

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Wayne Grudem defines the Holy Spirit's work as follows: "To manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church."¹ This work, then, is both vast and universal as it relates to all creation, and also specific and personal as it relates to individual believers.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN CREATION

The Spirit was present and active at the Creation in Genesis 1:2, and in Genesis 2:7, God *breathes* into Adam to give him life, which is suggestive of the Holy Spirit's involvement.

In John 6:63 Jesus says, "*The Spirit gives life.*"

He is also active in ongoing creation and the sustaining of life:

- *Psalms 104* states that the Holy Spirit is the creator of all living creatures (esp. v 30)
- *Ecclesiastes 12:7* and *Job 34:14-15* show that the Holy Spirit is the source of life, given by God, and actively sustains all life.



Every creature and every person that lives, has ever lived and will ever live relies on the Holy Spirit to sustain their life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN ALL MANKIND

In John 16:8-11, Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world (all mankind) of sin, righteousness and judgment (*cf. Acts 2:37*)

This conviction is not necessarily pleasant and can provoke strong reactions, both negative and positive toward God.



This reminds us that our duty is not to convict people, but to declare the Gospel to them allowing the Holy Spirit to do the work of conviction (*cf. 1 Thess 1:5*)

The Holy Spirit also convicts Christians and churches of sin (*eg Revelation 2 & 3*)

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE CHURCH

Illumination – Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide us into 'all truth' (*John 16:13*) This is true of non-believers to whom the Holy Spirit reveals the truth of the Gospel and of believers to whom the truth of Scripture is revealed.



The Holy Spirit is the author of Scripture (*2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:11, 2 Peter 1:20*)

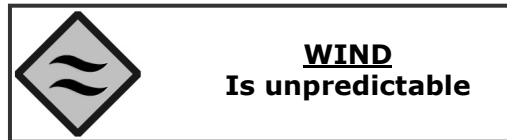
¹ Wayne Grudem, "*Systematic Theology*" (1994) p634

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Salvation – In John 3:5 the rebirth that takes place when a person believes is carried out by the Spirit. "*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*"

Baptism of the Holy Spirit – this is mentioned several times in Scripture; firstly by John the Baptist speaking about Jesus (*Luke 3:16*); then by Jesus speaking about Pentecost (*Acts 1:4-5*). There are several views on this baptism.

- Reformed View – the baptism of the Holy Spirit was a once-only event at Pentecost. There is no individual baptism of the Holy Spirit at or after conversion.
- Separate from Conversion – this baptism is an in-filling of the Holy Spirit distinct from conversion. Pentecostals look for Spiritual Gifts (esp. Tongues) as the evidence of this. Charismatics look for Spiritual Fruit as the evidence of this.
 - *The Holiness Movement* takes this further to say that, having received the Spirit, the believer may, by faith, achieve 'Sinless Perfection' in this life.
- Part of Conversion – the baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place at the moment of rebirth and the believer is added to the body of Christ. Water baptism is a picture of this.
 - *Cessationists* take this further to say that the Gifts of the Spirit ceased with the death of the early apostles.



What is certain is that the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit works in many different ways in the lives of believers. He works in a personal way, because He is a person, and so the way He works is unpredictable.

Indwelling – The Holy Spirit comes to live in all who are saved (*Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 16:9*) This is an almost incomprehensible concept, yet this is evidenced by the work that follows...

Assurance – The indwelling Spirit testifies with our own spirits that we are now children of God (*Romans 8:16*), and this gives us confidence to come to God.

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood."²

Prayer – We are encouraged to pray 'in the Spirit' (*Ephesians 6:18*) and Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray, and prays on our behalf (*Romans 8:26*)

Sanctification – The Holy Spirit is committed to producing Spiritual fruit (*Galatians 5:22-23*) in the life of every believer (*Philippians 1:6*). This is also referred to as:

- Walking / Living by the Spirit (*Galatians 5:25*)
- Running the race (*1 Corinthians 9:24, Hebrews 12:1*)
- Being transformed by the renewing of your mind (*Romans 12:2*)
- Being conformed to likeness of Jesus (*Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 13:8*)
- Christ being formed in you (*Galatians 4:19*)

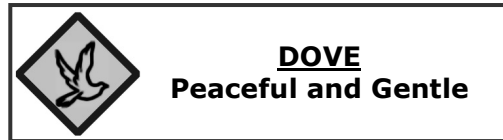
² Fanny J Crosby, "*Blessed Assurance*" (1873)

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The Holy Spirit takes believers through all kinds of experiences, which are to burn out rubbish and develop Godly characteristics. Our task is to work together with Him according to His prompting.



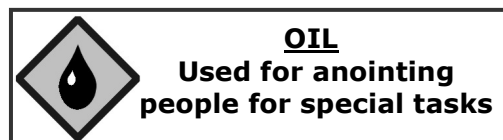
Sometimes this process of sanctification can be very painful and seem harmful to us and those around us. But the Holy Spirit is working for our good. He is gentle and goes through it with us.



Spiritual Gifts – The Holy Spirit anoints areas of gifting and ministry as He determines.

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:7-10	1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:11
Prophecy	Message of Wisdom	Apostle	Apostle
Serving	Message of Knowledge	Prophet	Prophet
Teaching	Faith	Teacher	Evangelist
Encouraging	Healing	Miracle Worker	Pastor
Giving	Miraculous powers	Healer	Teacher
Leadership	Prophecy	Helper	
Showing Mercy	Spiritual Discernment	Administrator	
	Tongues	Speaker in Tongues	
	Interpretation		

These do not present an exhaustive list. The Holy Spirit anoints different people to perform many different tasks and roles so that the church works together as a body (*1 Corinthians 12:11-12*).



We all share the common anointing to be Jesus' witnesses (*Acts 1:8*)