

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Message 02 of the series "The Third Person"

A. Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit.

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you... in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you." John 14:16-18, 16:7 (NLT)

- The Holy Spirit is a person to be known, NOT a force to be controlled.
- The Holy Spirit is God.
- The Holy Spirit lives in me.

B. The Holy Spirit is working in our lives.

1. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.

"And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged." John 16:8-11 (NLT)

Life Application: When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, we need to repent immediately.

"For God says, 'At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.' Indeed, the 'right time' is now. Today is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

2. The Holy Spirit transforms us and gives us new life.

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God... I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.'" John 3:3-6 (NLT)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Life Application: "...throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." Ephesians 4:22-23 (NLT)

3. The Holy Spirit empowers us.

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NLT)

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers and elders of our people... let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that (this crippled man) was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead...' The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus." Acts 4:8-10,13 (NLT)

Life Application: Our personal inadequacies should not discourage us from following Jesus.

"So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do."
2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

4. The Holy Spirit equips us for ministry.

"...the LORD has chosen Bezalel... and he has filled him with the Spirit of God... he has given both him and Oholiab... the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers...."
Exodus 35:30-35 (NIV)

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)

Life Application: God will provide the spiritual gifts we need to make our church healthy and strong.

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

5. The Holy Spirit guides and teaches us.

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” John 16:13-14 (NIV)

Life Application: The same Holy Spirit that inspired the writers of Scripture will help me understand and apply what they wrote.

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”
Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

6. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.” Romans 8:26-27 (NLT)

Life Application: The Holy Spirit understands us and is our biggest advocate.

“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” John 14:26 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Why do people fear what they do not know or understand?
2. Read Romans 8:9-11. What comes to mind when you read that the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you? How would you explain that the Holy Spirit has given you ‘life’?
3. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. Why do we need the Holy Spirit to renew our thoughts and attitudes? Have you considered that your new nature has been created to be righteous and holy like God?
4. Read Acts 2:1-13. Have you ever seen the Holy Spirit use someone in a way that left you amazed and perplexed? Does the Holy Spirit still use people like that today? What could that possibly look like?
5. Read Ephesians 5:15-20. Can you compare what someone’s life would look like if they lived being led by the Holy Spirit’s power versus someone who lived according to their own desires?
6. Read Romans 8:26-27. If the Holy Spirit helps you in your weakness and prays on your behalf for things you don’t even realize you need prayer for, then how does knowing that give you confidence?
7. How can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you this week?