

Essentials
The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
John 16:4b-15

Most believers, including ministers, know a lot about what they DON'T believe regarding the Holy Spirit, but little to nothing about what they DO BELIEVE regarding the Holy Spirit...

→ ILLUSTRATION...

- **What if someone asked your spouse, "Is your husband/wife the most important person in your daily life?"**
- **And they responded, "Well, now let's not get crazy here..."**
- **"I mean, I believe they're important, but I'm not one of those crazy fanatics that always want to be with their spouse and talk with them and love on them..."**
- **What if they then asked them, "Do you depend on them?"**
- **To which they responded, "I don't really think about them that much..."**
- **Would you feel valued? Important? Necessary to them?**

For the past 41 years of walking with the Lord I have come to learn that...

ONE THING

The Holy Spirit REVEALS and RELEASES God's Kingdom into a FALLEN world bound in DARKNESS.

1. The NECESSITY of the Holy Spirit

John 16:4b–7 (ESV) — ... I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Today's believer in America doesn't fully understand the spiritual dilemma the world faces...

In Genesis 1 we are told that God made man in His image and then gave man DOMINION...

In Genesis 3 we see where man rebels against God and plunges humanity and the world under the control of Satan and his kingdom of darkness...

In Genesis 3 we also see where God makes a promise of fighting to take back what has been stolen...

Genesis 3:15 (ESV) — I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

The word translated, “ENMITY” means “HOSTILITY” or “HOSTILE ENEMY”

In the Gospels we see where God makes good His promise to the serpent in the birth of Jesus, the Son of God!

While on earth, Jesus was fulfilling God’s promise to the serpent by “crushing his head”...

1 John 3:8 (ESV) — ... The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

As long as Jesus was on earth, He took the brunt of the hostility and persecution from Satan and his kingdom.

But in leaving and going back to the Father, the kingdom of darkness would be taking out their anger upon their enemy, the Church...

Now listen to the CONTEXT in which Jesus gives His statement on the NECESSITY of the Holy Spirit...

John 16:1–3 (ESV) — I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

They were going to undergo incredible persecution...

From whom?

Those who have not known the Father, nor Jesus...

These were the people under the control of Satan himself...

1 John 5:19 (ESV) — We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

So Jesus tells them that THEY WILL NEED the presence of God to be with them and IN them to withstand the assault of the hostile enemy of God!

John 16:4b (ESV) — ... I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

Then Jesus says...

John 16:7 (ESV) — Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

The Holy Spirit is not an optional part of your life, but the essential reality that allows you to live in freedom in this fallen world.

The Holy Spirit reveals and releases God’s Kingdom into a fallen world bound in darkness.

1. The NECESSITY of the Holy Spirit

2. The AUTHORITY of the Holy Spirit

John 16:8 (ESV) — And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

Convict

Convict – To state that someone has done wrong, with the implication that there is adequate proof of such wrongdoing

NOTICE: Look WHO the Holy Spirit will be convicting...

John 16:8a (ESV) — And when he comes, he will convict the world...

HOW? We will look at the HOW in both this point regarding AUTHORITY as well as the next point...

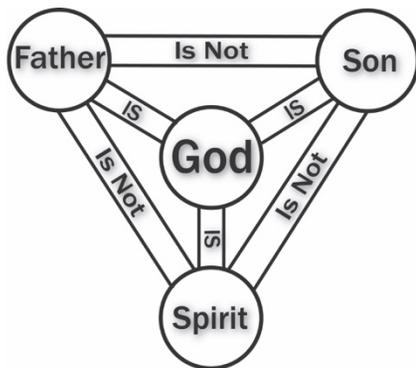
How CAN the Holy Spirit do this?

Or...

What gives the Holy Spirit the right to declare to the world that they are wrong regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment?

The Holy Spirit is God!

→ Pic of Trinity



The Holy Spirit is NOT the Father...

The Holy Spirit is NOT the Son...

The Holy Spirit IS God!

John 14:16–17 (ESV) — And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

In Jesus saying that the Father would give ANOTHER Helper, referring to the Holy Spirit, He is saying that the Holy Spirit is CO-EQUAL with Him...

Since the Enlightenment, which brought us such things as NATURALISM, HUMANISM, and EVOLUTION, the Holy Spirit has been relegated to a back seat... almost considered unnecessary in the work of salvation...

And I am not referring to the world, I'm referring to the Western Church!

Many of the very people who proudly promote their Trinitarian theology have, in effect, removed the Holy Spirit from a necessary doctrine and practice of the Church!

Sadly, for many evangelicals today their idea of the Trinity is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Scriptures!

Pastors of Mega Churches are writing books about “The God I Never Knew,” and “The Forgotten God” (referring to the Holy Spirit)...

Recently, a Mega-church pastor was confronted by the Lord with this reality and called a Pastor friend of mine to talk with him about the Holy Spirit...

Ministers are graduating from seminaries with NO TEACHING or TRAINING in the work of the Holy Spirit.

The basic function of God as Trinity in fulfilling His promise He made in Genesis 3:15

- **The Father PROMISED us Victory over Satan!**
- **The Son PROVIDED us Victory over Satan!**
- **The Spirit PROCURES our Victory over Satan!**

The Holy Spirit reveals and releases God's Kingdom into a fallen world bound in darkness.

1. The NECESSITY of the Holy Spirit

2. The AUTHORITY of the Holy Spirit

3. The ACTIVITY of the Holy Spirit

In our last point we answered the first "HOW?" question...

HOW? We will look at the HOW in both this point regarding AUTHORITY as well as in His ACTIVITY...

Our question was...

How CAN the Holy Spirit do this?

We saw He CAN because of His AUTHORITY as God!

Now we are ready to answer the second "HOW?" question...

How DOES the Holy Spirit do this?

John 16:8–11 (ESV) — And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Let's remind ourselves again that the Holy Spirit will CONVICT THE WORLD...

Previously I told you what the word translated here, "convict" means...

Convict – To state that someone has done wrong, with the implication that there is adequate proof of such wrongdoing

Another way to define "convict" used here is ...

Convict – "To cross-examine with the purpose of convincing or refuting an opponent."

The world has a totally false understanding about these three realities...

- **Sin** – **“I know I’ve done some bad things, but I’m not THAT bad! I mean, I’m not a terrorist or rapist, or murderer!”**
- **Righteousness** – **“Hey, come on, I’m basically a good person. I work hard, take care of my family, and try to do what I believe God would want me to do.”**
- **Judgment** – **“I know I’ve done some bad things, but I’ve also done a lot of good things too. I believe when I stand before God the good things I’ve done will far outweigh the bad things.”**

In other words, the world follows the words the serpent spoke in Genesis 3:4-5

Genesis 3:4–5 (ESV) — But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The serpent continues his deception, “There’s not going to be any judgment. You can define for yourself what sin is and how to live right from wrong.”

The Holy Spirit CONVICTS the world of God’s Standards... The Truth!

Convicts the world ... “concerning sin because they do not believe in me [Jesus]”

The Holy Spirit convicts the world regarding GOD’S STANDARD of sin...

Romans 3:23 (ESV) — For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

The Bible teaches us that we sin because we are sinners by nature!

We do not choose to sin and therefore becoming a sinner, we are a sinner and therefore choose to sin!

The Holy Spirit next ...

Convicts the world ... “concerning righteousness because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer”

Again, we tend to live by our own standards of righteousness...

What is God’s Standard concerning righteousness?

Matthew 5:20 (ESV) — For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The people who heard these words from Jesus lost all hope of becoming righteous by being good and living by the Law.

Matthew 5:48 (ESV) — You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) — For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The final area the Holy Spirit wants the world to know about God’s Standard is...

Convicts the world ... “concerning judgment because the ruler of this world is judged”

On the Cross, Jesus defeated Satan and bought back mankind...

Satan has been judged!

When Jesus returns Satan and all who follow him will be finally and eternally cast into the Lake of fire!

What is the PRIMARY means by which the Holy Spirit fulfills this ACTIVITY?

He fulfills this THROUGH BELIEVERS!

John 14:16–17 (ESV) — And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Jesus tells us...

- ***“You are the salt of the earth...”***
- ***“You are the light of the world...”***

As we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us and live through us the Holy Spirit dwelling in us awakens the world to God’s Standard!

→ ILLUSTRATION – Peter’s Sermon after Pentecost

After the resurrection of Jesus, but before Pentecost, the disciples were excited, but still scared for their lives...

They still hid behind locked doors...

Peter wanted to go back to fishing...

They knew Jesus was risen, but didn’t know what to do

Jesus told them to wait for the Promise...

Acts 1:4–5 (ESV) — And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, a powerful sign was given through the 120...

Peter then addressed the crowd...

He shared the Gospel

Acts 2:37 (ESV) — Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Finally, Jesus tells us how we will be led to fulfill His desires through the indwelling Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit reveals and releases God’s Kingdom into a fallen world bound in darkness.

1. The NECESSITY of the Holy Spirit

2. The AUTHORITY of the Holy Spirit

3. The ACTIVITY of the Holy Spirit

4. The CLARITY of the Holy Spirit

John 16:12–15 (ESV) — I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

My ongoing references to the Holy Spirit, His work, His guidance, His daily necessity has labeled me anywhere from a Charismatic to a dangerous fanatic...

I've made many people nervous through the years with my continual referencing of the Holy Spirit...

For much of my Christian life I've been questioned about my references to hearing God's voice... When I say things like...

- **"The Lord spoke a word to me..."**
- **"The Lord was sharing with me this morning..."**
- **"This morning the Lord said..."**

Believers have questioned me, doubted me, and thought I was simply confusing self-talk with God's voice...

Listen to what Jeremiah said about the false prophets...

Jeremiah 23:18 (NLT) — Have any of these prophets been in the LORD's presence to hear what he is really saying? Has even one of them cared enough to listen?

Jeremiah is asking this question to the people...

Listen to what the Lord said to Jeremiah the prophet...

Jeremiah 23:21–22 (NLT) — I have not sent these prophets, yet they run around claiming to speak for me. I have given them no message, yet they go on prophesying. If they had stood before me and listened to me, they would have spoken my words, and they would have turned my people from their evil ways and deeds.

Jeremiah 23:28–29 (NLT) — Let these false prophets tell their dreams, but let my true messengers faithfully proclaim my every word. There is a difference between straw and grain! Does not my word burn like fire?" says the LORD. "Is it not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces?"

So, how do we gain CLARITY to become a greater conduit of the Holy Spirit's ministry?

Clarity comes as we learn to navigate the voice of God!

The most often quoted statement by Jesus in the NT...

Revelation 2:7a (ESV) — He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...

Jesus makes this quoted 15 TIMES in the NT!

How do we navigate God's Voice?

Spend time with Him in His Word

What are some ways He speaks?

- ***Conviction***
- ***Encouragement***
- ***Understanding***
- ***Direction***

***When you believe the Lord has given you direction,
ALWAYS ask for confirmation...***

“Stay on My Path, walk at My Pace”

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John 16:4b-15

The Holy Spirit _____ and _____ God's Kingdom
into a _____ world bound in _____.

1. The _____ of the Holy Spirit

2. The _____ of the Holy Spirit

- The Father _____ us Victory over Satan!
- The Son _____ us Victory over Satan!
- The Spirit _____ our Victory over Satan!

3. The _____ of the Holy Spirit

4. The _____ of the Holy Spirit

The Trinity of God

