

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

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John 16:5-16

Last time I spoke on the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit after he left. His sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is the fulfillment of that promise. I also talked about the many names given to the Holy Spirit.

One of the principles I stated last time concerning the Holy Spirit is that I will not place personal experience as the normative standard for deriving a biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit. There are many forms of personal experience. The Holy Spirit is free to manifest in people's lives as He wills. Because such experiences are unique to each person, they cannot be a guide to a doctrinal teaching for the church at large.

Also, I will not pass judgment on anyone's experience. It is not my role to tell God what He should do. I learned from one of my professors at seminary to leave things alone that I do not understand. Also, we do not want to be in a position of blaspheming the Holy Spirit by claiming his actions as deriving from the devil. I have many friends who are in the charismatic tradition. I pray with them and love them. They have learned to love a Baptist preacher as well. Respect and love is what we need, not passing judgment.

What I want to do is give us a general teaching of the role Jesus assigned to the Holy Spirit in His teaching. He should know. He sent the Holy Spirit. As a Baptist I approach the Bible with certain directions. We hold the Bible is the standard for truth for all things in faith and practice. That is – theology and ecclesiology. So we go to the Scripture to find our teaching on the Holy Spirit.

## John 16:5-16 NIVO

**<sup>5</sup> "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. <sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.**

**<sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.**

**<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.**

**<sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. <sup>16</sup> "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."**

### 1. The Holy Spirit is God's conduit for access to God the Father and the Son.

Jesus taught that He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples after He leaves. He said it was necessary for him to go away in order that the Holy Spirit could come. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Living God. He is sent into the lives of all believers so God they may experience the presence of Christ now that Christ is absent in his physical body.

We saw last week that Pentecost was the outward sign of the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit coming into the lives of the church. I said last week if you are born again you have the Holy Spirit. You cannot birth yourself into salvation. It is the work of the Spirit of God making you alive.

With that in mind, the first thing to say about the work of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit makes everything God is doing available to believers. He is

the presence of God in us. Jesus sent Him to continue His work in us because Jesus would be physically absent. So, everything Jesus did, we should expect the Holy Spirit to continue in us and through us. This is a wide open statement. We do not limit what the Holy Spirit can do. The Holy Spirit is access to all of God. All that God does can be done through the working of the Holy Spirit.

### **All of God is available to us in the Holy Spirit.**

I will not speak today of everything the Holy Spirit can do. I will include a list at the end of the printed message that is available online for those who want to see a larger summary of the Holy Spirit's work in the Scripture.

## **2. Jesus teaches the Holy Spirit does some specific works.**

### **(1. The Holy Spirit brings empowers the gospel.**

- **Convicts of guilt of sin**
- **Convicts of righteousness**
- **Convicts of judgment.**

The Holy Spirit is directly involved in the work of salvation. Part of His work is preparing a soul to respond to the gospel. He brings them conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment so they may come to repentance. Faith plus repentance is the soul's response to God's offer of eternal life. Merely believing in God or Jesus is not the same as dying to sin and trusting in Christ's atonement at the cross.

### **(2. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's truth.**

The Holy Spirit teaches through the Scripture. The Holy Spirit makes the Bible the living Word because He speaks to the soul through the Scripture. However, the Holy Spirit is not limited to the Scripture. The Holy Spirit can also speak God's truth directly from God. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will take from the father and give to us. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will reveal the

future. All that God knows is available for the Holy Spirit to reveal to his people.

We must be careful in this. The Holy Spirit will not lead us astray from the Bible. All teachings which are contrary to the Scripture is not from the Holy Spirit.

Study the Bible, it is the Holy Spirit who makes the words come to life in your soul. This includes insights and understandings. It also concerns conviction of truth to live by.

The Holy Spirit also speaks to us about issues in our lives and events so we can know how to respond to the world around us. The Holy Spirit can speak practical truth to us as well as spiritual truth.

Biblical example:

Prophet Agabus ties Paul's hands and feet with his belt, saying this is what the Holy Spirit says about what will happen to Paul when he goes to Jerusalem. He will be tied up by the Jews and handed over to the Gentiles. Acts 21:10-11

Non-biblical example:

I was in a season of prayer for the nations when I asked God how I should pray for the Muslim countries. The Holy Spirit conveyed to my mind I should pray for them to have dreams and visions of Christ Jesus. The answer to that prayer came 2 years before I had any confirmation God was using dreams and visions of Jesus to reach the Muslim nations.

A practical example:

A young seminary student witnessed a car wreck at an intersection in Fort Worth. The car caught on fire and a mother was outside of it pleading for someone to rescue her infant. The student ran up to the car to see if he could get the baby out. He couldn't figure out how to get the baby out of the car seat. The flames were growing rapidly. He didn't know what to do, when he heard God speak to him, "Concentrate on the seat buckle." Suddenly the button on the buckle was clear to him. He pushed the button and the car seat was free. He was able to get the infant out of the flames.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who resides in us. He directs our actions to do the will of God. Sometimes his directions concern the works of kingdom of God. Sometimes, those works are practical needs about us.

### **(3. The Holy Spirit is the power of God's working in us.**

Jesus said, He takes from Jesus and gives to us. Everything God is doing is made alive in us to empower God's work in us. This is as I said, wide open.

- He does miracles.
- He answers our prayers.
- He affirms us to we are His children.
- He comforts us and shows God's love to us.
- He fills us with heaven's joy.
- He directs our paths.
- He calls us to ministry.
- He is the power of spiritual warfare.

There are many aspects of the power of God that is manifested in us through the Holy Spirit. The same Father who spoke creation lives in us through the Holy Spirit. The same Jesus who spoke to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stretch forth your hand," lives in us. The demons who feared the presence of Jesus in incarnate flesh, fears the presence of Jesus in you through the Holy Spirit.

### **3. The Holy Spirit is Humble.**

**He brings glory to God the Father and Jesus Christ.**

**He is submissive to the Father and the Son.**

**The Holy Spirit is humble.** He speaks only what He hears from the Father and Jesus. He takes from Jesus to bring it to us. He takes from us and delivers it to the Father.

The Holy Spirit does not seek self-attention. He seeks the glory to go to the Father. As such, He is submissive to the Father and the Son.

Showmanship of the works of the Holy Spirit is not how Jesus describes the work of the Holy Spirit. There are many so called evangelists who profit in the limelight of miracle works. They do spectacular displays of "power" and raise up wealth to themselves. They are known for what they do. However, Jesus said, that we must not do our acts of righteousness to be seen by men. Such displays are opposite the nature of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not seek attention to Himself. He seeks to bring attention to the Father and the Son. If you are doing something and seeking attention for what you are doing, it is not the work of the Holy Spirit in you.

People who want to possess the works of power for personal gain should remember the outcome of the seven sons of Sceva. They wanted the power of the Holy Spirit so they could profiteer on Jesus' name. The evil spirit overpowered them.

Jim Cymbala's Brooklyn Tabernacle Church is one of the best modern-day examples of the work of the Holy Spirit in a church. Through the praying of church members, God has set people free from drugs, gangs, deviant sexual perversions and other dark paths. Some are set free quickly. Others are saved over a long period of witnessing and prayer. The Holy Spirit is the power that is at work in these lives freeing people from all kinds of bondages.

Some people only want to magnify works of the Spirit in terms of miraculous healings or demonstrations of spiritual manifestations. We must keep in mind what God's purpose is in salvation. God is not saving us to revel in the miraculous. He saves us to deliver us from Satan's grip of darkness. God uses miracles sometimes to lead people to faith. The Holy Spirit works both powers, and salvation, as well as sanctifying the lives of God's children.

### **The Holy Spirit is "God in you."**

The Holy Spirit is the presence of Christ in you. He is God in you. He is the conduit of God, so God is with you and you are with God.

## Notes:

The Holy Spirit does other works as revealed in the Scriptures.

Assigns responsibilities. Acts 21:18

Directs our journey Acts 20:20

Pours God's love into our hearts Rom. 5:5

Empowers our ability to live in freedom from sin's control. Rom 7:6

Gives peace to those who live under the Holy Spirit's direction Rom 8:6

Assures us we are God's children. Rom 8:15-16

Prays for us and makes our needs known to the Father Rom. 8:26-27

Works of power do assist the gospel. Rom. 15:18-19

Reveals to us the thoughts of God (Mind of Christ) 1 Cor. 2:10-16

Makes us sanctified (holy) 1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:2

Distributes gifts of ministry to the church 1 Cor. 12:7

Serves as God's seal of ownership that we belong to God. 2 Cor. 22; 5:5;  
Eph. 1:13-14

Produces fruit of the character of God in us Gal. 5:22-23

Promotes unity in the church. Eph. 4:3

Does warfare through God's spoken word (possibly the gospel or words given by the Holy Spirit to issues, although many take this to be a reference to the Holy Scriptures. *Rema*, is usually spoken word.)

Interprets the Holy Scriptures pertaining to Christ. Heb. 10:15

Directed the words of those who wrote the Scriptures. 2 Pet. 1:21

Speaks the truth of Jesus' Christ. 1 Jn 4:2; 5:6

Invites the lost to salvation. Rev. 22:17