

Rebar 102 – The Role of the Holy Spirit

Old Testament ministry of the Holy Spirit was temporary and task specific. He came upon the people to accomplish tasks and purposes but did not dwell permanently with them.

New Testament ministry of the Holy Spirit under the new covenant was about people and relationship. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit now lives in us!
Acts 2:38 – Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; **1 Cor. 3:16** – Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us!

From the moment of conversion, Holy Spirit is in us. We get the whole package: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This changes everything for us today! He gives us the ability to live a life pleasing to God. We need to use this life changing gift we have received.

Holy Spirit's primary role is to extend the ministry of Jesus through the (local) Church. He inspired the writing of scripture (**2 Tim 3:16, 17** – All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work). He mediates the blessings of the new covenant for all who believe (Matt 26:28). He equips and empowers us to carry out His plans (Acts 1:8).

There are so many ways He does this. Here are a few:

He is our Helper, the Spirit of Truth who dwells with us and in us (**John 14:16-17**)

Teaches us His truth and reminds us of it when we need it (**John 14:26**)

Testifies of Jesus (**John 16:26-27**)

He convicts us of sin and righteousness and judgement (**John 16:8-10**)

Guides and encourages us, glorifies Jesus (**John 16:13-15**)

Calls us and sends us out into ministry (**Luke 4:18-19**)

Intercedes for us, helps in our weaknesses (**Rom 8:26**)

Gives us gifts (**1 Cor. 12:4-11**) – Gifts are specific abilities given by God for the edification of the church. They are meant to be used together in order to produce the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Word of Wisdom – This gift describes someone who can understand and speak biblical truth in a way that it can be applied to life situations.

Word of Knowledge – The gift to have a comprehensive understanding of a spiritual issue or circumstance.

Faith – The gift to trust God and inspire others to trust God, no matter the conditions.

Healings – The wonderful gift to use God’s healing power to cure a person who is ill, wounded or suffering.

Working of Miracles – The gift to display signs and miracles that give credibility to God’s Word and the Gospel message.

Prophecy – The gift to declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God that is designed to influence others.

Discerning of Spirits – The gift to recognize whether or not something is truly from God or in accordance with righteousness.

Tongues – Speaking in tongues is a form of communication to God. It is a prayer and doing so speaks directly to God alone. The mind alone cannot decipher what is happening, but the Spirit can understand it. It is also a way to build yourself and others up spiritually through God.

Interpretation of Tongues – The supernatural ability to understand and interpret something spoken in a language that they have never learned.

Romans 11:29 tells us that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. I Cor 12:31 says we are to earnestly desire the best gifts. Not that some are better than others, but what is the best for the edification of the church at any given time.

He manifests His character in us ([Gal 5:22-23](#)) – Just as a tree is known by its fruit, so are believers. As followers of Jesus our character should reflect the character of God. Paul lists 9 character traits (fruit) that the Holy Spirit produces in a believers life. Each one is linked to who He is.

Love – The greatest of all virtues, love is the power that moves us to respond to the needs of others with no expectation. It’s love that comes from the Holy Spirit which goes beyond our human capabilities. It’s no coincidence that love is listed first. Love identifies the believer as one who belongs to Christ. Love motivates the believer. Love is the root source for everything else. The rest of these grow from a place of love.

Joy – An inward hope and exuberance in spite of outward circumstances. Joy differs from happiness, which relies on favorable circumstances

Peace – Both a supernatural calm amid chaos and the ability to bring harmony to divided factions

Longsuffering – The quiet willingness to accept irritating or painful situations

Kindness – Generosity and consideration toward others

Goodness – Moral excellence

Faithfulness – Enduring loyalty and trustworthiness

Gentleness – The power to control your reactions to difficult people and situations

Self-control – The ability to restrain inappropriate passions and appetites

Holy Spirit helps us to walk in the Spirit (**Gal 5:25**)

It is only through the work and gifting of the Holy Spirit that the Church – you and I – possess the capability of reflecting the beautiful image of Christ to a dying world.

Pray Col 1:9-12