

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The Holy Spirit is not an “it,” not a “force,” and not a “thing.” The Holy Spirit is deity. He is one of the three persons of the triune Godhead. He is God, having the very same essence, attributes, and characteristics of the other members of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit serves a varying role than that of the Father and the Son.

II Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Acts 5:3, 4d But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?” (4d) “You have not lied to men but to God.”

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CREATOR

The Holy Spirit, as a member of the triune Godhead, is Creator. He used His power to bring into existence everything from nothing.

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:26a, 27a Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness . . .” (27a) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him . . .

Psalms 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED THE WORD OF GOD

The Holy Spirit initiated and prompted the human authors who penned the words of Scripture. His power enlightened and breathed out the very wisdom of God to accurately reveal His Word to mankind.

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II Peter 1:19a, 20-21 We also have the prophetic word made more sure . . . (20-21) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private [origination], for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

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4. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERED JESUS' CONCEPTION

The Holy Spirit produced and empowered the human conception of God the Son. His power rested upon Mary, causing her to supernaturally conceive the God-Man, Jesus.

Matthew 1:18, 20 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 20) . . . an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

Luke 1:35 And the angel said to [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT FROM GOD AND JESUS

The Holy Spirit came from heaven. He was sent to earth by God the Father at the request of Jesus the Son. He came to testify of and glorify Jesus and to help believers, enabling them to live righteously.

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

John 16:7, 13-15 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. (13-15) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS ACTIVE IN CHRIST'S MINISTRY

Jesus' earthly ministry was empowered by the Holy Spirit, as was predicted in Hebrew Scripture (Isaiah 11:1-2, 42:1, 61:1). The Spirit descended and remained upon Jesus at His baptism (Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32), filling Him (Luke 4:1) and anointing Him to preach and heal (cf. Matthew 12:17; Luke 4:17-21).

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Luke 4:14 Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and the news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Acts 10:38a how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power . . .

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Hebrew prophecy recorded God's promise to send the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27, 37:14; Joel 2:28). The Father's faithful promise was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit was sent to indwell believers at Pentecost—50 days after the Passover when Jesus was crucified (Acts 2:1-4). (See also Ephesians 1:13-14.)

Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 2:32-33 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

8. THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS

The Holy Spirit reproves mankind of his unbelief. He reveals the ways in which man has wronged God and departed from His Truth. He attests that mankind is deserving of eternal judgment by a just and righteous God.

John 16:8-11 “And when [the Helper] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged.”

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES

The Holy Spirit gives eternal life (John 6:63; II Corinthians 3:6). He causes believers to be “born again” (John 3:5-8) through His indwelling power.

Romans 8:10-11 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Titus 3:5-6 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

10. THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZES BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit baptizes believers, placing them into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. The members of the body of Christ are united as one body called the “church,” and Jesus Christ is the exalted Head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 2:19). The Holy Spirit’s baptism was predicted by Jesus (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5).

I Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 4:3-5 . . . endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

11. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit lives inside the physical body of believers, indwelling them at the moment of salvation, thus signifying God’s ownership of them. Jesus foretold the Spirit’s indwelling in John 14:17.

Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

I Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

I John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

12. THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS BELIEVERS

The indwelling Holy Spirit seals the believer at the moment of salvation. The sealing of the Holy Spirit confirms the purchase of salvation and guarantees our future inheritance.

II Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:5 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit. (5:5) Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession to the praise of His glory.

13. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES GIFTS TO BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the members of the body of Christ, granting abilities that are supernaturally empowered. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to strengthen, edify, encourage, and build up the body of Christ; they are for the benefit of all. These gifts are given to believers at the moment of salvation.

I Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

I Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

14. THE HOLY SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

The Holy Spirit's indwelling certifies that we belong to God. His presence is a comforting assurance that exclaims within our own spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:15-17 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

I John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. (See also I John 3:24.)

15. THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit petitions and prays to the Father on our behalf. He is an advocate who pleads for us according to the will of the Father. The Spirit can intercede according to the will of God because He knows the things of God (I Corinthians 2:10-11).

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

16. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES DISCERNMENT

The Holy Spirit gives discernment regarding evil and deception. The Spirit of truth (John 14:17) uses the Word of God to enable believers to stand firm by discriminating between good and evil, truth and lies. (See also Hebrews 5:12-14.)

Ephesians 6:11, 17 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemings of the devil. (17) And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I John 2:20, 26-27 (ESV) But you have been anointed by the Holy One and you have all knowledge. (26-27) I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in Him. (See I John 2:20-27.)

18. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit empowers believers, granting strength to live in a manner that is not possible by mere human ability.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

I Corinthians 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (See also I Thessalonians 1:5.)

Ephesians 3:14-16 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.

17. THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit sanctifies believers. He sets us apart to live holy lives, leads us to put to death sinful deeds, and changes us into the image of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

II Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

I Peter 1:2 . . . elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

19. THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS BELIEVERS

Believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Being “filled” means to make full, supply abundantly, and impart richly. We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we let the Word of God dwell richly in our hearts (cf. Colossians 3:16). (See also Ephesians 6:17.)

Ephesians 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

20. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT ODDS WITH THE FLESH

The Spirit and the flesh are both at war within us. This adversarial relationship creates a ceaseless battle in our hearts and minds. The flesh and the Spirit will never be at peace with each other. However, the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit subdues the flesh. Thus, we must avail ourselves of His power as a spiritual weapon against sin.

Romans 8:6-9a For to be fleshly minded is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Galatians 5:17-19a For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident . . .

22. BELIEVERS ARE TO WALK IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are to walk in the power of and strive after the things of the Spirit, bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We can choose to avail ourselves of the power of the Spirit or, sadly, we can choose to pursue the desires of the flesh.

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16, 24-25, 6:8 I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (5:24-25) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (6:8) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

21. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN BE SINNED AGAINST

The Holy Spirit is God and He can be sinned against. Scripture records these sins against the Holy Spirit: Grieving Him (Ephesians 4:30), quenching Him (I Thessalonians 5:19), blaspheming Him (Mark 3:29), insulting Him (Hebrews 10:29), lying to Him (Acts 5:3-4), and resisting Him (Acts 7:51). Believers are specifically commanded not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to cause Him sorrow and sadness because of indwelling sin. Quenching the Holy Spirit is allowing sin to hinder and stifle His influence, thus inhibiting His power to yield righteous fruit.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

I Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

23. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: LOVE

Love (Galatians 5:22-23) is a benevolence and goodwill toward others that is produced by the Holy Spirit. It is a deliberate affection and a friendly regard toward God and man that displays itself in purposeful acts of sacrifice and kindness. Contrary to love are anger, impatience, bitterness, and envy.

Romans 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

I John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us (cf. I John 4:20-21).

24. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: JOY

Joy (Galatians 5:22-23) is a gladness of heart produced by the Holy Spirit. Joy permeates one's disposition despite trial, heartache, or pain. It is an attitude of spirit that is fixed upon eternal glories and heavenly blessings, so much so that the sorrows of earth do not cause despair of soul. A joyful heart is a thankful heart. Contrary to joy are anger, despair, anxiety, and envy.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Spirit.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I Thessalonians 1:6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit.

26. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: PATIENCE

Patience or longsuffering (Galatians 5:22-23), is forbearance shown toward others. It is a merciful restraint produced by the Holy Spirit that does not retaliate or give way to anger. Patience is a love for others that shows self-control, even when wronged. Contrary to patience are anger, wrath, pride, selfishness, and bitterness.

Ephesians 4:1-2 I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

25. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: PEACE

Peace (Galatians 5:22-23) is a contented state of heart produced by the Holy Spirit. It is a tranquility of being that is not dependent upon external circumstances. Peace embraces the very goodness of God in every situation and demonstrates a spirit of thankfulness and rest. Contrary to peace are anxiety, fear, envy, anger, and despair.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

27. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: KINDNESS

Kindness (Galatians 5:22-23) is a pervasive spirit of gentleness and servanthood that is shaped and molded by the Holy Spirit's indwelling power. It is motivated by sincere love for others. Kindness is similar to goodness, but goodness is the act of good works whereas kindness is the heart attitude behind the good works. Contrary to kindness are anger, bitterness, selfishness, and pride.

II Corinthians 6:4a, 6 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: . . . (6) by kindness.

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.

28. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: GOODNESS

Goodness (Galatians 5:22-23) is an active expression of benevolence toward others as produced by the Holy Spirit. It is a love that motivates someone to serve others and help human need. Goodness is similar to kindness, but kindness is the heart attitude behind the good works whereas goodness is the act of good works. Goodness does manifest itself in gentle correction of others, for their benefit. Contrary to demonstrating goodness is to do evil or harm.

Romans 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Ephesians 5:8-9 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) proving what is acceptable to the Lord.

30. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: MEEKNESS

Meekness (Galatians 5:22-23), also translated “gentleness,” is primarily a response to God. It is a state of heart that not only acknowledges God’s sovereign rule, but embraces His sovereign rule as good. A person with meekness does not blame God for undesirable circumstances, nor does he become angry with God when he does not get his way. Meekness must come from the power of the Holy Spirit. Contrary to meekness are despair, anger, wrath, impatience, anxiety, fear, and envy.

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and abundance of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

29. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: FAITHFULNESS

The word for “faithfulness” in Galatians 5:22 means to “win over” or “to persuade.” Faith, or faithfulness, as produced by the Holy Spirit, is a firm persuasion and conviction. It is a belief and confidence in the person of God and His revealed Word such that it brings forth holiness, obedience, and good works in a person’s life. Contrary to faithfulness are unbelief, disobedience, and ungodliness.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

James 2:17-18 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

31. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT: SELF-CONTROL

Self-control (Galatians 5:22-23), which is often translated “sober”, is a sober-mindedness that gives thought before acting. Self-control, which is produced by the Holy Spirit, gives way to godly desires rather than sinful desires. A person with self-control looks to future and eternal realities rather than indulging immediate sinful impulses.

I Thessalonians 5:6, 8 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be self-controlled . . . (vs. 8) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

I Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

