

The Holy Spirit – Our Role

The Holy Spirit is one of the greatest gifts mankind has been given by God. In the life of every genuine believer, the Holy Spirit serves many functions, roles, and activities. Over the past few weeks, we have investigated some of these to include last week's look at the basic role of the Holy Spirit in our life. This week we will focus on "our role". Once you have accepted the sacrificial work of Jesus and allowed Him in your life as Lord, you then receive the Holy Spirit in your heart as a permanent participant in your walk as a believer. I've already mentioned that He has taken up residence in your life and is there to fulfill the will and purposes of God through you. This means that every believer has a role in this process as well.

Think about it in this manner: if Jesus were still here with us in the flesh, what functions, roles, and activities do you think He would be fulfilling? Perhaps he would be the one teaching us truth. Perhaps He would be the one revealing the mysteries of God to us. Perhaps He would be the one gifting us to serve others. Perhaps He would be the one walking us through our most difficult moments. I imagine, if He were still here, He would be doing exactly what He was doing when He was here the first time. Unfortunately, this is not the case because it was not part of the plan. What was part of the plan, was that Jesus would send the Holy Spirit into the life of every believer as a "stand-in", or as a "substitutionary compensation" for His absence. The Holy Spirit teaches us about the whole counsel of God. He helps us understand Biblical truth. He leads us into powerful acts of worship. He guides us in this world as we learn how to live out our faith in front of others. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the deity and incarnation of Christ. He helps us comprehend His suffering and death, His resurrection, His ascension, His exaltation, and His role as Judge. He helps us understand the "spiritual" things of God. Jesus said it this way in John 16:14, *"He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."* With no exception, the Holy Spirit gives glory to Christ in all things and in every way and He does that in and through you!

Let's look first at one of the ways the Holy Spirit works in and through us to bring glory to Christ. Read **1 Corinthians 12**.

Here we see a listing of the potential spiritual gifts a believer may be given for use in bringing glory to Christ. I love verses 7 and 12 of this passage because they explain to us the reason for the gifts. Is it important to recognize our gift or gifts? Absolutely! But just as important is our need to recognize why we are given spiritual gifts. It is through these gifts that believers function as the body of Christ here on earth. All these awesome gifts are provided so that we can work together, unified by the Holy Spirit, to serve as ambassadors of Christ to the world around us.

Now, I know what you may be thinking. **How do I discover my gift(s)?** I suggest you begin with the one person who knows exactly what your gift is. Go directly to the source. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it to you. Make it a priority to speak directly to the Holy Spirit concerning this matter. Go read Romans 12:1-8 again and then begin praying to God asking for Him, through His Spirit, to lead you. From there, perhaps you should do an in-depth study of the Spiritual gifts or utilize one of the assessment tools commonly available. The key - is to make finding out, a

priority in your life. Once you discover your gift and begin using it for Kingdom service, then you can begin experiencing another of the functions of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Do you remember the teachings of Jesus from Matthew 12:33-37? **Read Matthew 12:33-37.** It's important that we do whatever is possible to make sure we are a good tree, bearing good fruit. The Holy Spirit helps us do this if we let Him. Whether we like it or not, each one of us will produce some type of fruit. The fruits of the flesh will be bad, but the fruits of the Spirit will be good. Paul shared this insight with the Galatians as they also battled against the desires of the flesh in the same manner we do today. **Read Galatians 5:16-26.**

When the Holy Spirit indwells us, our role becomes one driven by willing obedience. We must willingly allow Him to direct our minds and our hearts in everything. Our role then requires us to follow the Spirit's guidance and trust His ways over our ways. When we do this, then and only then will we produce and experience the harvesting of His fruits in our lives. We will continually taste: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and those around us will see Jesus Christ on full display.

As we conclude our series on the Holy Spirit, I want to make sure you have an opportunity to surrender your life to Jesus. He's been waiting on you. Want your life today to be that day?

I also want to remind you that knowing the Holy Spirit of God has taken up residence in your life, knowing that He performs all these miraculous functions, knowing that He dwells with us forever, and knowing that He will never leave or forsake us is cause for great joy and comfort. Thank God for His precious gift of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives! Amen!

Play song: Here's My Heart, Live (Casting Crowns)