

The Holy Spirit

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Introduction

The Holy Spirit. Sometimes can be mistaken for a God of its own. But the Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity. Some things we must remember and never forget about the Holy Spirit is that He is a person, He is eternal, He is God, He is always at work, and He has been sent to help you. The Holy Spirit is a form of God's voice within you. For many, this is the "inner voice" and the primary way they communicate with God. The Holy Spirit is not less than God or Jesus, they are all equal in power and glory and He is the executor when the Son is the commander, and the Father makes the decrees. The concept of the Trinity can be confusing for many people, but once we understand who the Holy Spirit is, what He does, how He uses people, and how He can use me, the entire concept of the Trinity begins to make sense.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

One of the biggest and most important characteristics of the Holy Spirit is the unconditional love He has for us. In Galatians 5:22-23 states "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-24 NIV). On page 78 in Who is the Holy Spirit by Yarnell and Thomas, it states that "As many pastors today rightly teach, "God is three persons and one being... one person with two natures" (Malcolm B. Yarnell, & Heath A. Thomas). The Bible tells us that "The Holy Spirit is intelligent and used through human life" (Psalm 51:12 NIV). We must believe this as followers of Jesus Christ; that the Holy Spirit will be used in our lives, that the Holy Spirit is intelligent and understands our deepest fears and our every need. Similar to intelligence, we know that the Holy Spirit is knowledgeable because in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 states "... The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the

thoughts of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10-11 NIV). Simply stated inside of these verses, the Holy Spirit knows our thoughts and actions just as the Spirit of God does. The Holy Spirit teaches and guides us in our everyday endeavors when we are actively listening for His assistance in our lives. “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26 NIV). The Holy Spirit is the inner voice that reminds us of what God would want us to do, say, feel, etc. The Holy Spirit is that gives us our gut intuition and guilt when we do what we are not called to do. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called” (Ephesians 4:4 NIV). The Holy Spirit’s body and spirit are one, the Holy Spirit is United in itself. Finally, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins. “When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit contains many different attributes, but that is what makes the Holy Spirit so wonderful and influential on our lives; it is what gives the Holy Spirit the power to influence us so deeply.

What is the Activity of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a helper to us. John 16:7 states “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7 NIV). This means that nobody can comfort us as Jesus does. The Holy Spirit must connect with us on a deep and personal level to succeed within our lives. The Holy Spirit also speaks to Philip in Acts 8:29 “The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it’” (Acts 8:29 NIV). This proves that the Holy Spirit indeed has the ability to clearly speak to us as believers. Regardless of the situation, the Holy Spirit can choose when and where to speak to us. It is our duty to not just listen, but to listen and act upon what the Spirit has to say. “The Holy Spirit is associated in the New Testament with key events that fall under

the category of ecstatic experiences: prophecy, visions, and tongues” (Lennan). Prophecy, visions, and tongues are all different ways that the Holy Spirit communicates with us.

Understanding and having an open heart and willingness to receive the power of the Holy Spirit creates an open place for Him to move and make changes, to stretch and pull us in many different ways, but to ultimately grow our relationship with Him and the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit convicts us sinners for our sins. This is seen in Acts 2:38 “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38 NIV). This whole purpose is to give us our guilt and shame, but also to love us through the process. The guilt and shame we feel is based off our intuition of what we believe is right and wrong and what convictions the Holy Spirit sets on us. The Holy Spirit acts within us to give us the power to serve Christ, but also to serve others for Christ’s recognition. “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of God boldly (Acts 4:31 NIV). Being saved and sanctified are two different things. Through the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to be sanctified in Him. “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may truly be sanctified” (John 17:17-19 NIV). We are anointed by the Holy Spirit “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth” (1 John 2:20 NIV). The anointing we receive in our lives can help us determine how we would like to serve God throughout our lives and how we would like to bring honor to His name.

The role of the Holy Spirit within the earth is to speak life over us and guide us in our activities. The Holy Spirit gives us our understanding of right and wrong from the perspective of the Lord. Within the world, the Holy Spirit is working for everyone on the Earth. We are all

God's creation and His handiwork. Even though not everyone is a believer, we must understand that the Holy Spirit is that inner small voice where we receive the gut feeling that what we are doing would be pleasing to God or not. This is a recurring theme with the Holy Spirit in that it is the active voice of God to us. It is a common way to receive His messages to us.

The role of the Holy Spirit within the Church is to give us an example of what to be and how to treat others. While the church is the body of Christ, the "church" is not confined to the actual physical congregation or building where they meet. The "church" is the active body of Christ, the people who are working toward the will of God and to share His word to the ends of the earth. The Church is not active just on Sundays from 9-12, it is a 24/7 type of group. The Holy Spirit is present in the Church to challenge us and push us to expand our boundaries and to give us the discernment and judgment to live for Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior

The Spirit dwells in the body of believers in Christ. As humans, our spirit is what gives our bodies life and the Holy Spirit gives us our religious life. Hebrews 4:12 states "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing the division of the soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12 NIV). This exemplifies why reading the Bible and diving into the word and actually living by what we are reading. The Holy Spirit is actively piercing the soul with our decisions and discernment.

How has the Holy Spirit Used People in History?

One obvious example of a person in Church History that was led by the Holy Spirit was Oral Roberts, the founder of this university. Oral Roberts grew up in a Pentecostal home in Oklahoma. He grew up in that denomination with parents who had surrendered to the Pentecostal Church. Oral's first experience with the power of the Holy Spirit was when he was at a healing

line and he was prayed over for his tuberculosis and he felt the touch of God on his lungs (Daniel).

When Roberts was just 18, he was ready and felt led to become a licensed minister. Later on, when Oral Roberts University was founded, He decided that “Oral Roberts University will be a school that is built on the Holy Spirit” (Daniel). When the school was being built and plans were being made, Roberts would walk around on the plot of empty land and pray for the Spirit to move. He says “I was literally groaning and praying and crying out, ‘Oh God, help me! Show me the way!’” (Daniel). From then on, more of the intricate details of ORU were revealed to Oral through the language of the Spirit.

One of the focal points of the campus is the Prayer Tower. Roberts claims that God told him to put it in the center of campus to represent that the Spirit will be at the center of the university. There are many details in the design of the tower that are symbolic to our Christian Faith. “The dramatic height of the tower would serve as a reminder to students and faculty that ORU was built on prayer, particularly the practice of praying in tongues with interpretation” (Daniels).

One of the most prominent things that Oral Roberts was known for was his unconditional faith that Jesus would heal people. He put so much faith into the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit would move in those who needed him. Oral bought into this idea with the building of the City of Faith towers just across the street. The City of Faith was intended to be a teaching hospital, research facility, and home of the ORU Medical School, however due to some financial difficulties, the City of Faith Center was closed. Today this complex is referred to as the CityPlex Towers. Oral had to have unimaginable faith to trust the Holy Spirit with the construction of these buildings, but also trusting the Holy Spirit as this project fell apart.

How can the Holy Spirit use me?

I have recently rededicated my life to Christ and with doing this has come up the concerns of if I am good enough, if I am reading my Bible enough, serving enough, reflecting Jesus well to those around me, as well as my connection to the Holy Spirit. I have not spoken or prayed in tongues before and I feel that once someone achieves that level of understanding and trust with the Holy Spirit, that ability is received. Especially at ORU, speaking in tongues is a large part of our identity as a campus. I feel as though I am missing out on something and I would like more guidance in achieving that ability. However, this ability is gained through cultivating a deeply rooted relationship with the Trinity in everything that I am doing. I could definitely do a better job with my communication between the Holy Spirit and I because I find myself too often just speaking to the Holy Spirit when something goes well or bad. It is not an everyday occurrence for me; however, it is increasing at a steady rate. To help myself in this area, I am beginning to wake up earlier to pray and ask for guidance throughout my day as well as reflecting my day at night and understanding where I might have fallen short.

I can be better led by the Holy Spirit within my vocation by having a constant conversation with Him. Even though the Trinity is all knowing and understanding, sharing what I am thinking, feeling, and experiencing with Him is crucial to having an open and surrendered relationship. My vocation has something to do with speaking up for the unborn and protecting the children who are not born yet. They are the leaders of the next generations and I feel it on my heart to help them enter this world, even when the circumstances are not ideal. Since the Holy Spirit is typically how people hear from God, I would like to increase the communication not only through speaking, but prayer, worship, and acts of service as well. My following of the Holy Spirit is only available if I have an open heart to make room and make changes within my

lifestyle and ideology on specific areas of my life. The thought “What would Jesus do” might not be enough all of the time. The thoughts “Holy Spirit, speak to me” or even “Holy Spirit, I need your guidance right now” are great examples of how I can be in constant communication with Him.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is one of three parts within the Trinity. The Trinity includes God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has a profound impact on our judgment and feelings. It is that small, inner voice and thoughts that give us the discernment and judgment to make our decisions every day. The Holy Spirit has an influence on our guilt and our regrets when our actions do not fall in line with that of the wishes of God.

The Holy Spirit needs room and willing hearts to work. It is possible, but it might be more difficult and take more time to be able to work in a cold heart. The more open and willing we can be to allow the Holy Spirit to move within us can help us be one step closer to achieving our vocations in our life.

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