

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS

### 21. Work of Holy Spirit (4)



#### An Introduction

We can't separate what the Holy Spirit does in our lives as individuals with what he does in and through the Church, as neither exists without the other! Let's look now at the work of the Spirit in and through the Church.

#### 1. WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

God's plan is to prepare us to be a spotless Bride for his Son, Jesus. To do this, he works within each one of us as individuals, but we are to meet together as his Body, to encourage one another and be a light to our communities.

##### (a) The Church is created by the Holy Spirit

- In many ways the Day of Pentecost was the beginning of the Church. This is the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the first disciples, empowering them to be witnesses for Jesus, but also to baptise them into his Body.
- When we are born again of the Spirit of God we too are baptised into his Body.
- This means we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection and we are united with other members of his Body by his Spirit.
- Look up these verses: Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 12:13

##### (b) The Holy Spirit inspires and directs the church

- The Holy Spirit anoints those who preach and teach God's Word.
  - o When Peter spoke to the religious leaders he was filled with the Spirit. Acts 4:8
  - o When Paul preached it was in the Spirit's power. 1 Corinthians 2:4
  - o When Paul preached the gospel it was with power. 1 Thessalonians 1:5
  - o The early apostles preached the gospel by the power of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:12
- The Holy Spirit guides us when we pray.
  - o The Holy Spirit helps us when we don't know how to pray. Romans 8:26-27
  - o The Holy Spirit helps us to pray with my mind and with my spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15, Jude 20
- The Holy Spirit helps us to worship God.
  - o The Holy Spirit enables us to praise God with our mind and with our spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:15-16, 26
  - o The Holy Spirit helps us to speak and sing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to the Lord. Ephesians 5:18-20, Colossians 3:16

##### (c) The Holy Spirit gives gifts and gifted men to the Church

- The New Testament makes a distinction between gifts that are given to believers, and gifted men and women who God gives to the church.
- The gifts that are given to believers are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11.

- These gifts are given for the benefit of all believers.
  - Although they are different gifts, they are all given by the Holy Spirit as he chooses.
  - It includes the gift of wisdom, message of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues.
  - More gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8: serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing to the needs of others, leadership and showing mercy.
- Gifted men and women are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 and Ephesians 4:11.
- God's purpose is that these men and women prepare God's people to serve him and help them reach maturity.
  - These gifted men and women include: Apostles, prophets, teachers.

Just as the Holy Spirit works within each believer, and through each believer, so He works in the church and through the church. It is our privilege and responsibility to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is our calling and mission, but we can only be successful if we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would come upon us so we can be his witnesses.



*Do you think Acts 1:8, where it says we are to go into all the world, still applies today? After all there are churches in most nations already! Discuss.*



**When we meet together as a body of believers or the church, we are to ask the Holy Spirit to lead and direct all we do. If Jesus is not glorified and the Holy Spirit is not in control we are just like any other gathering of people! However when the Holy Spirit is moving among God's people they are built up, strengthened, and ministered to by God. Invite him to come and he will!**