

More Than Just a Name: The Holy Spirit

Today is the concluding message in our series: **More Than Just a Name**. Throughout this series of messages, I hope you have discovered the power and presence of God in and around you and your life. God is always present. He is always ready to interact with you and the people in your life. He is just waiting on you to acknowledge Him, accept Him, and receive His invitation. Once you decide to believe in Jesus and put your eternal trust in Him as your friend, Savior, and Lord, God does something unique, irreplicable, and something which cannot change. Why? Because, God, as a stamp of blessing on every Christian and a fulfilment of His promise to “*never leave you nor forsake you,*” places His Spirit into the heart and seals it there until the day you enter His eternal presence. Paul explains it this way in **Ephesians 1:13-14**.

[13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

I love that word guarantee because it reminds me that Jesus paid my sin debt on the cross and in the tomb. It also reminds me that God sealed His Spirit in my heart for more than just a singular purpose. Paul is saying that God has put His stamp of possession on every believer in the form of the Holy Spirit and by doing so, God is formally pledging to honor His promises and accept that Jesus’ work on your behalf fulfills every condition necessary for you to stand before Him as righteous and worthy. When the Holy Spirit lives in your heart, you receive the promise of a family inheritance greater than anything here on earth. This promise is truly unfathomable, and only holds true for those who give their lives to Jesus.

Today, more than ever in history, Christians need to understand the significance of the Holy Spirit’s presence in their heart. Once understood, the believer will begin to truly experience, not just His presence, but also His powerful work. There is nothing more reassuring and peaceful in life than experiencing the powerful presence of God’s Spirit as He works in our daily lives. If you have ever been privy to what I am talking about, then you also understand the magnitude of importance it has as well. Take comfort when you know the Holy Spirit is at work in your life because that is your personal guarantee of what is yet to come!

I mentioned earlier in our series that Jesus spent much of His last week on earth teaching and explaining to the disciples Kingdom things. The night before Jesus went to the cross, He made big promises to them. **Read John 14:12**.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

Jesus promised the disciples they would do massive things for the Kingdom. This means, we too can-do massive things for the Kingdom!

Shortly after making this promise, He informed them of the “how,” which is also a promise. **Read John 14:15-16 and 25-26.** And then, Jesus assured them about the work which would take place because of the promise of receiving the Holy Spirit. Look at **John 16:4b-15.** Jesus explained to them that it was best for Him to leave. For them, and for us today, to experience the powerful workings of the Holy Spirit, then we must believe in someone who is not here. We must also believe that because of His power, working in us and through us, remarkable things can and will happen for the Kingdom. My prayer for each of you is that you desire to experience this power in your life and when you experience the power of the Holy Spirit and witness His Kingdom work, you will find comfort in the assurance of your own salvation because of the presence of God’s Spirit in your heart.

Now, keeping in mind the title of our series; **More Than Just a Name**, I wanted to share with you a few things concerning the Holy Spirit’s work in the life of the believer. I am not going to explain these things exponentially because of time, but it is important for you to recognize how He works.

Aside from directly calling Him the Holy Spirit, the Bible uses some figurative representations which demonstrate these works. In **Matthew 3:16**, we see the “*dove*,” which represents beauty and gentleness of character. The Holy Spirit will never work in an ugly manner or out of aggression. His work in you and out of you will always be peaceful.

Up in **Matthew 3:11-12**, we see “fire”. Have you ever heard anyone reference the Holy Spirit as God’s fire? Fire is something that penetrates and even purifies. The Holy Spirit will penetrate to the depths of your heart and will work to remove, or purify, any evil that may exist. The only way to overcome the sin which holds you is to allow the Fire of the Holy Spirit to do its work.

I personally like **John 7:37-38’s** reference to the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life because it speaks about the abundant supply of God’s grace that because of Jesus, I continually have access to. What a blessing! This also reminds me of the sufficiency of grace and how it helps me in every worldly situation. When Christians talk about God’s grace being enough, it is these references to the Holy Spirit that reminds of this truth. When I am thirsty for Jesus and I need grace, I do not have to do anything or travel anywhere to find it. I just search my heart and there it is, flowing like a river!

These are not the only representations in the Bible concerning the Holy Spirit, but I wanted to simply share some of my favorites in hopes of encouraging you in your faith. I also hoped to show that speaking of the Holy Spirit carries with it more significance than we often believe. It is also true that without the presence of the Holy Spirit in your heart, there is no guarantee of your salvation. And if there is no salvation, then there is no guarantee of an eternal inheritance. And if you do not have a guarantee of eternal inheritance then your guarantee is that of eternal damnation. **Read Revelation 21:5-8.**