

Holy Spirit - Nature and Role (Part 2)

Key Verse

Joel 2:28-29 - And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Exploring the Bible

I. The Holy Spirit's Mission Today

A. His Mission to the World

Read *John 16:5 – 11*

Question: What is Jesus going to send to the disciples (verse 7)?

Answer:

Question: Of what three things will he convict the world?

Answer:

The role of the Holy Spirit now is to bring conviction to the world. He convicts the world of sin because they haven't believed in Jesus. He convicts in regards to righteousness because Jesus has gone back to the Father. Our only righteousness is through Jesus who died and now is alive for our righteousness. He convicts the world of coming judgment because Satan now stands condemned through the death and resurrection of Jesus. God condemns Satan through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Acts 2:37 – 39 - Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Question: What did the people say when they heard Peter's message (verse 37)?

Answer:

Question: What did Peter tell them to do (verse 38)?

Answer:

Question: What did Peter tell them they would receive (verse 38)?

Answer:

The people who heard Peter preach are convicted of their sin just as Jesus said it would happen through the Holy Spirit. Peter tells them three things:

- Repent! Change your mind about your sin and about who Jesus Christ is and believe on him.
- Be baptized! This was a public sign of cleansing from sin.
- Receive! They can receive the same Holy Spirit as they just saw demonstrated in the disciples.

B. His Mission to Believers

John 16:12 – 15 - I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Question: What will the Holy Spirit guide us into (verse 13)?

Answer:

Question: Who tells us about things to come (verse 13)?

Answer:

Question: How will the Holy Spirit glorify Jesus (verse 14)?

Answer:

The role of the Holy Spirit to **believers** is to reveal truth. He does not convict us of sin because we have already believed on Jesus. He reveals truth to us so that

the lies that have governed our life can be exposed and cleansed and replaced with truth. The Holy Spirit also reveals things to come. Not only has He revealed some things about the future in the Bible, but He also can reveal things related to future events in our lives. We don't need fortunetellers and astrologers of this world to give us a word about our future. We have the Holy Spirit who can give accurate information about our future.

II. The Grand Plan

Jesus promised to send Holy Spirit. He had much more in mind than just providing individual guidance and direction for our lives as believers for guiding us into truth. Jesus had a grand plan in mind that he was enacting. Jesus was about to go back to heaven. His desire was to leave something behind that would multiply His ministry on this earth and confound the enemy. Let's look at this plan.

John 17:20 – 23 - I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Question: What does Jesus ask for all believers (verse 17)?

Answer:

Question: What is the result of this unity (verse 23)?

Jesus' first step in this plan is to ask the Father for unity of all believers. This included not only those who would believe the message of the disciples but all believers for all time to follow. The result of this unity amongst all those who believe on Jesus as their Savior is a clear testimony to the world who Jesus really is.

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

Question: What is each believer a part of?

Answer:

The next step in Jesus' plan is to make all these unified believers into his body. Jesus is no longer physically on this planet. Instead He has multiplied His physical presence on this earth by making each believer a part of His body. This means instead of one person, Jesus, ministering to people there are first thousands and then millions of people able to minister just as Jesus did.

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Question: Who is the head of the church?

Answer:

A body is no good if it does not have a head. Jesus is the head of His body which is the church, or all those who have believed on Him as their Savior. From His position in heaven seated at the father's right-hand, Jesus, as the head, can direct all the movements of His body on this earth. That requires unity which requires that someone bring that unity to Christ's body.

Read *Ephesians 4:1 – 6*

Question: Who brings unity to the body of Christ (verse 3)?

Answer:

It is the Holy Spirit who brings the unity and direction of the body of Christ. This is why Jesus was so excited about leaving his disciples and sending Holy Spirit. It was the one way that He could multiply himself on this earth. The Holy Spirit would indwell each believer filling them with love and causing them to walk in unity with all other believers. As we will see in future lessons, it is the gifts of the spirit that allowed the body to minister in a unified fashion. Because the Holy Spirit can indwell and fill all believers at the same time, He can bring a unity of ministry to the body of Christ that is absolutely impossible for the devil to copy. This is the grand plan of Jesus.

Practical Exercise:

Since the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us, let's continue to pray for those who have specific needs. Let's let the Holy Spirit work through us to minister to the body of Christ.