

Christian Doctrine The Holy Spirit (Conclusion)

An Appreciation for the Holy Spirit's Work

As we have seen, the Holy Spirit has been at work throughout history, just as He is today. His current ministry in the lives of believers is one that gives us new life and the ability to live that life for God. We should be full of gratitude for the Holy Spirit. If we did not have the Holy Spirit's ministry today, we would lose all the benefits that come with having His presence in our lives, including His:

- Help in understanding God's Word
- Empowerment for serving God
- Direction in knowing God's will
- Work of transforming us into Christ's image
- Strength for living the Christian life

As we think over the role that the Holy Spirit plays in our lives, we begin to see the impact He has on a daily basis. For this we truly can thank God for the "Helper" that He has given to us (John 14:16).

Letting the Holy Spirit Accomplish His Work

Many aspects of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives today are to mold us into the person God wants us to be and to work His will through our lives. It is these aspects that we must give the Holy Spirit freedom to accomplish. Using our spiritual gifts, studying God's Word, and growing in Christ-likeness are all things we can do that will allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us on a continual basis. As we learn to give the Holy Spirit more and more control, we will see more and more results of His work. It is with this in mind that Paul says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." The result from walking in the Spirit is clear: "Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Rather than being characterized by sin, our lives can be characterized by the "fruit of the Spirit," which reflects the very character of Christ. As we do this, we are able to demonstrate to the world the truly life changing power of the Gospel (Gal. 5:16, 22, 25)!

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