

LIFE TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:4(b), 5, 8

“A Promise Kept”

“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible.

There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from his fruit, and no effective witness without his power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.”

The Spirit, The Church, and the World - John Stott

Biblical Reflections on the Holy Spirit

He is God:

Acts 5:1- Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

2- With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3- Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that **you have lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

4- Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" (emphasis added).

He is known as the Paraclete (the "counselor": who walks along side) and the Spirit of Truth:

John 14:16,17- And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 16:13- But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

He directed the communication of God's truth through human representatives:

2 Pet 1:25- For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

He convicts the world:

John 16:7,8- But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

He brings Spiritual birth:

John 3:5-6- Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Titus 3:5- ...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit

He baptizes us into God's family:

1 Cor 12:13- For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

He lives within believers:

1 Cor 6:19- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

He is the foundation of unity in the Church:

Eph 4:3- Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

He is the seal and guarantee of our salvation:

Eph 1:13-14- And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

2 Cor 1:21-22- Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come

He Intercedes for us:

Rom 8:26- In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

He produces spiritual fruit:

Gal 5:22-23- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.