

The Holy Spirit

What do the following verses say about the Holy Spirit?

1. Acts 5:3,4

The Holy Spirit is God. He is called “The Holy Spirit” in verse 3 and “God” in verse 4. By deduction, the Holy Spirit is God. He possesses all the attributes of God: omnipotence (Genesis 1:2), omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:10,11) and omnipresence (Psalm 139:7). God is one in essence and three in expression, One distinct being and three personalities. See Trinity chart.

2. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

The Holy Spirit saves us and makes us holy. The Holy Spirit performs two major functions. First, He saves. He brings about our salvation. This is his work alone. Our only role is belief. Second, he sanctifies us (1 Peter 1:2). He makes holy. He spiritually matures us. This is his work in partnership with the believer. It is accomplished through willing participation and obedience to the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16). As Rick Warren says, “We are as spiritually mature as we choose to be.”

The Holy Spirit saves us by...

a. John 16:7-11

Convicting us. The Spirit prepares the heart for salvation. The Spirit of God convinces people of their sinful, guilty state, that Christ puts us in a right relationship with God, and divine punishment awaits those who oppose God.

b. Titus 3:5

Converting us. He washes us. He cleanses us from the filth of our guilt and wrong doing. He regenerates us. He gives us new life. He gives us a new nature and makes us new people. He renews us. He refreshes us so that we are both created in the image of God and have a desire to live to the glory of God.

c. I Corinthians 12:13

Baptizing us. He places us in the body of Christ. He unites us with Christ. The Greek tense (aorist) of the term “baptize” indicates that this is a one time event with lasting results. It is not a repeated event or one that is marked by tongues, prophecy or healing.

d. I Corinthians 6:19

Indwelling us. Upon salvation, the Holy Spirit takes up permanent (John 14:16) residence in our bodies (Romans 8:11). He does not need to be invited into our

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lives. He is present at the point of salvation. He lives in us.

e. 2 Corinthians 1:22

Securing us (Ephesians 1:13,14, 4:30). The Holy Spirit is God's promise that He will complete his redemptive work in our lives through glorification. The Spirit of God is His guarantee that we will fully experience the inheritance of eternal life. This is also called the "sealing" of the Holy Spirit. The sealing of the Spirit communicates both the ideas of ownership, authority and security. "Branding cattle would be a parallel; the rancher put his brand on the steer as a sign that the steer belongs to him. God has put his seal, the Holy Spirit, in the believer to verify that the believer belongs to him."¹ The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is God's pledge that he will complete the work of salvation in a person's life. "The word "pledge" (1 Corinthians 1:22) means a first installment, deposit, down payment... the Holy Spirit as a pledge is a symbol of the believer's security in Christ."²

The Holy Spirit matures us by...

a. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Gifting us. The Holy Spirit gives each believer a special ability and talent that corresponds to helping build up the Church. The Holy Spirit's role is to give each believer this talent. The believer's role is to discover and develop this talent. Sometimes it's related to vocational abilities or talents before belief. Often it has nothing to do with either, but is a new desire and ability that emerges after salvation. While it is given by the Holy Spirit, it is perfected and "grown into" through a process of obedience and perseverance by the believer (2 Timothy 1:6). The gifts are divided into three categories.

- i. Those that were necessary for the **establishment** of the Church (Ephesians 4:11a). These include apostles, prophets, knowledge, miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing. These gifts were formative and are therefore no longer necessary or normative. Some still mistakenly insist upon these gifts as normative (Jeremiah 14:14, 23:16, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34-36, Isaiah 65:2, Ezekiel 13:1-8, 17).
- ii. Those that are necessary for the **leadership** of the Church (Ephesians 4:11,12). These include evangelists and pastor/teachers. Evangelists are uniquely gifted to cause people to respond to the gospel. Pastor teachers are uniquely gifted to enable the saved to grow through their care, shepherding and teaching. The term "pastor teacher" refers to one office with dual

¹ Paul Enns, The Moody Handbook of Theology, Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. Page 269

² Ibid, page 254.

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responsibilities.

iii. Those that are necessary for the **function** of the Church. These include; discernment, helping, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, kindness, speaking, helping (Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:1-11, I Peter 4:10,11).

b. Ephesians 5:18

Filling us. The Holy Spirit desires to influence the way believers think and behave. His role is indwelling; our role is to deliberately allow him to control our actions (Romans 8:5,6). The outworking of the filling of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-23) and peace of mind (Romans 8:6).

c. Romans 8:14

Guiding us. The Holy Spirit works through people, experiences and truths that serve to guide and direct towards Christ-like character. The Holy Spirit directs us (Galatians 5:18) to accomplish the will of God through circumstances, (Acts 16:6), counsel, (Acts 15:28), the Scriptures (John 16:13).

d. Romans 8:15-17

Assuring us. The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to remind us of our identity, privilege, and destiny as children of God (Romans 8:15-17).

e. John 14:16, 17

Encouraging us. The Holy Spirit comforts us by fellowshiping with us, reminding us of God's nature and testifying to us about God's wonderful promises (John 14:26b, 15:26). He helps us when and where we need it most (Romans 8:26a). His role is to stand ready to give us a spiritual and eternal perspective. Our role is to allow that perspective to influence us.

f. 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

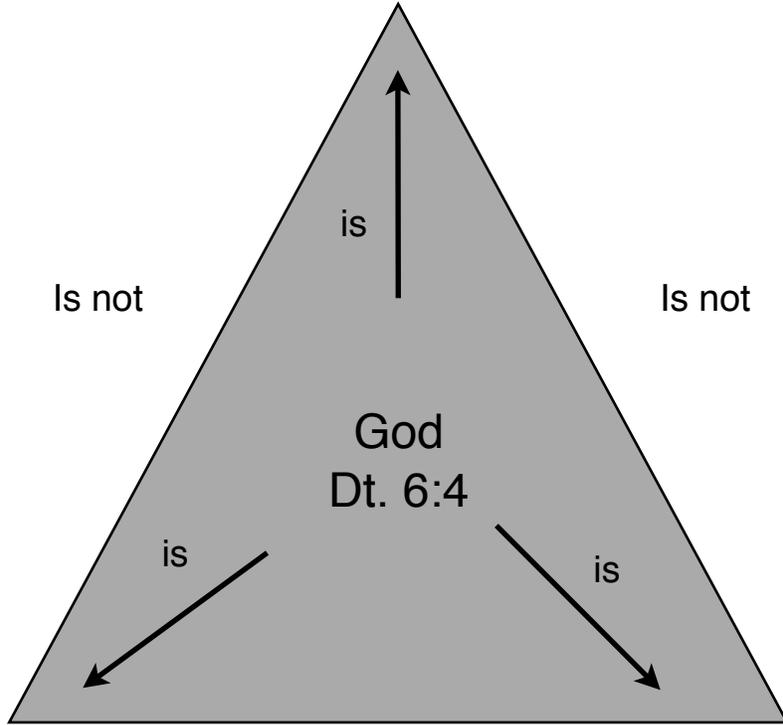
Illuminating and teaching God's word. The Holy Spirit causes us to accept words of Scripture as divinely authored and to understand its content (John 14:26, 1 John 2:27). This is an often overlooked and neglected ministry of the Holy Spirit. As he illuminates the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit also teaches us the meaning of God's word.

g. Romans 8:26,27

Praying for us. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in harmony with God's will. This is especially true when we need it the most (vs. 26a).

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The Father
1 Corinthians
8:6



The Holy Spirit
Acts 5:3,4

Is not

The Son
Titus 2:13

God is one in essence and three in expression or persons.