

# The Holy Spirit

## What is the Role and Function of the Holy Spirit in My Life?

The day you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit of God took up permanent residency inside your body. The Holy Spirit is God's personal presence in your life, and desires to produce a godly change as you learn to walk with him. This third person of the trinity has often been misunderstood and ignored in Christianity. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of the TRUE work of the Holy Spirit of God in your life.

- I The Holy Spirit has a specific residence on earth today.
  - A As a saved person, the Holy Spirit of God dwells inside your body. He came in at the moment of salvation and took up permanent residency.
    - 1 You were saved by grace through "the hearing of faith".  
Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:17
    - 2 You also received the Spirit of God "by the hearing of faith".  
Therefore, the Holy Spirit entered your life at the same time you put your faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.  
Galatians 3:2
  - B Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.  
I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 2:22
  - C God gives his Spirit to dwell in you.  
Galatians 4:6, John 14:16-17, I John 4:13
- II The Holy Spirit has specific functions in your life.
  - A The Holy Spirit made you a new creature in Christ at the time of your salvation.  
II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10
  - B The Holy Spirit sealed your soul so that it is secure.  
Ephesians 4:30, 1:13
  - C The Holy Spirit is the earnest or guarantee of your salvation.  
Ephesians 1:14, II Corinthians 1:22

This only would I  
learn of you,  
Received ye the  
Spirit by the works of  
the law, or by the  
hearing of faith?  
Galatians 3:2

- D The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation.  
Romans 8:16, I John 4:13
- E The Holy Spirit will convict you of sin.  
John 16:8-9, Ephesians 4:30, I Thessalonians 5:19
- F The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible.  
John 16:13-15, I Corinthians 2:9-14
- G The Holy Spirit gives direction in decision making.  
I Corinthians 2:15-16, Proverbs 3:5-6
- H The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance what he has taught you when it is needed.  
John 14:26, Acts 11:16
- I The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you.  
Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 2:18
- J The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need.  
John 14:15-18, II Timothy 1:7, II Corinthians 1:3-4
- K The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God.  
II Corinthians 4:7, Ephesians 3:16, Zechariah 4:6

### III The Holy Spirit produces specific results by his work in your life.

- A The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of godly qualities as you give your life to God and walk in his power. This set of qualities is called the fruit of the Spirit.  
Galatians 5:22-23
- B The fruit of the Spirit is singular because ALL of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. This fruit has nine components that all work together at the same time. Each component can be defined in many ways, but the fruit of the Spirit is God's specific work in your personal life. These qualities represent what the Holy Spirit does inside you to produce a changed life.
  - 1 Inward qualities that transform your personal life:
    - a Love: The Holy Spirit gives you a genuine love for others based on the love Jesus showed you by dying for your sins.  
John 3:16, I John 3:14-16, 4:10-12

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*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*

- b Joy: The Holy Spirit gives you a deep abiding happiness regardless of, and sometimes even in spite of external circumstances.  
Hebrews 12:1-2, John 15:9-11, 16:20-24
  - c Peace: The Holy Spirit gives you the true inner peace of knowing that you are right with God through Jesus Christ.  
John 14:27, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:6-7
- 2 Outward qualities that transform your relationships with others:
- a Longsuffering: The Holy Spirit gives you grace toward others despite their shortcomings because of God's grace to you.  
II Peter 3:9, I Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 4:32
  - b Gentleness: The Holy Spirit makes you a "gentleman"; with the ability to treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.  
I Thessalonians 2:5-8, II Timothy 2:24, Titus 3:2
  - c Goodness: The Holy Spirit gives you a godly character that reflects the goodness of Jesus Christ toward others.  
II Thessalonians 1:11, Ephesians 5:8-10, Psalm 107:8-9
- 3 Upward qualities that transform your relationship with God:
- a Faith: The Holy Spirit gives you a confidence in God and his word that will increase your faith in him, and your faithfulness to him.  
I Corinthians 1:9, Romans 1:17, 10:17, Proverbs 3:5-6
  - b Meekness: The Holy Spirit gives you an inner strength that manifests itself in a humble spirit regardless of circumstances.  
Matthew 11:28-30, I Peter 3:1-6, 14-16, Philippians 4:13
  - c Temperance: The Holy Spirit gives you balance and moderation - not by "self-control" - but by God controlling your life.  
II Peter 1:5-8, I Corinthians 9:24-27, Philippians 4:5

**THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:**

*The Biblical evidence of a walk with God through his Holy Spirit is a changed life. The Holy Spirit transforms your life so others can see your faith in Jesus Christ.*

*Romans 6:4, II Corinthians 4:7, Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1-2*

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IV The Holy Spirit gives you a new nature which is in conflict with your old nature.

- A Your old nature is physical, sinful, and made in Adam's image. The Bible often refers to this as the "flesh" or the "old man". When you got saved, your old nature did not change, nor did it go away.  
John 3:6, Romans 7:18, 8:8
- B Your new nature is spiritual, perfect, and renewed in God's image.  
Colossians 3:9-10
- C Both natures are present constantly. You are now faced with a daily choice to follow your flesh or to follow the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 6:16-19, Romans 7:21-8:4, II Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 4:22-24
- D Choosing to follow the flesh brings consequences, and choosing to follow the Holy Spirit brings blessings.  
Galatians 6:7-9

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*Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:  
Colossians 3:9-10*

## Basic questions you may be asking:

What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit”?

The confusion over the “filling of the Spirit” comes from a misunderstanding of how the word “filled” is used in the Bible. The Bible describes those who are “filled” with something as being controlled by it - both good and bad. Therefore, the filling of the Spirit is simply the control of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Ephesians 5:18-21, Romans 15:13-14, Luke 4:28, 5:26, 6:11

A person who saturates his mind with the word of God will be filled with the Spirit because God will control his thoughts. But knowledge of the facts of the Bible alone is not enough. You can only be filled with the Spirit as you allow the Bible to change your life. This can only be done by faith in the Bible, and obedience to its truths.

Colossians 3:16, I Thessalonians 2:13, Isaiah 55:6-11

Be patient and consistent! The filling of the Spirit is NOT you getting more of the Holy Spirit. You received all of him at the time of salvation. But as the Holy Spirit controls more of your life, he fills more of you. Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not happen overnight. It is a life-long process of spiritual growth by obedience to the word of God.

Galatians 5:16-18, 25, Romans 8:1

How do I know when the Holy Spirit is convicting me?

It is very important to distinguish the differences between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and “guilty feelings”. Conviction and guilt both FEEL the same, but they have different sources, and produce different results in your life. God uses conviction to keep you in fellowship with him, and Satan uses guilt to keep you out of fellowship with God.

1.) Conviction comes from God pointing out that something is wrong in your life so you can make it right. It is a gentle leading of God who loves you, and produces sorrow and disappointment that you have offended him. Conviction leads you TO God, and bears the fruit of peace, forgiveness, and a right relationship with God.

Isaiah 1:18, James 3:17-18, Hebrews 12:11

2.) Guilt originates from Satan trying to accuse you of being unworthy of God’s love and blessings. It produces depression, anxiety, resentment, and other such feelings that drive you FROM God. Its ultimate fruit is bitterness and loss of fellowship with God.

Hebrews 12:15, Revelation 12:10

Ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit leads to a seared conscience and a hardened heart, which will result in the chastisement of God.

I Timothy 4:1-2, Hebrews 3:13-15

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

There are many popular beliefs which are contrary to the truths of the word of God. A discussion of these issues in light of the principles you just learned should give you a proper understanding of this lesson and correct some of these misconceptions:

- 1.) Why do you think there is so much confusion about the Holy Spirit today?
- 2.) How does the Holy Spirit fill the life of a believer in Jesus Christ?
- 3.) Briefly explain the conflict between your old nature and your new nature.
- 4.) What is the difference between conviction and guilt?

## Memory Verses:

**I Corinthians 6:19-20:** "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

**Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

**Galatians 5:16:** "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."