

3) The Holy Spirit and His Work. There are varied opinions about who or what the Holy Spirit is. Is He a separate entity or just another way of describing the Father's presence? The Bible has much to say about God the Son, and God the Father. Fortunately the Bible also reveals the truth we need to know about God the Holy Spirit – also called the Holy Ghost. Lets find out...

Acts 5:1-4. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as God. He is the third Person of the trinity or triune Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit). All equally God, but with different roles/functions. We see him throughout the Bible. He was present at creation (Gen 1:2) and the incarnation (Mat 1:20). He is included in the triune Godhead by Jesus (Mat 28:19).

John 16:8-11. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as a separate being, and used the masculine pronoun "He". It is the Holy Spirit who convicts people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is essential as a person would not know they are a sinner, or of salvation in Christ, or His work in judging the world! The Holy Spirit is a third Person of the triune Godhead. They (Father, Son, and Spirit) are equally God, yet each has His own role or function, especially in the plan of our redemption and salvation. The Spirit helps us see our need of Christ, and understand spiritual things, He guides us to Christ. Christ intercedes and reconciles us to the Father who adopts us into His family through the merits of Christ's righteousness.

The work of the Holy Spirit could be simply described like this:

- 1) He works on us (conviction)
- 2) If we accept Him, He then works in us (transformation)
- 3) He also works out of us, enabling us to witness to others (Acts 1:8)
- 4) His work in causing the latter rain to fall on God's people enables the gospel to reach the world and finish God's work (Revelation 18:1)

Acts 2:36-38. The Holy Spirit is sent to us as a gift – a gift to those who will receive Him.

Galatians 3:2-6. We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:26. The Holy Spirit makes our adoption by God possible.

Galatians 4:6. It is through the working of the Holy Spirit that we can know we are adopted into God's family.

2 Peter 1:21. The Holy Spirit inspired God's prophets with the messages to record in Scripture.

1 Corinthians 2:14. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance we can understand the spiritual lessons in the Bible. It can/will make sense.

Romans 5:1-5. Christ is our redeemer, redeeming us to the Father, but we would not know any of that, or God's love for us, without the work of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14. The Holy Spirit makes us aware and brings conviction of our sinfulness, our estrangement from the Father, Christ's redeeming sacrifice for us, and gives us the assurance of our salvation when we surrender our heart to and put our trust in Jesus. When we accept and have the Holy Spirit doing His working in us, we have the guarantee of salvation!

2 Corinthians 1:21,22. We are sealed, counted by God as ones who have chosen to belong to Him, though the work of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14-16. It is important to yield to the conviction and leading of the Holy Spirit to receive Christ's redeeming grace and be counted as God's family.

Romans 8:5-8. The Holy Spirit brings and imparts the New Covenant to us, writing God's laws in our hearts and minds, giving us new hearts that will live for Christ.

Hebrews 10:15-18. The Holy Spirit brings and imparts the New Covenant to us, writing God's laws in our hearts and minds, giving us new hearts that will live for Christ.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 The New Covenant (first promised in Gen 3:15) was actually taught and given in the Old Testament.

Ezekiel 36:26-27. When we receive the New Covenant, and a new heart, we are also given power & grace by the Holy Spirit that enables us to keep God's law and walk as He wants us to, always by His grace and righteousness, never our own.

(Rom. 13:8-10) God's law, the ten commandments, can be expressed in two parts – love to God and love to others. It can be reduced even further, to one word – Love – which is why it is also called the law of love.

Galatians 5:16-24. Walking with/in the Holy Spirit allows us to live a life that follows the example of Christ, and glorifies God. The Holy Spirit transforms us into the likeness or character of Christ, yielding His character attributes in our lives.

John 14:15-16. Jesus knew His work on earth was soon coming to a close and He would return to heaven. So he promised another Helper – one similar, not identical, to Himself. While Jesus would be in heaven, He could also abide with and in us through the work of this other helper - the Holy Spirit.

Rev. 14:12. In the closing days of earth's history, God will have a people keeping His law and having the faith of Jesus, because they have yielded to the Holy Spirit and allowed Him to do His work in them.

Ephesians 4:30. How vital it is that we do not close our mind or tune out our heart to the convictions and work of the Holy Spirit. To do so is to close our access to the redeeming ministry and grace of Christ, and adoption by God.