

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

The New Testament clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit comes into the life and body of every Christian. Jesus said the Spirit would be IN them (John 7:38-39); New Testament writers said the Holy Spirit would be received by all who repented and were baptized (Acts 2:38); Christians MUST have the Spirit in order to BELONG to Christ (Rom. 8:9); God GIVES His Spirit to Christians (I Thess. 4:8); the Spirit lives in their HEARTS (Gal. 4:6) and BODIES (I Cor. 6:19).

But WHAT, exactly, does the Spirit DO in the life of the Christian? Does he inspire, produce miracles, stir emotions, or WHAT? Does he do in EVERY Christian's life ALL that he did for the apostles? Let's look at the Scriptures to find out!

I. THE SPIRIT ASSURES AND GUARANTEES.

- A. Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30. What does it mean to be "sealed" with the Holy Spirit?
- B. Ephesians 1:14; II Cor. 1:22; 5:5. In what way is the Spirit a "deposit" or "pledge" in the Christian's life?

II. THE SPIRIT STRENGTHENS.

Ephesians 3:16. With WHAT are Christians strengthened by the Spirit? (Romans 15:13). WHERE does this strength reside?

III. THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES.

- A. Romans 8:26-27. HOW or WHEN does the Holy Spirit intercede, intervene or "go on behalf of" the Christian to the Father?
- B. Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20. How is such prayer described?

IV. THE SPIRIT PUTS TO DEATH MISDEEDS.

- A. Romans 8:12-13. What is the "source" or "means" by which Christians are enabled to kill sinful practices?
- B. Colossians 3:5-10 with Titus 3:5. How does the Spirit affect changes in the Christian's life and conduct?

V. THE SPIRIT LEADS.

- A. Galatians 5:18. To WHAT are Christians NOT subject through the leading of the Spirit?
- B. Galatians 6:2; I Corinthians 9:21. What law does the Spirit place the Christian under?

- C. Romans 8:14. How does God regard those who are led by the Spirit?
- D. Ephesians 6:17; I Timothy 4:1; John 16:13. How does the Spirit lead Christians today?

VI. THE SPIRIT BEARS FRUIT.

Galatians 5:22. What are some of the fruit, or attributes, produced by Spirit in the Christian's life?

VII. THE SPIRIT RESURRECTS.

- A. Romans 8:11. What does the Spirit's residence in the Christian assure?
- B. Romans 8:23. What is meant by the Spirit being called the "firstfruits"? According to this analogy what, then, could be considered the "last fruits?"

Other discussion questions

1. Will the Holy Spirit work in a Christian's life contrary to the will of God revealed in Scripture?
2. Should every "impulse" in a Christian be interpreted as the prompting of the Holy Spirit? How can it be determined which are and which aren't?
3. We hear people say today "the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart." Is this Scriptural terminology? Is the idea Scriptural?
4. Some say the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of the Word of God are one and the same. What do you think? What does the Bible say about it?

Additional reading

- "The Holy Spirit, His Personality, Nature and Works" by H. Leo Boles.
- "The Timeless Trinity for Ceaseless Centuries" by Roy H. Lanier, Jr.
- "The Holy Spirit" by Garth Black.
- "Is the Holy Spirit for Me?" by Harvey Floyd.
- "The Holy Spirit and the Christian" by James D. Bales.
- "The Holy Spirit and His Work" by Burton W. Barber.