

The Work of Holy Spirit

General Outline

- A. Introduction
- B. The Spirit's Work in Creation
- C. The Spirit's Work in Revelation
- D. The Spirit's Work in Confirmation
- E. The Spirit's Work in Regeneration
- F. The Spirit's Work in Sanctification
- G. The Spirit's Work in Intercession
- H. Conclusion

1. Introduction

- a. We have examined what the Bible reveals about the **nature** of the Holy Spirit.
 - i. He is a personal being who does things
 - 1.He speaks
 - 2.He testifies (bears witness)
 - 3.He teaches, brings to remembrance
 - 4.He guides
 - 5.He forbids
 - 6.He intercedes
 - 7.He searches
 - ii. He has characteristics of a person
 - 1.He has a mind
 - 2.He has affection (love)
 - 3.He has a will
 - 4.He possesses goodness
 - iii. He is a personal being who has feelings
 - 1.He can be grieved
 - 2.He can be lied to (and tested)
 - 3.He can be insulted
 - 4.He can be blasphemed
 - 5.He can be resisted
 - iv. He is a divine being
 - 1. He is Eternal
 - 2.He is Omniscient
 - 3.He is Omnipresent
 - 4.His Works Are Divine
 - 5.He is one of the Godhead three (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 - v. He is known by more than 20 names.
- b. This lesson will review the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Work of Holy Spirit

2. The Spirit's Work in Creation

- a. God used the Spirit in the creation of the world.
 - i. Gen. 1:2 – [2](#) The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - ii. Psalm 104:1-ff - [30](#) When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.
 - 1. The entire chapter extols God for His greatness and the continuing benefits of His creation.
- b. God used the Spirit in the creation of the heavens
 - i. Job 26:13 – [13](#) By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent.
 - ii. Psalm 33:6 - [6](#) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
 - 1. In Hebrews poetry, the rhyming of ideas will lead to the interpretation of *ruach* as breath, to rhyme with word.
- c. These things were done in conjunction with the Father and the Son.
 - i. John 1:1-3 – [1](#) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2](#) He was with God in the beginning. [3](#) Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
 - ii. Col. 1:15-17 – [15](#) The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. [16](#) For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. [17](#) He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- d. God used the Spirit in the creation of the first man.
 - i. Gen. 1:26-27 – [26](#) Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” [27](#) So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
 - 1. “Let us” may indicate the plurality of the Godhead, or Divine Nature.
- e. God uses the Spirit in the creation of every man.
 - i. Job 33:4 – [4](#) The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

3. The Spirit's Work in Revelation

The Work of Holy Spirit

- a. The prophets of old spoke as they were moved by the Spirit.
 - i. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 - [20](#) Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. [21](#) For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. 2 Sam. 23:2 - [2](#) "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. (David)
- b. The Spirit was in the prophets of old, testifying of things to come.
 - i. 1 Pet. 1:10-11 - [10](#) Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, [11](#) trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.
 - ii. Isaiah 53:4-6 - [4](#) Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. [5](#) But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. [6](#) We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- c. The Spirit spoke, and guided the apostles into all the truth.
 - i. John 16:12-13 - [12](#) "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13](#) But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
 - ii. John 14:26 - [26](#) 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.
 - iii. 1 Cor. 2:10-13 - [10](#) these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. [11](#) 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. [12](#) What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. [13](#) This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human

The Work of Holy Spirit

wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words

- iv. 1 Tim. 4:1- [1](#) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

4. The Spirit's Work in Confirmation

a. Confirming Jesus as the Christ

- i. Acts 2:22 – [22](#) “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

b. Working with Christ

- i. Acts 10:37-38 – [37](#) You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— [38](#) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
- ii. Matt. 12:28 – [28](#) But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- iii. Luke 4:18-21 – [18](#) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, [19](#) to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” [20](#) And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. [21](#) And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

c. Confirming the Message of the Apostles

- i. Heb. 2:3-4 – [3](#) how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, [4](#) while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.
- ii. Rom 15:18-19 – [18](#) For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, [19](#) by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that

The Work of Holy Spirit

from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

- d. As the Word of God was being revealed and confirmed, it was the Spirit of God at work! But as the Word was being preached, the Spirit was also at work on those who listened with good and honest hearts.

5. The Spirit's Work in Regeneration

- a. As the word was preached ...
 - i. The Spirit was doing His work of convicting the world .
 - 1. John 16:8-9- [8](#) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9](#) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;
 - ii. For example, consider the events on the day of Pentecost
 - 1. The Spirit gave the apostles utterance.
 - a. Acts 2:4 – [4](#) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - 2. Peter preached Christ.
 - a. Acts 2:22-24, 36 – [22](#) “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— [23](#) this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. [24](#) God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ... [36](#) Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
 - 3. Those who heard were convicted of their sins.
 - a. Acts 2:37 – [37](#) 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?”
 - 4. Those who were convicted were told to repent and be baptized.
 - a. Acts 2:38-39 – [38](#) 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. [39](#) For

The Work of Holy Spirit

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.”

5. Those who were willing, did so gladly.

a. Acts 2:40-41 – [40](#) And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

[41](#) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

6. In this manner the Spirit convicts the world through His revealed and confirmed word, and those with good and honest hearts will bear the proper fruit.

a. Luke 8:15 – [15](#) As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

b. As the word was obeyed ...

i. Those who obeyed the word were baptized.

1. Acts 2:38-41 – [38](#) 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. [39](#) 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.” [40](#) And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41](#) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

ii. Those who were baptized experienced a washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

1. Titus 3:5-7 – [5](#) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6](#) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7](#) so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2. 1 Cor. 6:11 – [11](#) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in

The Work of Holy Spirit

the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- iii. In this manner they were being born again (regenerated), not of water only, but of water and the Spirit.

1. John 3:5 – [5](#) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

- iv. The work of regeneration by the Spirit in response to the preaching of the word does not end the work of the Spirit in the life of the Christian.

6. The Spirit's Work in Sanctification

a. Initial Sanctification

- i. Sanctification involves the idea of being "set apart", "consecrated".
- ii. Sanctification began in conjunction with our washing and justification.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 6:11 – 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- iii. This washing, sanctification, and justification occurred "by the Spirit of our God".
 - 1. In obedience to the Word of God, we are "sanctified" by the Spirit
 - 2. 2 Thess. 2:13 – [13](#) But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

b. Ongoing Sanctification

- i. Sanctification is an ongoing work.
 - 1. Heb. 2:11 – [11](#) For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. ^b That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,
 - 2. Heb. 10:14-16 – [14](#) For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. [15](#) And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, [16](#) “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”
 - 3. Not in the sense of needing redemption.

The Work of Holy Spirit

- a. Heb. 10:10 – [10](#) And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- 4. In the sense of living holy lives.
 - a. 1 Thess. 4:3-4 - [3](#) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; [4](#) that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,
 - b. 1 Thess. 5:23 – [23](#) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. The Spirit plays an important role in living holy lives.
 - 1. God strengthens us by His Spirit in our inner man.
 - a. Eph 3:16, 20 – [14](#) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15](#) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16](#) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you **to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being**, [17](#) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18](#) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19](#) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20](#) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21](#) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
 - 2. It is with aid of the Spirit that we put to death the deeds of the fleshly body.
 - a. Rom. 8:11-13 – [11](#) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. [12](#) So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13](#) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if

The Work of Holy Spirit

by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- b. Col. 3:5-10 – [5](#) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6](#) On account of these the wrath of God is coming. [7](#) In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. [8](#) But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. [9](#) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices [10](#) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- iii. Therefore we need to “walk by the Spirit” and “be led by the Spirit.”
 - 1. Gal. 5:16-18 – [16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17](#) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. [18](#) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

7. The Spirit’s Work in Intercession

- a. Rom. 8:26-27 – [26](#) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. [27](#) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
 - i. Illustration of Bouquet

8. Conclusion

- a. This lesson has looked briefly at the work of the Holy Spirit regarding:
 - i. Creation
 - ii. Revelation
 - iii. Confirmation
 - iv. Regeneration
 - v. Sanctification
 - vi. Intercession

The Work of Holy Spirit

Illustration of Bouquet

A boy of 7 or 8 years was walking home from school when he noticed some flowers growing by the side of the road. He thought of his mom and gathered a handful. When he got home, mom was not there, so he laid the flowers on the table and went out to play.

His older sister arrived home later, found the flowers on the table, and sensed that her brother had picked them for mom. She filled a jar with water, removed all the weeds that her brother had gathered along with the flowers, and put the flowers in the jar.

When mom got home, she found a beautiful bouquet of flowers, just as her son had intended.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words, and removes the weeds from our prayers.

Source Unknown