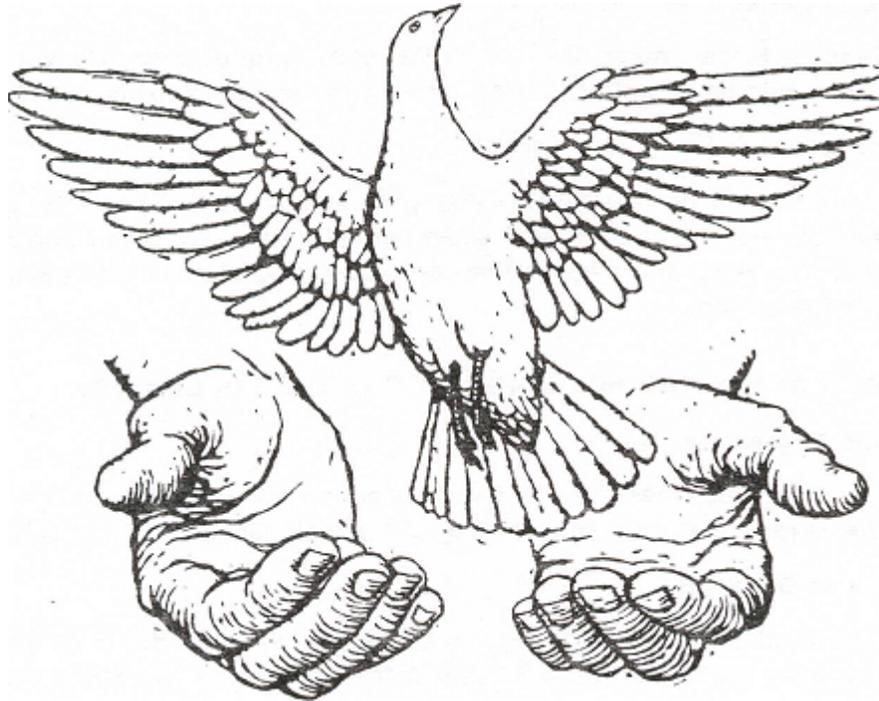


FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



How The Holy Spirit Operates Lesson 8

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATES

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity. He is a person, just as interested in us as God the Father or Jesus - *John* 14:16. The Holy Spirit has been working since creation - *Genesis* 1:1-2 - in our world to affect our lives. The Bible shows the Spirit was active in the birth of Christ - *Luke* 1:35 - and in the earthly ministry of our Lord - *Acts* 10:38. He was involved in the inspiration of scripture - *II Peter* 1:21 - and is presently a part in the work of redemption - *John* 3:5. He calls men to preach the Gospel - *Acts* 13:2 - and directs them where to work - *Acts* 16:6-10. The Holy Spirit has played a positive role in your becoming a Christian. This lesson will deal with how the Holy Spirit has worked in your life in the past and what He will do in the future for you as you walk in obedience to God's guidance and His Word.

I. BEFORE WE ARE SAVED, THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES THE FOLLOWING:

A. He Convicts Us of Our Sins - *John* 16:7-11

It is the Holy Spirit who shows us our sins and helps us realize we need Christ. He continually speaks to us when other people don't know our needs. His constant convicting plays a vital part in our salvation.

B. He Points Us to Christ - *John* 16:13-14

Christ promised in these verses that when the spirit would come, He would not be revealing Himself, but He would be revealing Christ. The Spirit would also show us about Christ.

C. He Represents Christ to Us - *John* 14:16

Jesus realized He would be leaving His disciples and would no longer be able to comfort them with His presence. But Jesus promised when He left, He would send another to comfort them, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has taken the place of Christ on this earth to show us our sin and God's cure for our sin.

II. WE ARE BORN AGAIN, THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES THE FOLLOWING:

A. He renews and Regenerates Us

"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." (*Titus* 3:5).

B. He Brings Life to Our Souls

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." (*Romans* 8:11).

C. He Witnesses to Our Salvation

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (*Romans* 8:16).

D. He Teaches Us Spiritual Truths

"This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." (*I Corinthians* 2:13).

E. He Guides Us Unto the Truth

"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." (*John* 16:13).

F. He Helps Us When We Pray

"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." (*Romans* 8:26).

III. AFTER WE ARE BORN AGAIN, THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

A. He Wants to Fill Our Hearts and Lives

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." (*Ephesians 5:18*).

B. He Wants to Sanctify Our Hearts and Lives

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." (*II Thessalonians 2:13*).

C. He Wants to Empower Us to Be Witnesses

"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 1:8*).

D. He Wants to Dwell Constantly in Us

"...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 14:17*)

E. He Wants to Give Us a Gift So We Can Work for God

"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." (*1 Cor.12:11*)

F. He Wants us to Show the Fruit of the Spirit in Our Lives

"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. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (*Galatians 5:22-25*)

G. He Wants Us to Obey Him

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (*Eph. 4:30*).

IV. HOW WE CAN RECEIVE THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES?

- A. "...Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (*Acts 2:38*)

We must first become a Christian and repent of every known sin in our life.

- B. "I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship." (*Romans 12:1*).

Secondly, we must surrender ourselves to God completely, as a living sacrifice. Yield every area of your life to God if you want the Holy Spirit to fill your heart and life.

- C. "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (*Luke 11:13*)

Next, we should ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill our lives. This verse shows that God the Father is anxious for us to receive the Holy Spirit, and all we need to do is ask.

- D. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him." (*1 John 5:14-15*)

Last of all, we are to put faith into the promises of God that when we ask, we will receive the Holy Spirit in His fullness into our lives. As we received forgiveness for sins by faith, so receive the Spirit's fullness by faith. As with our salvation, the evidence of answered prayer may come later; for now, we are to believe.