II Cor.6:10.
 2. The context of Eph.4:25-32 suggests that division in the body of Christ will grieve the Spirit. Disunity can come through:
 - a. Careless speech - 4:25,29
 - b. Uncontrolled or suppressed anger - 4:26

- c. Selfish ambition - 4:28
- d. An unforgiving heart - 4:32
- 3. In general, any and all sin grieves the Holy Spirit.
- 4. Seven major passages that relate to spiritual cleansing from sin.
 - a. Jn.13:1-11 Christ alone can cleanse from sin.
 - b. I Jn.1:1-2:2 Confession is an important condition of cleansing.
 - c. I Cor.11:31-32 Self-judgment saves from chastisement.
 - d. Heb.12:3-15 God chastens His sinning children in love.
 - e. II Cor.7:8-11 An example of Christian repentance.
 - f. Ps.51:1-19 The confession, repentance, and restoration of an Old Testament saint.
 - g. Lk.15:1-32 The parable of repentance.
- b. **I Thess.5:19 “quench not the Spirit”** “Do not quench the Spirit;”
 - 1. In Acts 2:3-4, the Spirit is likened to fire. The term translated “quench” (to repress or restrict) suggests the extinguishing of that fire.
 - 2. The construction in the Greek text suggests the following emphasis - “stop throwing cold water on the things of the Spirit.”
 - 3. There are many ways in which we can quench the Spirit.
 - a. Fear or relinquishing control of the church on the part of leaders can quench the Spirit. This can involve the disrespect of certain spiritual gifts like prophecy (vs.20).
 - b. The inability to accept and respect diversity within the church is dangerous. A party spirit will certainly restrict the Spirit’s work.
 - c. The unwillingness to submit to human spiritual authority can restrict the Spirit. (vs.12-13) Wild freedom can quench as much as fearful restriction.
 - d. A negative attitude will quench the Spirit. (vs.16-18)
 - 4. The quenching of the Spirit can be prevented by:
 - a. Developing a sound understanding of the Spirit’s ministry. Jn.16:7-15; Rom.8:1-18; I Cor.12-14
 - b. A yielded life. Jn.15:1-8; Rom.12:1-2; Phil.2:3-8; Jn.15:9-27
- c. **Gal.6:8 “sow to the Spirit”** “For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.”
 - 1. Sowing suggests two things.
 - a. Investing for future effectiveness in our lives.
 - b. We bear some responsibility for that investment.
 - 2. The context of Gal.6:1-10 focuses our attention on two things.
 - a. Doing good - vs.9-10
 - b. Sharing what we have been given with others - vs.6-7
- d. **Gal.5:16 “walk by the Spirit”** “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”
 - 1. Walking describes the activity of a life - values, behaviors, etc.

2. Walking in the Spirit is most simply a matter of coming to grips with our identity as Christians. Jas.1:23-25; I Jn.1:1-10
 - a. Rom.8:1-2 Freedom from the penalty of sin.
 - b. Rom.8:3-11 Seeing ourselves “after the Spirit” or “in Christ.”
 - c. Rom.8:12-17 Seeing ourselves as “children of God.”
 - d. II Cor.3:17-4:6 Looking unto Jesus.

Questions that you should be able to answer.

1. Specific facts you should know.

- a. What texts in the New Testament speak of spiritual gifts?
- b. What are the terms used in the New Testament to describe the Spirit’s work in the life of the believer?
- c. What are the four specific commands given to believers in their relationship with the Spirit?

2. Issues that you should be able to discuss.

- a. How is the manifestation of the Spirit different in the New Testament as compared to the Old Testament?
- b. What is the significance of Pentecost?

3. Questions you should wrestle with.

- a. Are the miraculous gifts of the Spirit to be expected in the church today?
- b. In what way does the Spirit intercede with our spirit in prayer?