

Christian Doctrine

The Holy Spirit (Part 3)

The Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation

The Holy Spirit plays a significant part in the work of salvation. Scripture reveals works done by the Holy Spirit that lead a person to salvation, as well as works He accomplishes the moment a person gets saved.

Key Works Leading to Salvation

- He convicts. This is the Holy Spirit's work of convincing a person of their need for Christ. [John 16:8-11](#) points out that the Holy Spirit convicts of three things: sin (the fact a person is guilty before God), righteousness (the fact that righteousness is provided through Christ) and judgment (the fact condemnation awaits those who reject Christ).
- He calls. Scripture gives a general "call", or invitation, for all people to accept the gospel ([John 7:37](#)), but Scripture also describes what is often referred to as an "effective calling" to people whom God is drawing to Himself for salvation. This is a work in which the Holy Spirit "opens the eyes" of people to the truth and points them to Christ ([Rom. 8:30](#); [Acts 16:14](#); [II Thess. 2:13-14](#)).

Key Works at the Moment of Salvation

- He regenerates. The Holy Spirit gives new, spiritual life to those who believe ([John 1:3](#); [3:5](#); [Titus 3:5](#)).
- He indwells. This refers to the Holy Spirit's presence which indwells each believer at the moment they are saved. This is described as a gift which Christ had promised to give after His ascension ([John 7:37-39](#); [14:17](#); [Acts 2:38](#)).
 - This is true of all believers ([Rom. 5:5](#); [8:9](#); [II Cor. 5:5](#)).
 - This is a permanent indwelling ([John 14:16](#)).
- He baptizes. This is the act of joining a believer to the Body of Christ and identifying them with Christ's death, burial and resurrection ([I Cor. 12:13](#); [Rom. 6:3-4](#); [Eph. 4:5](#)).
 - This is a one-time act ([I Cor. 12:13](#)).
 - This is a work that God accomplishes at salvation, not something believers need to seek.
- He seals. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that all God has promised us will be fulfilled ([II Cor. 1:22](#); [Eph. 1:13](#); [4:30](#)).