

The Christian and The Holy Spirit

The person and work of the Holy Spirit are often the most misunderstood truths in all of Christianity. And yet as Christians, these truths are as essential for spiritual growth as water is for physical growth. In fact, Jesus Christ Himself referred to the Holy Spirit as "the river of living water" that flows from those who believe and receive him (John 7:37-39). Last week we learned what it is to receive eternal life through belief in Jesus Christ. This week we will look at the next fundamental aspect in our faith: the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. He is a Person

1. His relationship to others

a. He convicts (John 16:8)

b. He teaches (John 14:26)

c. He counsels (John 14:16-17,26)

d. He speaks (Galatians 4:6)

e. He intercedes (Romans 8:26)

f. He leads (Galatians 5:18)

2. Others in relation to Him

a. They can grieve Him (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30)

b. They can quench (resist) Him (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

c. They can lie to Him (Acts 5:3)

d. They can insult Him (Hebrews 10:29)

e. They can blaspheme Him (Matthew 12:31)

B. He is God

1. He is referred to as God (Acts 5:3-4)

2. He has the attributes of God (Genesis 1:2; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11)

3. He performs the works of God (Luke 12:11-12; Acts 1:5)

4. He is the object of faith (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:19-21)

What is His purpose?

A. To those who have not received Him...

...To convict of sin, righteousness and judgment, (John 16:8)

B. To those who have received Him

1. He renews us (Titus 3:5)
2. He seals us (Ephesians 1:13-14: 4:30)
3. He indwells and fills us
 - Indwelling"(NIV: "living") is a work of God (Romans 8:9-11)
 - "Filling" is a command to us (Ephesians 5:18)
4. He guides us (John 16:13)
5. He teaches and reminds us (John 14:26)
6. He intercedes for us (Romans 8:26)
7. He teaches us about God (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
8. He baptizes us into Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:13)

What is our responsibility?

A. Our responsibility to Him

- To walk with Him, to be filled (Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18)
- Not to quench Him, "put out his fire" (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
- Not to grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30)

B. Our responsibility to believers

- To keep the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-5)
- To restore a fallen brother (Galatians 5:25, 6:1)

What are the results of leading a Spirit-filled life?

- Spiritual growth (Galatians 6:7-8)
- Spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Spiritual and eternal life (Galatians 6:7-8)