

The Holy Spirit



In OT the Holy Spirit came upon men for certain tasks at certain times - e.g. in Judges...Othniel (3:10); Gideon (6:34); Jephthah (11:29); Samson (13:25). Kings were anointed with oil as a symbol of the anointing of God's Spirit - e.g. David (1 Samuel 16:13). The Holy Spirit also departed from people - e.g. Saul (1 Samuel 16:14); Samson (compare Judges 14:19 & 16:20); David's prayer (Psalm 51:11)

In NT, the Holy Spirit abided with disciples before Pentecost ('with' John 14:17). The Holy Spirit brings life to our spirit - e.g. Nicodemus (John 3:5 & 7). At Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), the Holy Spirit was 'poured out' in fulfilment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:16-18) and Jesus' promises (John 16:7; Acts 2:33) and now indwells all believers. His purpose in our lives is to draw us into greater intimacy with the Father, make us more like Jesus, enable us to live godly lives and empower us to serve in the Kingdom.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- His Names
 - Counsellor/advocate - 'paraclete' (John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7)
 - Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)
 - Spirit of Holiness (Rom 1:4)
 - Spirit of Life (Rom 8:2)
 - Eternal Spirit (Heb 9:14)
 - Spirit of your Father (Matt 10:20)
 - Spirit of His Son (Gal 4:6)
 - Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9)
 - Spirit of Sonship - 'Abba Father' (Rom 8:15-16)
 - Each of the following names is based on Isaiah 11:2
 - The Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of Wisdom."
 - The Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of Understanding."
 - The Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of Counsel."
 - The Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of Power."
 - The Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of Knowledge."
 - The Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord."
- He is God
 - He is eternal (Heb 9:14)
 - He is all-powerful (Luke 1:35)
 - He is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7)
 - He is all-knowing (1 Cor 2:10-11)
 - He is called 'God' (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor 3:18)
 - He is active in creation (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30)
 - He is part of the Trinity (Gen 1:26; Matt 28:18-20; 2 Cor 13:14)
 - He can be blasphemed (Matt 12:31-32)

- He is a person (not 'it')
 - He speaks (Rev 2:7; Acts 13:2)
 - He intercedes (Rom 8:26)
 - He leads (Rom 8:14)
 - He commands (Acts 16:6-7)
 - He guides (John 16:13)
 - He appoints (Acts 20:28)
 - He can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4)
 - He can be insulted (Heb 10:29)
 - He can be grieved (Eph 4:30)

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

- Wind/breath (John 3:8; Acts 2:3-4)
- Oil (Psalm 133:2; Mark 6:13; Heb 1:9; James 5:14)
- Fire (Matt 3:11; Acts 2:3-4)
- Dove (Luke 3:22)

What does the Holy Spirit do?

- Brings glory to Jesus (John 16:13-14)
- Active in our salvation
 - Convicts of sin (John 16:8)
 - He testifies of Jesus (John 15:26)
 - He gives us new life (John 3:3-8)
- Leads into all truth/teaches (John 16:13)
- Brings us into the Body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor 12-13)
- He lives in believers (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19)
- He is a downpayment of our inheritance (Eph 1:13-14)
- He testifies that we are God's children (Rom 8:16-17;
- Sanctifies (Romans 15:16)
- Produces good fruit in us (Gal 5:22-23)
- Helps us to live a God-honouring life (Gal 3:1-5)
- Empowers for service (Acts 1:8; Eph 3:16-19)
- Cleanses our consciences (Heb 9:14)
- Gives us gifts for service (1 Cor 12; Rom 12; Eph 4)
- Guides (John 15:26)
- Helps us to pray (Rom 8:26; Jude 1:20; Eph 6:18)