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A mature member understands the role of the Holy Spirit

The role of the Holy Spirit is glorifying Christ through helping and teaching His people. He provides the conviction of our sin and offers His invitation and empowerment to live a holy life (sanctification).

What does our relationship with the Holy Spirit have to do with everyday life? Well, this is a deep, deep well of learning that we will just begin to investigate here. We want to encourage you to spend time getting to know the Holy Spirit better, though. We pray you will be inspired to really dig into your relationship with Him over the rest of your journey.

We are going to orbit around John 14 and 16 as we study this lesson, so open those chapters for reference.

ROLES

During His earthly ministry, Jesus had guided, guarded, and taught His disciples; but now, in John 14–16, He is preparing to leave them. He promises that the Spirit of God would come to the disciples and dwell in them, taking the place of their Master's physical presence. Jesus called the Spirit "another Comforter"—another of the same kind. The Spirit of God is not different from the Son of God in essence, for both are God. ([Got Questions.org](http://GotQuestions.org))

In the book of John, the Bible describes the Holy Spirit as Helper (Comforter, Counselor), the Spirit of Truth, Teacher and Witness, and Glorifier of Christ. These are the roles God has defined for Himself as the Holy Spirit, working with us as His people.

John 14:15-18

Helper
Spirit of Truth
Teacher of Truth
Witness of Jesus
Glorifier of Jesus

Q. What does it say to you that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, has chosen to be with you, and in you, for the rest of your life?

ACTIVITIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Consider the roles the Holy Spirit fills. Within these roles, there are many activities in which He operates. We will look closely at five of them.

1. Helping (Counseling, Comforting)

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.

The Greek work used in John 14:16 is “parakletos” which means “one called to the side of another”. There is a secondary notion that the purpose of coming alongside is to provide counsel and/or comfort for the one who needs it. Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit to come alongside us and to indwell us to help us and that He would be with us forever.

2. Convicting of sin, righteousness, and judgement

John 16:8-11 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

3. Giving of spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 12:11; 1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...

...All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills have received mercy.

4. Teaching and reminding

The Holy Spirit's role is to teach us what Christ taught and remind us of what He said. In [John 14:26](#) Jesus promises His disciples in the upper room that the Holy Spirit would enable and equip them to remember, write, and apply the life and teaching of Jesus. The Holy Spirit guided them to record and write the New Testament ([2 Timothy 3:16–17](#); [2 Peter 1:20–21](#)). So for us, the Holy Spirit enables us to understand and live out God's Word as we follow Jesus, and He brings to our remembrance "the word planted in you" ([James 1:21](#)).

As you read and study the Bible, the Holy Spirit gives you understanding you could not have on your own. He will help you drill down into the Word and understand more and more of what you are reading. Scripture is far deeper than you can imagine.

5. Sanctifying

What does "sanctifying" or "sanctification" mean? It would be helpful to dig into these words/concepts a little deeper.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (14) To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

... "sanctification" is a translation of the Greek word *hagiasmos*, meaning "holiness" or "a separation." In the past, God granted us justification, a once-for-all, positional holiness in Christ. In the present, God guides us to maturity, a practical, progressive holiness. In the future, God will give us glorification, a permanent, ultimate holiness. These three phases of sanctification separate the believer from the penalty of sin (justification), the power of sin (maturity), and the presence of sin (glorification). ([Got Questions.org](#))

So, there are 3 phases of moving us away from sin and toward holiness, (sanctification) that God is actively working on. Today, this moment. It is the continuous work of God in the person of the Holy Spirit over your entire lifetime.

1. PAST - You have been separated from the penalty of sin through Jesus Christ's work.
2. PRESENT - You are separated from the power of sin now and He is discipling you toward spiritual maturity.
3. FUTURE - You are being separated from the presence of sin in this life and will be completely and permanently separated from it in heaven.

Q. Which one of these activities of the Spirit is relevant to your life right now? What is God doing with and within you?

SUMMARY

Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit to reside in and with us forever. He is our teacher, counselor, witness and glorifier of Jesus Christ.

He works with us to convict us of sin, bring us to repentance, break the power of sin in our life and remove its presence from us.

He gives us gifts so we can represent Him in this life and teaches us how to use them.

He reveals the Word to us in a deeper and deeper way, causing us to mature. Then we can reflect Him better and better as we grow together in Him.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. Which of the five activities of the Holy Spirit would have the greatest impact on your workplace? How could you involve the work of the Holy Spirit more in your leadership?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- Watch
ReFrame Episode 7: The Church and the Spirit
<https://www.reframecourse.com/episodes/episode-7>
- **Pneumatology Studies**
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Pneumatology.html>
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
Who is the Holy Spirit?
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/606>
- Read
Help is Here by Max Lucado <https://a.co/d/g9kl0d6>