

# The Holy Spirit



*Who He Is*

*What He Does for the Christian and for the Church*

*His Role in the Life of Jesus*

*His Role in First Century Missions*

*How He Sanctifies Believers*

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# Who is the Holy Spirit?

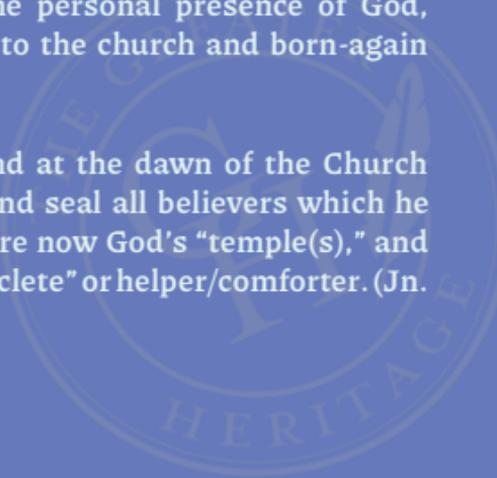
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The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity who eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son (*filioque*). (Jn. 15:26, 14:26) The Holy Spirit is personal; not an "It" but a "He." (Jn. 14:15-17, Eph. 4:30) Thus, he has personality and divinity. Paul, Matthew and early church liturgies and catechisms recognized this. (2 Cor. 13:14, Matt. 28:19) In 381 A.D., the Council of Constantine formally defined the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

He has been given an active role throughout eternity, particularly in helping God unfold His plan(s). He was the means by which God brought all things into existence at creation and the one who maintained order during the process, and human souls are the result of Him. (Gen. 1:1-2, Job. 33:4) He also fulfilled OT prophecies and inspired the Bible. (Lk. 1:15, 2 Tim. 3:16)

Though present in both Testaments, He has had somewhat different roles in each. In the OT he can be described as God's mode of activity and as a distinctive endowment of God's people, and in the NT as the mode of God's operation, and as the personal presence of God, especially as these pertain to the church and born-again believers.

After Jesus's ascension, and at the dawn of the Church Age, He began to indwell and seal all believers which he still does today. Believers are now God's "temple(s)," and the Holy Spirit is their "Paraclete" or helper/comforter. (Jn. 14:16)



# What Does the Holy Spirit Do for Christians?

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He indwells all believers when they trust Jesus as Savior, and He seals them, gives them access to God the Father and allows them to address God as "Father." (1 Cor. 3:16, 2 Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13, 4:30, 2:18, Gal. 4:6)

He aids our weaknesses, prays for us when we know not what to say, and gives us hope, joy and God's love. (Rom. 8:26-27, 15:13, 1 Thess. 1:6, Rom. 5:5)

He makes the body of each believer His temple, unites us with God and makes us dignified. (1 Cor. 6:19, 17, 1 Thess. 4:7-8)

He reveals to us the eternal meaning of life, helps us understand God and His Word and reminds us what to say, especially in times of persecution. (Eph. 3:5, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Jn. 2:27, Jn. 14:26, Matt. 10:19-20)

He testifies with our spirit that we are God's sons and daughters and joint-heirs with Christ. (Rom. 8:14-17)

He bears witness to Jesus through our witness and gives us spiritual gifts. (Jn. 15:26-27, 1 Cor. 12:4)

# What Does the Holy Spirit Do for the Church?

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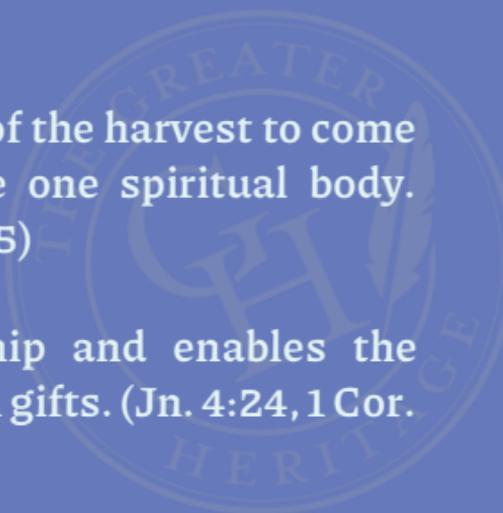
He is the source of our fellowship and is what all church members have in common with one another, especially since all members of God's church are being sanctified by him. (2 Cor. 13:14, Phil. 2:1-2, 1 Pet. 1:2)

He builds us all up together to be a dwelling place for God. He is the reason why all believers make up God's church. (Eph. 2:21-22, 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 12:12-13)

He helps us protect and keep God's Word and truth, and He speaks to us through the Bible. (2 Tim. 1:14, Heb. 3:7, 10:15-16, Eph. 6:17)

He is the firstfruits of the harvest to come when we will all be one spiritual body. (Rom. 8:23, 2 Cor. 5:5)

He helps us worship and enables the church with spiritual gifts. (Jn. 4:24, 1 Cor. 12:4)



# The Holy Spirit's Role in the Life of Jesus

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Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 1:35, Matt. 1:18, 20, Is. 7:14) He also anointed Jesus at his baptism. (Acts 10:38, Matt. 3:16)

Thus, Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit so he could accomplish his saving mission and perform miracles. (Lk. 4:14, 4:18, Matt. 12:28, 18, Is. 42:1) He also led Jesus into the desert. (Mk. 1:12)

The coming of the Holy Spirit to the Church depended on Jesus's death, burial, resurrection and ascension. This is why Jesus mentioned that "another comforter" or "Paraclete" would abide with all believers for ever. (Jn. 14:16, 26)

The Spirit's role in the life of Jesus shows that Son-ship and spirit possession are identical – Jesus and born-again believers are united with God through the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 3:22)

His role in Jesus's life also shows us the rich sovereignty of God, the beauty of the Trinity, and it gave mankind a glimpse of what was to come when the Holy Spirit would indwell believers.

# The Holy Spirit's Role in 1<sup>st</sup> Century Missions

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After Jesus ascended the Holy Spirit came upon believers at Pentecost. (Acts 1:5, 8, 2:1, 33)

These participated in the same Spirit that Jesus had when he ministered. This enabled them to be global witnesses and to convey and confirm the revelation of Jesus through spiritual gifts that were special and unique to the Apostolic Age as mankind transitioned to the Church Age. (Acts 2:22, 14:3, 2 Cor. 12:12, Heb. 2:3-4)

Through the unique workings of the Spirit at this time God spread and advanced his church across the world in places as varied as Ethiopia, Antioch, Caesarea, Asia Minor, Macedonia and many more, all through the speaking of tongues (other languages) and by miraculous acts such as healing. (Acts 2:31, 9:17) Thus, the Church was inaugurated and united to God through the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31)

Today, God works in similar ways to build His church, that is by using the Spirit to convict of sin and draw the lost to Him. (Jn. 6:44) The Holy Spirit also continues to work in believers and indwells in them. (1 Cor. 3:16)

# The Holy Spirit's Role in Sanctification

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Christians are made right with God by faith in Him and by being born again by the Holy Spirit, not by keeping the law or by doing good works. (2 Cor. 3:6, Rom. 7:6, Gal. 3:2-3, Jn. 3:3-8, 1:13)

The new life of the Christian then is a state of being in the Spirit and in Christ. (Rom. 8:1, 9) The essential quality of this life is that the Holy Spirit continually works to transform us into the likeness of Jesus this side of heaven (*sanctification*). (2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Pet. 1:2)

He does this in a myriad of ways as He leads us onward in this life, especially as we set our minds on Him and walk in Him. (Gal. 5:18, Rom. 8:14, 4-6)

He is the Spirit of truth that teaches us and confirms our faith. (Jn. 14:17, 26, 1 Cor. 12:3) We are not to grieve, quench or resist Him. (Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19, Acts 7:51)

He helps us mortify our flesh, gives us hope that lets us press on and assures us that we are of God. (Rom. 8:13, 9, Gal. 5:5, 1 Jn. 3:24)

He fills us and helps us bear fruit which are manifested by His works in us. (Eph. 5:18, Gal. 5:16-25) It is by these good works, that are motivated and driven by the Holy Spirit, that Christians are able to serve God and grow to be more like Jesus. (Rom. 6:18, 22, Matt. 5:14)

# Perspectives on the Holy Spirit

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Does the Holy Spirit work in the same way today as He did after Jesus's ascension and at Pentecost? Are tongues, healing, prophecy, exorcisms, etc. normative for today? We believe they are not, and that such gifts were temporary manifestations of God's power meant for a specific time of transition in God's history as mankind entered the Church Age, and when the revelation of Jesus had to be conveyed and confirmed across the globe by God's power for the spread of the Gospel. (Acts 2:22, 14:3, 2 Cor. 12:12, Heb. 2:3-4)

First, there is no recurring pattern in the NT on the exercising of such gifts. For instance, there is no reference to Apostolic spiritual gifts in the Pastoral Letters. Second, such acts are referenced later in the NT as being done in past tense terms. (Rom. 15:19, 1 Cor. 2:4, 1 Thess. 1:5) Third, throughout the Bible God worked in special ways within single generations. (Heb. 1:1)

Lastly, what is done today in Pentecostal, Holiness, Charismatic, and other Spirit-affirming denominations, does not line up with what is seen in the Bible. Tongues for example were real languages, not unintelligible ones, and God's Word is final; no more prophecies are to be added to it. (Acts 2:11, Jude 3) Moreover, a 2<sup>nd</sup> baptism of the Spirit is not required for proof that one is born again nor do 2<sup>nd</sup> baptisms exist today. (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

Disagreement also exists about how the Holy Spirit worked during the time of the Apostles (Samaritan converts, Cornelius and his family, Disciples at Ephesus, etc.) Yet, all instances of apparent contradictions were turning points in God's mission to build his church. For instance, bringing Gentiles and non-Jews into the church. (Acts 1:8)

All these things aside, we do affirm that the Holy Spirit plays an active role in the Church, and in the life of the Christian, and that all believers receive the Holy Spirit upon salvation.