



Holy Spirit — what does the Spirit do?

Last week we looked at who the Holy Spirit was. In every sense we saw that the Holy Spirit is the person of God who we are challenged to get to know as a person. Just as we as human beings are to a certain degree defined in who we are by the things we do, so also we begin to more fully understand the Holy Spirit by looking at the work He does. There are different ways that the Holy Spirit works at different levels of creation:-

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) What excites you - causes you concern about the Holy Spirit and His activity?

Q2) What things has the Holy Spirit done in your life up to now?

Q3) How do you think we can learn to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Fact 1 - The Holy Spirit is involved in Creation! The bible makes it clear that through the Holy Spirit the world was made and is actively kept together. If the Spirit withdrew Himself from creation everything would cease to exist. God is both separate from His creation and sustaining by His mighty power. – Genesis 1 v 1 – 2 – Psalm 104 v 24 – 30

Fact 2 - The Spirit of God oversees the nations and works the purposes of God out in every generation.

It doesn't matter whether people are believers or not, the Holy Spirit influences nations, individuals and the church of Jesus Christ so that God's ultimate plan is fulfilled. A part of this work the Spirit does, before someone becomes a Christian, is to convict the world of sin and convict them of the need of salvation that God offers. The Spirit is also involved in restraining and limiting the influence of evil so that even that work's ultimately for God's intended purpose.

Fact 3 – The Spirit of God is the author and interpreter of Scripture.

As a Christian we believe that the Bible is not just a book but that it is the very Word of God. It is the Spirit of God that inspired human agents to write the Bible. He did this by coming upon them in power and revealing to them the hidden things of God. This idea is called God given Revelation. Just as the Spirit inspired the writing of the Bible so the Spirit is needed to grasp hold of and understand what the message of the Bible is!

Read – 2 Tim 3 v 16 – 17 Eph. 1 v 17 John 16 v 12 – 16 2 Peter 1 v 12 – 20

Fact 4 – The Holy Spirit worked through Jesus

Right from the conception of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was involved and empowering the work and life of Jesus. Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit coming upon Mary. At His Baptism Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and from that moment on began to discharge a ministry of healing and miracle working. It was through the Supernatural power of the Spirit that Jesus performed miracles. The interesting point is that the same Holy Spirit that empowered the life of Jesus for the supernatural, is the same Holy Spirit that we can receive to empower our lives also for witness!!

Luke 1 v 31 – 35, Luke 3 v 21 – 22 Ch 4 v 1 – 2, C4 v 38 – 41

Fact 5 – Born Again by the activity of the Spirit.

The Bible says that becoming a Christian is not about the joining of a club but it is about being radically changed from the inside. It is the Holy Spirit who regenerates and transforms us from death to life, from sinner to saint, from an enemy of God, to a child of God. This all takes place through the conversion experience and it is a spiritual work which changes all things in the life of a true believer.. John 3 v 3 – 8, John 6 v 63, Titus 3 v 5 – 7

Fact 6 – Spirit indwells us to change and conform us to the image of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit leads us to have greater victory over ourselves and sin, by developing our self-control, sensitising our conscience to right and wrong, and helping us apply the grace and forgiveness of Jesus to our lives. The Spirit enables us to produce the genuine fruit of salvation in our lives. The bible calls this process of being made holy “sanctification.” (Gal 5 v 16 – 26)

Fact 7 – The Holy Spirit seals us in the things of Salvation and is the first fruit of our eternal inheritance.

It is the inner witness of the Holy Spirit that gives us both assurance and confidence that we are children of God. He is the one who practically and Spiritually helps us grow as a child of God in the inheritance of the coming Kingdom. John 14 v 15 – 17, Rm. 8 v 9 – 11, 1Cor. 3 v 16 – 17, Eph. 1 v 13 – 14.

Fact 8– The Holy Spirit calls us and equips us to do good work.

As a Christian, God does not only call us to belong to Him, but He also desires that we might be productive and effective as His child. As a result of this, God has a plan and a calling for each one of us to fulfil. In the context of the church, this calling shows us what our function is within the body of the church and the Holy Spirit releases powerful gifts within us so that we can fulfil that function. Rm. 12 v 4 – 8 1 Cor. 12

