

You Shall Receive Power

Who is the Holy Spirit?

John 14:16-26

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“Religion is what happens when the Spirit has left the building.” – Bono

Last weekend we celebrated the events that are the crucible of Christianity - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now we must allow our minds to ponder what those first century followers of Christ faced and asked themselves, “ Now what?”

Would it be better if Jesus were here with us today? Wouldn't we be better disciples if we lived in the first century as Jesus' disciples? According to Jesus, the answer is no.

John 16:7 "I tell you the truth: ***it is to your advantage*** that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."

In our minds, these statements found in the book of John make no sense.

- Advantage for Jesus to go away (John 16:7)
- You can't do anything apart from Jesus (John 15:5)
- You should rejoice that Jesus went away (John 14:28)

Some things we understand or kind of get such as God is a good father even if our earthly father wasn't a good example or that Jesus, the Son, was God in flesh and He gave His life for us. The Spirit, however, we don't get and He is the forgotten God!

The Holy Spirit is not just the forgotten God, but He is unknown.

“I spend half my time telling Christians to study doctrine and the other half telling them that doctrine is not enough.” – Martin Lloyd-Jones

Christianity without the Holy Spirit is dead religion.

Let's look at three essentials about the Holy Spirit that need to be clear to you if you are going to live as able followers of Christ. The first two essentials have to do with his nature. The third has to do with His work.

1. The Holy Spirit Is a Person

The most important passage to support the first truth is **John 14–16**.

There is a great difference between the idea of an impersonal God outside of you working as a force to help you and the God of Scripture giving Himself in love to you, taking up residence within you! (**Romans 5:5; I John 4:12-13**)

2. The Holy Spirit Is God

When you add the second truth about the Holy Spirit, the first becomes even more profound for your life. The Holy Spirit is God. The person who indwells, leads, and purifies you is no one less than God, the Holy Spirit.

“The most glorious of all truths that we will discover is that when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, he comes not merely as the Spirit of the Son, nor merely as the Spirit of the Father, but as the Spirit of infinite love between the Father and the Son, so that we may love the Father with the very love of the Son, and love the Son with the very love of the Father.” – John Piper

3. The Holy Spirit gives power, purpose and peace to the believer.

To put it another way, you must have the Holy Spirit to be a Christian and to be able to live as a Christian.

Romans 8:9 ...if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he does not belong to Christ.

Here's how it works:

- A. Power begins by doing nothing! (Acts 1:4-8)** When you trusted Christ, the Spirit of Christ came to live in you! You have all of Him and you will have Him through all eternity. You will never be alone!
- B. The Spirit gives your life purpose (John 14:26, 15:26)** You were designed to know and experience sweet love and communion with your Savior who lives in you, to glorify Him, to enjoy Him forever, and to tell others of the difference Christ has made in your life.
- C. The Spirit gives you peace. (John 14:1, 27)** Jesus wants you to know He has provided for you in your darkness. He brings peace that is not circumstance, but His very presence by His Holy Spirit.

Identity and Work of The Holy Spirit

There are no less than 40 ministries of the Spirit, which He performs in our lives. Here are 10 of them, which just scratch the surface.

- He dwells with us AND within us. **John 14:17**
- He teaches and brings to remembrance God's word. **John 14:26**
- He glorifies (spotlights) Jesus. **John 15:26**
- Explains the Bible to us. **I Cor. 2:14**
- Gives assurance of salvation. **Rom. 8:16**
- Intercedes for us when we pray. **Rom. 8:26**
- Leads us and directs us. **Rom. 8:14**
- Empowers us for witnessing. **Acts 1:8**
- Strengthens us against temptation. **I Cor. 10:13**
- Comforts us. **John 14:16**