

Hearing God's Voice – Lesson Three – Part Two
The Holy Spirit: God's Presence in Our Lives

Review

Holy Spirit

Identity Revealed

Active in Believers

Brings Assurance

Convicts of Sin

Brings Understanding

Guides to Truth

Brings Comfort

Exalts Christ

IX. The Holy Spirit: Reveals God's Will

“Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, in order to know what has been freely given to us by God.” 1 Corinthians 2:12

We do not understand the true riches of Christ that the Father has for us. The Holy Spirit does understand and brings to light the spiritual wealth available to us. How often do we live in turmoil when peace is available to us? The Holy Spirit brings these things to mind and helps make them a reality for us. We do not need to live in spiritual poverty when the true riches are available to us.

X. The Holy Spirit: Calls into Service

“As they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work that I have called them to.’ Then, after they had fasted, prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them off.” Acts 13:2-3

The Holy Spirit sets individuals apart for God's service. The person can choose to obey that calling or to spend the rest of their life resisting it. The choice to resist causes the believer to miss the blessing that comes from that call. The Book of Acts shows that the call of the Holy Spirit is specific and clear.

Billy Graham quote.

XI. The Holy Spirit – Protects from Sin

“Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16

The Spirit of God protects us from sin in more ways than we are aware. The Spirit brings conviction to us when we may be contemplating a sinful decision. A particular verse may come to mind or even an interruption in our actions may occur to protect us. If we are sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit he will protect us.

XII. The Holy Spirit - Knows the Future

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.” John 16:13

None of us know what the future holds. But the good news is that God does know the future. He is not bound by time in the same way that we are. He is with us today and He will continue to be with us in the future. Sometimes things happen that we don't understand until years later. God is often preparing us in the present for something He has for us in the future. several years later.

XIII. The Holy Spirit - Produces Fruit

“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit.” Galatians 5:24-25

After salvation, the primary goal of the Holy Spirit is to make us like Christ. The Holy Spirit helps us to become Christlike by helping us to cast off the “fruits of sinful flesh.”

Galatians 5:19-21 These things are crucified when we live according to the guidance of the Spirit.

They should be replaced by the fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23 God desires us to be like Christ and the Holy Spirit will convict us of ways that we are not

like Christ. God loves us so much that He does not want us to remain as we are. Jesus died so we could be changed. Our role is to be willing to be changed.

XIV. The Holy Spirit - Places Members

“But now God has placed the parts, each one of them, in the body just as He wanted.” 1 Corinthians 12:18

The church is compared to the body in Scripture. It is made up of many parts and each part has a specific role to perform for the benefit of the entire body. 1 Corinthians 12:7

If you are strong in a particular area, you may be able to help someone who is weaker in that area.

The Spirit guides us to the churches He want us to attend and where He want us to serve. If He calls you to serve in a particular area, He will also equip you for that service. Every person is important, and no role is less important than another. “On the contrary, all the more those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, we clothe these with honor.” 1 Corinthians 12:22-23

XV. The Holy Spirit - Produces Unity

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body— Whether Jew or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13

The Holy Spirit brings unity to the church. Without the help of the Spirit, this would not be likely. With the help of the Spirit this should be a normal occurrence in the church. Paul urged the early church to guard the “unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us.” Ephesians 4:3

XVI. The Holy Spirit - Gives Words

“But when they hand you over, don’t worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking in you.” Matthew 10:19-20

Throughout the Bible we see people who were reluctant to do as God asked them. Moses certainly didn’t have a great

deal of confidence when he stood before the burning bush and said, “Who am I that Pharaoh should listen to me?” “What if the Israelites should ask a tough question I can’t answer?” He referred to himself as “slow of speech and tongue.”

Read Exodus 4:10-16

Gideon also said, “But Lord, how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” The Lord again replied, “I will be with you.” Judges 6:15-16
Jonah was so eager to do as God asked him that he ran away. God promises to give us the words that we need when he calls us to speak.

We have all probably had encounters with people where we know that God spoke through us and gave us wisdom for a particular situation.

XVII. The Holy Spirit - Reminds Us.

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” John 14:26

When Jesus was about to leave His disciples he assured them that the Holy Spirit would be their teacher and bring to their remembrance the things that He had taught them. The role of the Spirit today is not to write Scripture, but to apply Scripture. He reminds us of the things we have been taught and helps us apply them to our lives today.

Has the Spirit ever brought to your mind a particular verse of Scripture that was useful to you in your own life or to speak into the life of someone else? The Holy Spirit helps us to practically apply Scripture in our lives.

XVIII. The Holy Spirit - Our Reaction

A. Resisting the Spirit

“You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit” Acts 7:51
The Spirit will challenge our actions and attitudes. He will show us changes we need to make in our lives. He will never force God’s best on us if we are unwilling to receive it.

B. Grieving the Spirit

“And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit, who sealed you for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

What grieves the Holy Spirit? Sin does. We must understand that sin is a betrayal of the Person who loves us so deeply and has sacrificed His life for us. It breaks God’s heart when we knowingly continue in sin.

C. Quenching the Spirit

“Don’t stifle the Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 5:19

If we pour enough water on a fire, it will be quenched. As we continue in sin and allow it to consume us, we are slowly extinguishing the Spirit’s presence in our lives. The Holy Spirit can not live peacefully with sin. There is to be only one Master. Matthew 6:25

D. Blaspheming the Spirit

“Because of this, I tell you, people will be forgiven every sin and blasphemy, but the blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the one to come.” Matthew 12:31-32

Is an unforgivable sin possible to commit? Blackaby states, “The context of the above passage reveals that Jesus had just miraculously freed a man from the demons that possessed him. The Spirit was using this occasion to disclose who Jesus was to the watching crowds. However, rather than recognizing and accepting the Word as coming from God, the Pharisees attributed Jesus’ work to the power of Satan. By refusing to accept the testimony of God’s Spirit, the Pharisees were doing more than shunning Jesus. Their hearts were so evil that they were rejecting a clear, unmistakable word from God. What’s worse, they were attributing God’s activity to demons. In so doing, the Pharisees revealed hearts that completely denied who Christ was.”

As Christians, we must acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit brings freedom and power into the lives of believers.

E. Filled by the Spirit

In Ephesians 5:18 Paul urged Christians to “Be filled” with the Spirit. We need a fresh daily filling of the Spirit. It is a gift from God.

It is essential in our walk with God. It is not something we do ourselves. We should pray to be filled by God’s Spirit each day. God has a plan for each of us and when we yield ourselves to His Spirit miracles can happen.

1. In what ways is the Holy Spirit presently working in your life?
2. Is the Holy Spirit convicting you of changes he wants to make in your life? Are you resisting him.
3. Would you describe your life as being filled with the Spirit?
4. Are there currently sins in your life that grieve the Holy Spirit?
5. What attitudes or behaviors could be quenching the Holy Spirit in your life?
6. What spiritual fruit is the Holy Spirit producing in your life?
7. Is anything happening in your life that could only be explained by the working of the Holy Spirit?