

Christian Doctrine

The Holy Spirit (Part 4)

The Holy Spirit and the Believer

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer's Life

The Holy Spirit has been given to believers for the purpose of accomplishing several things. These works include:

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Whereas “indwelling” refers to the presence of the Holy Spirit, “filling” refers to the decision to allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives (Eph. 5:18). This is important because:

- He empowers. Our ability to serve, witness and live the Christian life comes from Him (Rom. 7:6; 8:13; I Cor. 2:4).
- He transforms. Becoming Christ-like is done as the Holy Spirit gives us victory over sin and produces fruits of righteousness in our lives (II Cor. 3:17-18; Gal. 5:16-25).

Two things that hinder the filling of the Spirit are:

- Grieving the Holy Spirit. This happens when we sin (Eph. 4:30).
- Quenching the Holy Spirit. This happens when we resist His attempts to work in our lives (I Thess. 5:19).

The Guidance of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit guides us in a variety of ways:

- He teaches. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, illuminating us to understand Scripture (John 14:26; 16:12-15; I Cor. 2:9-13).
- He leads. The Holy Spirit gives us direction to understand God's will (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16, 25).

Other Works of the Holy Spirit

Additional works done by the Holy Spirit include:

- He assists us in prayer (Rom. 8:26; Eph. 6:18).
- He gives strength and courage (Eph. 3:16; II Tim. 1:7).
- He gives assurance and hope (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 5:5).

The work of the Holy Spirit is essential in our lives if we are to experience spiritual growth. For this reason, we must be sure to daily depend on Him and obey His commands.

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