

Why Believe in Christianity? Class #5
Wait—until you are clothed with power from on high.
Who—what is the HOLY SPIRIT?

DRCC Core Belief #4: The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and the Savior. He then unites the believer to the body of Christ [His church], making real and effective all that Christ promised to the believer's life. The power of the indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to *obey and share* the LORD Jesus Christ; calling us to purity, faithfulness and integrity in every area of our lives. The Holy Spirit also imparts gifts to every believer for works of ministry, but no one spiritual gift is the necessary evidence of salvation or being filled with the Holy Spirit. [Scriptures below]

“The Word of God without the Spirit of God is dead.”

“The Spirit of God without the Word of God is dumb [silent].” Richard Baxter

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to all those who ASK HIM!”

Luke 11:13

The most mysterious, easily misunderstood or neglected part of the Christian teaching about God is the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do—and not do? How essential is the Holy Spirit to the life of every Christian? What is the distinction between the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit is present and active in the Old Testament:
 - a. Genesis 1:1-2
 - b. Judges 15:14
 - c. Psalm 51:10-12
 - d. Zechariah 4:6
2. The Holy Spirit is essential (central) to the mission of Jesus and the Church
 - a. Jesus as a Man depended on the anointing, guiding and power of the Spirit:
 - i. Luke 1:34-35 – conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit
 - ii. Luke 3:21-22 – anointed at Baptism by the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Luke 4:1-2 – filled and led by the Holy Spirit
 - iv. Luke 4:14, 14-18 – mission directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - v. Luke 10:21 – filled with joy and wisdom through the Holy Spirit
 - b. The empowering of the Holy Spirit was essential for the early church (and still is):
 - i. Luke 24:48-49 -wait...until you are clothed with power from on high.
 - ii. Acts 1:5-6 – baptized with Holy Spirit as Father's gift in Christ
 - iii. Acts 1:8 – receive power from the Holy Spirit for our mission
 - iv. Acts 2:4, 7-8 – Holy Spirit enables miraculous works
 - v. Acts 2:16-18 – The pouring out of the Holy Spirit in His fullness is the sign of the last days and the birthing of the church as Christ's body.
 - vi. Acts 2:33, 38-39 - the Holy Spirit is God's gift to all who believes
 - vii. Acts 4:8, 31- the apostles and early Christians were filled with Spirit

- viii. Acts 5:32 -the key to receiving Holy Spirit is trusting and obeying Jesus
- ix. Acts 6:3, 10 – the Spirit gives wisdom for the work of Christ
- x. Acts 7:55 – the Spirit gives us what we need when we need it
- xi. Acts 8:15-17 – we are to pray for every new believer to receive Spirit

3. Who [what] is the Holy Spirit?

- a. Matthew 28:18-20 = co-equal with Father and Son
 - b. 2 Corinthians 13:14 = relational—we have friendship with Him
 - c. Galatians 3:14 = God's great gift to us through Jesus' redeeming work
 - d. Romans 8:14-16 = the One who leads us as God's children
 - e. Romans 8:26-27 = the One who helps us in our weakness
 - f. Acts 11:15, 17 = the gift of trusting our life to God thru Christ
 - g. Acts 13:2; 16:6-7 = directs and restricts the mission of God
4. Jesus' great teaching on the Holy Spirit is found in John 14-16, where Jesus says it is good that He [Jesus] is leaving, because the Holy Spirit could not come in His fullness until after His passion [death and resurrection] (John 16:7-14; see John 7:38-39). The essential and primary mission of the Holy Spirit is to point us to Jesus and activate the power of Jesus' salvation and teachings in our lives—thus leading us into all truth (John 14:15-18, 26; 15:26-27; 16:13-15).
5. The Holy Spirit activates or grows two things within us that equip us to do God's will:
- a. The GIFTS of the Holy Spirit: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 -imparted for the Church
 - b. The FRUIT of the Holy Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23, 25-matured for our character
 - c. We are never judged according to our gifts, but according to our fruit.
6. The struggle between our sinful flesh and the leading of the Holy Spirit continues as long as we are in this body:
- a. "So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just the opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your CHOICES are never free from this conflict...so let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." Galatians 5:16-17, 25
7. The final judgment of every Christian is not to see if they are good enough (we are not), but to reveal who was truly LORD of our lives, Jesus or self, which is made clear by whether our choices reflected the primacy of our own selfish desires or the fruitful renewing in love of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 6:7-8).