

# *Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

## **VIDEO: Forgotten God 1...**

WHO is the Holy Spirit?      A: God! See Genesis 1:2

WHAT does the Spirit do?      A: Let's go to God's Word...

We may define the work of the Holy Spirit as follows: *The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.* This definition indicates that the Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity whom the Scripture most often represents as being *present* to do God's work in the world.

He EMPOWERS

He PURIFIES

He REVEALS

He UNIFIES

He RESPONDS

## A. The Holy Spirit Empowers

### 1. He Gives Life

“You must be born anew” ([John 3:6-7](#); cf. [vv. 5, 8](#); [6:63](#); [2 Cor. 3:6](#)). He also said, “It is *the Spirit who gives life*; the flesh profits nothing” ([John 6:63](#) NASB; cf. [2 Cor. 3:6](#); [Acts 10:44-47](#); [Titus 3:5](#))

### 2. He Gives Power for Service (Acts 1:8)

## B. The Holy Spirit Purifies

Since this member of the Trinity is called the *Holy Spirit*, it is not surprising to find that one of his primary activities is to cleanse us from sin and to “sanctify us” or make us more holy in actual conduct of life.

### VIDEO: Forgotten God 2

*“You were washed, you were sanctified you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God”* ([1 Cor. 6:11](#); see also [Titus 3:5](#)).

After the initial break with sin that the Holy Spirit brings about in our lives at conversion, he also produces in us growth in holiness of life. He brings forth the “*fruit of the Spirit*” within us (“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,” [Gal. 5:22-23](#)),

*it is “by the Spirit” that we are able to “put to death the deeds of the body” and grow in personal holiness* ([Rom. 8:13](#); see [7:6](#); [Phil. 1:19](#))

## C. The Holy Spirit Reveals

### 1. Revelation to Prophets and Apostles (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

### 2. He Gives Evidence of God’s Presence

The Bible has hundreds of verses *talking about the work of the Holy Spirit* making his work known, [the Bible is itself spoken or inspired by the Holy Spirit!](#)

\* The Holy Spirit also made his presence evident in a visible way when he descended as a dove on Jesus ([John 1:32](#)),

**Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit within us would be so powerful he would be like a river of living water flowing out from our inmost beings (see [John 7:39](#))—a simile that suggests that people**

would be aware of a presence that would somehow be perceptible.

His gifts manifest his presence ([1 Cor. 12:7-11](#)).

### 3. He Guides and Directs God's People

- > Philip
- > Peter/Cornelius
- > Paul on his journeys

\*\*\* Scripture talks rather about a day-to-day guidance by the Holy Spirit—being “led” by the Holy Spirit ([Rom. 8:14](#); [Gal. 5:18](#)), and walking according to the Spirit ([Rom. 8:4](#); [Gal. 5:16](#)).

## VIDEO: Forgotten God 3

### 4. He Provides a Godlike Atmosphere In His Presence

([John 16:8-11](#))

([Rom. 5:5](#); [15:30](#); [Col. 1:8](#))

([1 Cor. 14:33](#))

the Holy Spirit can impart truth ([John 14:17](#); [15:26](#); [16:13](#); [1 John 5:7](#)), wisdom ([Deut. 34:9](#); [Isa. 11:2](#)), comfort ([Acts 9:31](#)), freedom ([2 Cor. 3:17](#)),

righteousness ([Rom. 14:17](#)), hope ([Rom. 15:13](#); cf. [Gal. 5:5](#)), an awareness of adoption ([Rom. 8:15-16](#); [Gal. 4:5-6](#)), and even glory ([2 Cor. 3:8](#)). The Holy Spirit also brings **unity** ([Eph. 4:3](#)), and **power** ([Acts 10:38](#); [1 Cor. 2:4](#); [2 Tim. 1:7](#); cf. [Acts 1:8](#)).

## 5. He Gives Us Assurance

*The Holy Spirit bears witness “with our spirits that we are children of God” ([Rom. 8:16](#)),*

*“And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us” ([1 John 3:24](#)).*

*“By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit” ([1 John 4:13](#)).*

## 6. He Teaches and Illumines

*...the Holy Spirit “will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” ([John 14:26](#)), and said,*

*“he will guide you into all the truth” ([John 16:13](#)).*

*“We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God” ([1 Cor. 2:12](#)).*

## D. The Holy Spirit Unifies

In the event of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit created a new community which was the church. The community was marked by unprecedented unity

*“If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit... make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose”* ([Phil. 2:1-2](#) NASB).

*...be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* ([Eph. 4:3](#)).

The idea that the Holy Spirit unifies the church is also evident in the fact that “strife... disputes, dissensions, factions” ([Gal. 5:20](#) NASB) are desires of the flesh that are opposed to being “led by the Spirit” ([Gal. 5:18](#); cf. [v. 25](#)).

*The Holy Spirit is the one who produces love in our hearts* ([Rom. 5:5](#); [Gal. 5:22](#); [Col. 1:8](#)), and this love “binds everything together in perfect harmony” ([Col. 3:14](#)). Therefore when the Holy Spirit is working strongly in a church to manifest God’s presence, one evidence will be a beautiful harmony in the church community and overflowing love for one another.

**VIDEO: Forgotten God 4**

**\*\*\* Read John 17:21-25!**

## **E. The Holy Spirit Responds...**

Many examples in both the Old and New Testament indicate that the Holy Spirit will bestow or withdraw blessing according to whether or not he is pleased by the situation he sees.

Also **in the New Testament the Holy Spirit can be grieved and cease to bring blessing in a situation. Stephen rebuked the Jewish leaders, saying, “You always resist the Holy Spirit”** ([Acts 7:51](#)).

**Paul warns the Ephesian Christians, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”** ([Eph. 4:30](#)), and exhorts the Thessalonian church, **“Do not quench the Spirit”** ([1 Thess. 5:19](#));

**Even more serious than grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit is a deeper, more hardened disobedience to him that brings strong judgment.**

**Hebrews warns those who are in danger of falling away that severe punishment is deserved by the man “who has spurned the Son of God, and profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and *outraged the Spirit of grace*”** ([Heb. 10:29](#)). For such a person there only remains “a fearful prospect of judgment” ([Heb. 10:27](#)).

**It is possible so to offend the Holy Spirit that his convicting work will not be brought to bear again in a person’s life.**

**Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.**

Since the Holy Spirit so clearly manifested the presence of God, those who willfully and maliciously spoke against him and attributed his activity instead to the power of Satan were guilty, Jesus said, “of an eternal sin” ([Mark 3:29](#)).

**if we resist and quench and oppose him, then his empowering will depart and he will remove much of the blessing of God from our lives.**

On the other hand, in the life of Christians whose conduct is pleasing to God, the Holy Spirit will be present to bring great blessing.

### **VIDEO: Forgotten God 5**

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the immediate presence of God himself, and it therefore will result in feeling what God feels, desiring what God desires, doing what God wants, speaking by God’s power, praying and ministering in God’s strength, and knowing with the knowledge which God himself gives.

**Let’s Pray!**

We may define the work of the Holy Spirit as follows: *The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.* This definition indicates that the Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity whom the Scripture most often represents as being *present* to do God's work in the world. Although this is true to some extent throughout the Bible, it is particularly true in the new covenant age. In the Old Testament, the presence of God was many times manifested in the glory of God and in theophanies, and in the gospels Jesus himself manifested the presence of God among men. But after Jesus ascended into heaven, and continuing through the entire church age, the Holy Spirit is now the *primary* manifestation of the presence of the Trinity among us. He is the one who is most prominently *present* with us now.

From the very beginning of creation we have an indication that the Holy Spirit's work is to complete and sustain what God the Father has planned and what God the Son has begun, for in [Genesis 1:2](#), "the *Spirit of God* was moving over the face of the waters." And at Pentecost, with the beginning of the new creation in Christ, it is the Holy Spirit who comes to grant power to the church ([Acts 1:8](#); [2:4](#), [17-18](#)). Because the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity through whom God particularly manifests his presence in the new covenant age, it is appropriate that Paul should call the Holy Spirit the "first fruits" ([Rom. 8:23](#)) and the "guarantee" (or "down payment," [2 Cor. 1:22](#); [5:5](#)) of the full manifestation of God's presence that we will know in the new heavens and new earth (cf. [Rev. 21:3-4](#)).

In what specific ways does the Holy Spirit bring God's blessing? **We may distinguish four aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit to bring evidence of God's presence and to bless: (1) the Holy Spirit *empowers*; (2) the Holy Spirit *purifies*; (3) the Holy Spirit *reveals*; (4) the Holy Spirit *unifies*.** We will examine each of these four activities below. Finally, we must recognize that these activities of the Holy Spirit are not to be taken for granted, and they do not just happen automatically among God's people. Rather, the Holy Spirit reflects the pleasure or displeasure of God with the faith and obedience—or unbelief and disobedience—of God's people. Because of this, we need to look at a fifth aspect of the Holy Spirit's activity: **(5) the Holy Spirit *gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God, according to our response to him.***

## **A. The Holy Spirit Empowers**

### **1. He Gives Life**

“You must be born anew” ([John 3:6-7](#); cf. [vv. 5, 8](#); [6:63](#); [2 Cor. 3:6](#)). He also said, “It is *the Spirit who gives life*; the flesh profits nothing” ([John 6:63](#) NASB; cf. [2 Cor. 3:6](#); [Acts 10:44-47](#); [Titus 3:5](#))

2. He Gives Power for Service (Acts 1:8)

## **B. The Holy Spirit Purifies**

Since this member of the Trinity is called the *Holy Spirit*, it is not surprising to find that one of his primary activities is to cleanse us from sin and to “sanctify us” or make us more holy in actual conduct of life. Even in the lives of unbelievers there is some restraining influence of the Holy Spirit as he convicts the world of sin ([John 16:8-11](#); [Acts 7:51](#)). But when people become Christians the Holy Spirit does an initial cleansing work in them, making a decisive break with the patterns of sin that were in their lives before. Paul says of the Corinthians, “You were washed, *you were sanctified* you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and *in the Spirit of our God*” ([1 Cor. 6:11](#); see also [Titus 3:5](#)).

After the initial break with sin that the Holy Spirit brings about in our lives at conversion, he also produces in us growth in holiness of life. He brings forth the “*fruit of the Spirit*” within us (“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,” [Gal. 5:22-23](#)), those qualities that reflect the character of God. As we continually “are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another,” we should be reminded that “this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” ([2 Cor. 3:18](#)). Sanctification comes by the power of the Holy Spirit ([2 Thess. 2:13](#); [1 Peter 1:2](#); cf. [Rom. 8:4, 15-16](#)), so that it is “*by the Spirit*” that we are able to “put to death the deeds of the body” and grow in personal holiness ([Rom. 8:13](#); see [7:6](#); [Phil. 1:19](#))

## **C. The Holy Spirit Reveals**

### **1. Revelation to Prophets and Apostles**

...“men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” ([2 Peter 1:21](#) NIV). Several other passages mention this work of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament prophets (see [Matt. 22:43](#); [Acts 1:16](#); [4:25](#); [28:25](#); [1 Peter 1:11](#)). The New Testament apostles and others who wrote words of New Testament Scripture were also guided “into all the truth” by the Holy Spirit ([John 16:13](#)), see 2 Timothy 3:16-17

## 2. He Gives Evidence of God’s Presence

The Bible has hundreds of verses *talking about the work of the Holy Spirit* making his work known, and the Bible is itself spoken or inspired by the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit also made his presence evident in a visible way when he descended as a dove on Jesus ([John 1:32](#)), or came as a sound of a rushing wind and with visible tongues of fire on the disciples at Pentecost ([Acts 2:2-3](#)). **Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit within us would be so powerful he would be like a river of living water flowing out from our inmost beings (see [John 7:39](#))—a simile that suggests that people would be aware of a presence that would somehow be perceptible.**

In the lives of individual believers, He gives gifts that manifest his presence ([1 Cor. 12:7-11](#)).

When the Holy Spirit works in various ways that can be perceived by believers and unbelievers, this encourages people’s faith that God is near and that he is working to fulfill his purposes in the church and to bring blessing to his people.

## 3. He Guides and Directs God’s People

The Holy Spirit gave direct words of guidance to people, saying to Philip, for example, “Go up and join this chariot” ([Acts 8:29](#)), or telling Peter to go with three men who came to him from Cornelius’ household ([Acts 10:19-20](#); [11:12](#)), or directing the Christians at Antioch, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” ([Acts 13:2](#)).

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But in the vast majority of cases the leading and guiding by the Holy Spirit is not nearly as dramatic as this. Scripture talks rather about a day-to-day guidance by the Holy Spirit—being “led” by the Holy Spirit ([Rom. 8:14](#); [Gal. 5:18](#)), and walking according to the Spirit ([Rom. 8:4](#); [Gal. 5:16](#)).

“I am going to Jerusalem, *bound in the Spirit* not knowing what shall befall me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me” ([Acts 20:22-23](#)). Paul did not think he had another choice—so clearly did the Holy Spirit manifest his presence and desires to him, that Paul could speak of having been “bound” in the Spirit.

#### **4. He Provides a Godlike Atmosphere When He Manifests His Presence**

Because the Holy Spirit is fully God, and shares all the attributes of God, his influence will be to bring a Godlike character or atmosphere to the situations in which he is active. Because he is the *Holy Spirit* he will at times bring about a conviction of sin,

righteousness, and judgment ([John 16:8-11](#)). Because God is love, the Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts ([Rom. 5:5](#); [15:30](#); [Col. 1:8](#)) and often the strongly manifested presence of the Holy Spirit will create an atmosphere of love. Because God is “not a God of confusion but of peace” ([1 Cor. 14:33](#)), the Holy Spirit brings an atmosphere of peace & joy into situations...

Other elements of the atmosphere that the Holy Spirit can impart are truth ([John 14:17](#); [15:26](#); [16:13](#); [1 John 5:7](#)), wisdom ([Deut. 34:9](#); [Isa. 11:2](#)), comfort ([Acts 9:31](#)), freedom ([2 Cor. 3:17](#)), righteousness ([Rom. 14:17](#)), hope ([Rom. 15:13](#); cf. [Gal. 5:5](#)), an awareness of sonship or adoption ([Rom. 8:15-16](#); [Gal. 4:5-6](#)), and even glory ([2 Cor. 3:8](#)). The Holy Spirit also brings unity ([Eph. 4:3](#)), and power ([Acts 10:38](#); [1 Cor. 2:4](#); [2 Tim. 1:7](#); cf. [Acts 1:8](#)).

## **5. He Gives Us Assurance**

The Holy Spirit bears witness “with our spirits that we are children of God” ([Rom. 8:16](#)), and gives evidence of the work of God within us: “And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us” ([1 John 3:24](#)). “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, *because he has given us of his own Spirit*” ([1 John 4:13](#)). The Holy Spirit not only witnesses to us that we are God's children, but also witnesses that God abides in us and that we are abiding in him. Once again more than our intellect is involved: the Spirit works to give us assurance at the subjective level of spiritual and emotional perception as well.

## 6. He Teaches and Illumines

Another aspect of the Holy Spirit's revealing work is teaching certain things to God's people and illumining them so that they can understand things. Jesus promised this teaching function especially to his disciples when he said that *the Holy Spirit "will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you"* ([John 14:26](#)), and said, "he will guide you into all the truth" ([John 16:13](#)). Moreover, he promised that when his disciples were put on trial because of persecution, the Holy Spirit would teach them at that time what to say ([Luke 12:12](#); cf. [Matt. 10:20](#); [Mark 13:11](#)). At other times the Holy Spirit revealed specific information to people—showing Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah, for example ([Luke 2:26](#)), or revealing to Agabus that a famine would occur ([Acts 11:28](#)) or that Paul would be taken captive in Jerusalem ([Acts 21:11](#)). In other cases the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul that he would suffer in Jerusalem ([Acts 20:23](#); [21:4](#)) and expressly said to Paul things that would happen in the latter days ([1 Tim. 4:1](#)), and revealed to him what God has prepared for those who love him ([1 Cor. 2:10](#)).

The illuminating work of the Holy Spirit is seen in the fact that he enables us to understand: *"We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God"* ([1 Cor. 2:12](#)).

Therefore, "The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts (literally, things) of the Spirit of God" but "The spiritual man judges all things" ([1 Cor. 2:14-15](#)). We should pray that the Holy Spirit would give us his illumination and thereby help us to understand rightly when we study Scripture or when we ponder

situations in our lives. Although he did not mention the Holy Spirit specifically, the psalmist prayed for such illumination when he asked God, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” ([Ps. 119:18](#)). Similarly, Paul prayed for the Christians in and around Ephesus,

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit [or: “the Spirit,” NIV] of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might. ([Eph. 1:17-19](#))

#### **D. The Holy Spirit Unifies**

In the event of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit created a new community which was the church. The community was marked by unprecedented unity

This unifying function of the Holy Spirit is also evident when Paul tells the Philippians, *“If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit... make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose”* ([Phil. 2:1-2](#) NASB). In a similar way, when he emphasizes the new unity between Jews and Gentiles in the church, he says that “through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father” ([Eph. 2:18](#)), and says that in the Lord they are built into the one new house of God “in the

Spirit” ([Eph. 2:22](#)). When he wants to remind them of the unity they should have as Christians *he exhorts them to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* ([Eph. 4:3](#)).

Paul’s discussion of spiritual gifts also repeats this theme of the unifying work of the Holy Spirit. Whereas we might think that people who have differing gifts would not readily get along well with each other, Paul’s conclusion is just the opposite: differing gifts draw us together, because we are forced to depend on each other. “The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you”” ([1 Cor. 12:21](#)). These differing gifts, Paul tells us, are empowered by “one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills” ([1 Cor. 12:11](#)), so that in the church, “To each is given the *manifestation of the Spirit* for the common good” ([1 Cor. 12:7](#)). In fact, “in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit” ([1 Cor. 12:13](#), author’s translation).

**The idea that the Holy Spirit unifies the church is also evident in the fact that “strife... disputes, dissensions, factions” ([Gal. 5:20](#) NASB) are desires of the flesh that are opposed to being “led by the Spirit” ([Gal. 5:18](#); cf. [v. 25](#)).**

*The Holy Spirit is the one who produces love in our hearts ([Rom. 5:5](#); [Gal. 5:22](#); [Col. 1:8](#)), and this love “binds everything together in perfect harmony” ([Col. 3:14](#)). Therefore when the Holy Spirit is working strongly in*

*a church to manifest God's presence, one evidence will be a beautiful harmony in the church community and overflowing love for one another.*

### **E. The Holy Spirit Gives Stronger or Weaker Evidence of the Presence and Blessing of God According to Our Response to Him**

**Many examples in both the Old and New Testament indicate that the Holy Spirit will bestow or withdraw blessing according to whether or not he is pleased by the situation he sees.** It is noteworthy that Jesus was completely without sin and the Holy Spirit “remained on him” ([John 1:32](#)) and was given to him without measure ([John 3:34](#)). In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came mightily upon Samson several times ([Judg. 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14](#)), but ultimately left him when he persisted in sin ([Judg. 16:20](#)). Similarly, when Saul persisted in disobedience the Holy Spirit departed from him ([1 Sam. 16:14](#)). And when the people of Israel rebelled and grieved the Holy Spirit he turned against them ([Isa. 63:10](#)).

Also **in the New Testament the Holy Spirit can be grieved and cease to bring blessing in a situation.** **Stephen rebuked the Jewish leaders, saying, “You always resist the Holy Spirit”** ([Acts 7:51](#)). **Paul warns the Ephesian Christians, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”** ([Eph. 4:30](#)), and exhorts the Thessalonian church, **“Do not quench the Spirit”** ([1 Thess. 5:19](#); cf. the metaphor of delaying to open the door and thereby disappointing one’s lover in [Song of Solomon 5:3, 6](#)). In a

similar vein, Paul gives a serious warning to Christians not to defile their bodies by joining them to a prostitute because the Holy Spirit lives within their bodies: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” ([1 Cor. 6:19-20](#)).

**Even more serious than grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit is a deeper, more hardened disobedience to him that brings strong judgment.** When Peter rebuked Ananias, “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?” ([Acts 5:3](#)), he fell down dead. Similarly, when Peter said to Ananias’s wife Sapphira, “How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?” ([Acts 5:9](#)), she immediately fell down dead as well. The book of **Hebrews warns those who are in danger of falling away that severe punishment is deserved by the man “who has spurned the Son of God, and profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace”** ([Heb. 10:29](#)). For such a person there only remains “a fearful prospect of judgment” ([Heb. 10:27](#)).

Finally, there remains one more level of offense against the Holy Spirit. This kind of offense is even more serious than grieving him or acting with the hardened disobedience to him that brings discipline or judgment. **It is possible so to offend the Holy Spirit that his convicting work will not be brought to bear again in a person’s life.**

**Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.** And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but whoever

speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. ([Matt. 12:31-32](#); cf. [Mark 3:29](#); [Luke 12:10](#))

These statements are made in a context in which the Pharisees willfully and maliciously attribute to Satan the powerful work of the Holy Spirit that was evident in the ministry of Jesus. **Since the Holy Spirit so clearly manifested the presence of God, those who willfully and maliciously spoke against him and attributed his activity instead to the power of Satan were guilty, Jesus said, “of an eternal sin”** ([Mark 3:29](#)).

All of these passages indicate that we must be very careful not to grieve or offend the Holy Spirit. He will not force himself on us against our wills (see [1 Cor. 14:32](#)), but **if we resist and quench and oppose him, then his empowering will depart and he will remove much of the blessing of God from our lives.**

**On the other hand, in the life of Christians whose conduct is pleasing to God, the Holy Spirit will be present to bring great blessing.** The Holy Spirit was “poured out” in fullness at Pentecost (see [Acts 2:17-18](#)) and he now dwells within all true believers, making them temples of the living God ([1 Cor. 3:16](#); [6:19-20](#)). We can know close fellowship and partnership with the Holy Spirit in our lives ([2 Cor. 3:14](#); [Phil. 2:1](#)). He entrusts gifts ([1 Cor. 12:11](#)) and truth ([2 Tim. 1:14](#)) and ministries ([Acts 20:28](#)) to us. In fact, so full and abundant will be his presence that Jesus could promise that he will flow out of our inmost being like “rivers of living water” ([John 7:38-39](#)). Peter promises that his presence especially rests on those who suffer for the sake of Christ: “If you are reproached for the name of

Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you” ([1 Peter 4:14](#)).

Therefore it is important that all our ministry be done *in the Holy Spirit* that is, that we consciously dwell in the Godlike atmosphere created by the Holy Spirit—the atmosphere of power, love, joy, truth, holiness, righteousness, and peace. But greater than these characteristics of the atmosphere created by the Holy Spirit is the sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit himself—to *be in the Holy Spirit is really to be in an atmosphere of God’s manifested presence*. This is why people in the New Testament can walk in the comfort of the Holy Spirit ([Acts 9:31](#)), and why it is possible just to be “in the Spirit” as John was on the Lord’s day ([Rev. 1:10](#); cf. [4:2](#)).

It is surprising how many particular activities are said in the New Testament to be done “in” the Holy Spirit: it is possible to *rejoice* in the Holy Spirit ([Luke 10:21](#)), to *resolve* or decide something in the Holy Spirit ([Acts 19:21](#)), to have one’s *conscience bear witness* in the Holy Spirit ([Rom. 9:1](#)), to have *access to God* in the Holy Spirit ([Eph. 2:18](#)), to *pray* in the Holy Spirit ([Eph. 6:18](#); [Jude 20](#)), and to *love* in the Holy Spirit ([Col. 1:8](#)). In the light of these texts, we might ask ourselves, for how many of these activities during each day are we consciously aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence and blessing?

It is also possible to be filled with the Holy Spirit ([Eph. 5:18](#); cf. [Luke 1:15](#), [41](#), [67](#); [4:1](#); [Acts 2:4](#); [4:8](#); [6:3](#), [5](#); [7:55](#); [9:17](#); [11:24](#); [13:9](#)). **To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the immediate presence of God himself, and it therefore will result in feeling what God feels, desiring what God desires, doing what God wants, speaking by God’s power, praying**

**and ministering in God's strength, and knowing with the knowledge which God himself gives.** In times when the church experiences revival the Holy Spirit produces these results in people's lives in especially powerful ways.

Therefore in our Christian lives it is important that we depend on the Holy Spirit's power, recognizing that any significant work is done "Not by might, nor by power, *but by my Spirit* says the LORD of hosts" ([Zech. 4:6](#)). Paul is emphatic in telling the Galatians that the Holy Spirit was received by faith in the beginning of their Christian life ([Gal. 3:2](#)) and would continue to work according to their faith in their lives subsequent to conversion: "Having begun with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?... Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?" ([Gal. 3:3, 5](#)).

Therefore we are to walk according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit ([Rom. 8:12-16](#); [Gal. 5:16-26](#)) and set our minds on the things of the Spirit ([Rom. 8:4-6](#)). All our ministry, whatever form it may take, is to be done in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here are the 50 Things the Holy Spirit Does

1. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (**John 16:8**).
2. The Spirit guides us into all truth (**John 16:13**).

3. The Spirit regenerates us (**John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5**).
4. The Spirit glorifies and testifies of Christ (**John 15:26; 16:14**).
5. The Spirit reveals Christ to us and in us (**John 16:14-15**).
6. The Spirit leads us (**Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18; Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1**).
7. The Spirit sanctifies us (**2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 5:16**).
8. The Spirit empowers us (**Luke 4:14; 24:49; Rom. 15:19; Acts 1:8**).
9. The Spirit fills us (**Eph. 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17**).
10. The Spirit teaches us to pray (**Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 1:20**).
11. The Spirit bears witness in us that we are children of God (**Rom. 8:16**).
12. The Spirit produces in us the fruit or evidence of His work and presence (**Gal. 5:22-23**).
13. The Spirit distributes spiritual gifts and manifestations (the outshining) of His presence to and through the body (**1 Cor. 12:4, 8-10; Heb. 2:4**).

**14. The Spirit anoints us for ministry (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38).**

**15. The Spirit washes and renews us (Titus 3:5).**

**16. The Spirit brings unity and oneness to the body (Eph. 4:3; 2:14-18). Here the Holy Spirit plays the same role that He plays in the Godhead. The Spirit is the life that unites Father and Son. The Spirit plays the same role in the church. When the Holy Spirit is operating in a group of people, He unites them in love. Therefore, a sure evidence of the Holy Spirit working in a group is Love and Unity. Not signs and wonders (those are seasonal and can be counterfeited).**

**17. The Spirit is our guarantee and deposit of the future resurrection (2 Cor. 1:22; 2 Cor. 5:5).**

**18. The Spirit seals us unto the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).**

**19. The Spirit sets us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2).**

**20. The Spirit quickens our mortal bodies (Rom. 8:11).**

**21. The Spirit reveals the deep things of God to us (1 Cor. 2:10).**

**22. The Spirit reveals what has been given to us from God (1 Cor. 2:12).**

**23. The Spirit dwells in us (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:14; John 14:17).**

24. The Spirit speaks to, in, and through us (1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:11; Heb 3:7; Matt. 10:20; Acts 2:4; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12, 28; 13:2; 16:6,7; 21:4,11).
25. The Spirit is the agent by which we are baptized into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
26. The Spirit brings liberty (2 Cor. 3:17).
27. The Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).
28. The Spirit cries in our hearts, "Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6).
29. The Spirit enables us to wait (Gal. 5:5).
30. The Spirit supplies us with Christ (Phil. 1:19, KJV).
31. The Spirit grants everlasting life (Gal. 6:8).
32. The Spirit gives us access to God the Father (Eph. 2:18).
33. The Spirit makes us (corporately) God's habitation (Eph. 2:22).
34. The Spirit reveals the mystery of God to us (Eph. 3:5).
35. The Spirit strengthens our spirits (Eph. 3:16).
36. The Spirit enables us to obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:22).

37. **The Spirit enables us to know that Jesus abides in us (1 John 3:24; 4:13).**
38. **The Spirit confesses that Jesus came in the flesh (1 John 4:2).**
39. **The Spirit says “Come, Lord Jesus” along with the bride (Rev. 22:17).**
40. **The Spirit dispenses God’s love into our hearts (Rom. 5:5).**
41. **The Spirit bears witness to the truth in our conscience (Rom. 9:1).**
42. **The Spirit teaches us (1 Cor. 2:13; John 14:26).**
43. **The Spirit gives us joy (1 Thess. 1:6).**
44. **The Spirit enables some to preach the gospel (1 Pet. 1:12).**
45. **The Spirit moves us (2 Pet. 1:21).**
46. **The Spirit knows the things of God (1 Cor. 2:11).**
47. **The Spirit casts out demons (Matt. 12:28).**
48. **The Spirit brings things to our remembrance (John 14:26).**
49. **The Spirit comforts us (Acts 9:31).**

**50. The Spirit makes some overseers in the church and sends some out to the work of church planting [through the body] (Acts 20:28; 13:2).**

**Summary: The Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus Christ and to His body. The Spirit reveals Christ to us, gives us His life, and makes Christ alive in us. The Spirit takes the experiences of Jesus . . . His incarnation, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension . . . and brings them into our own experience. Because of the Holy Spirit, the history of Jesus Christ becomes our story and experience. Unfortunately, some movements have become known for their excesses in regard to the Holy Spirit's work.**

**Seek first the Kingdom of God! (How?) \*John 6:44**