

Chapter 30: The Work of the Holy Spirit

What are the distinctive activities of the Holy Spirit throughout the history of the Bible?

Explanation and Scriptural Basis (634-635)

The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.

A. The Holy Spirit empowers

1. He gives life. (Ps. 104:30; Job 34:14-15; John 3:6-7, 33; Matt. 1:18)
2. He gives power for service.
 - a. Old Testament (Num. 27:18; Deut. 34:9; 1 Sam. 11:6; Isa. 63:11-12; Isa. 11:2-3)
 - b. New Testament (Matt. 3:16; Luke 4:14, 18-19; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 2:18)

B. The Holy Spirit purifies. (John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 6:11; Matt. 3:11; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:13)

C. The Holy Spirit reveals.

1. Revelation to Prophets and Apostles (2 Peter 1:21; Matt. 22:43; John 16:13)
2. He gives evidence of God's presence. (John 15:26; Num. 11:25-26; Judg. 14:6; 1 Sam. 10:6, 10; Acts 2:2-3; Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6; 2 Cor. 1:22)
3. He guides and directs God's people. (Isa. 30:1; Matt. 4:1; Acts 8:29, 39-40; Gal. 5:16-26; Acts. 15:28)
4. He provides a Godlike atmosphere when he manifests his presence. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 5:5, 14:7; 1 Thess. 1:6; John 14:17; Deut. 34:9; Rom. 14:17; Rom.. 8:15-16)
5. He gives us assurance. (Rom. 8:16; 1 John 3:24, 4:13)
6. He teaches and illumines. (John 14:26, 16:13; Luke 12:12; Acts 11:28; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; Eph. 1:17-19)

D. The Holy Spirit unifies. (Acts 2:16-18, 44-47; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1-2; Eph. 4:3; Col. 3:14)

E. The Holy Spirit gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to him.

1. Jesus was without sin and the Holy Spirit "remained on him." (John 1:32, 3:34)
2. The Holy Spirit can be grieved and cease to bring blessing in a situation. (Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
3. More serious offense of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3; Heb. 10:29)
4. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31-32)
5. In the life of Christians whose conduct is pleasing to God, the Holy Spirit will be present to bring great blessing. (Acts 2:17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 3:14; John 7:38-39; 1 Peter 4:14)
6. Therefore it is important that all our ministry be done in the Holy Spirit. (Luke 10:21; Acts 19:21; Rom. 9:1; Eph. 2:18; Col. 1:8; Eph. 5:18)
7. Therefore in our Christian lives it is important that we depend on the Holy Spirit's power. (Zech. 4:6; Rom. 8:4-6, 12-16)