

The Spirit-Filled Life

Many students of the Bible down through the ages have thought, prayed and dialogued much about their understanding of the active work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer in Jesus. As leaders, our desire is to grow in our understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit and to lead this flock in the same. Our aim is always to live in the harmony of the our values of the Word of God and the power of God. In doing this, we look to the scriptures for light and we have tried to explain our position using scriptural terms.

Historically, different groups in the church, in different ages, have contributed to important understandings of the work of the Holy Spirit:

- * the Spirit comes through the experience of the sacraments - baptism and communion (Orthodox and Catholic)
- * the Spirit baptizes us into the body at the moment of regeneration (Reformed)
- * the Spirit brings real sanctification and holy living to our lives (Methodist/Wesleyan)
- * the Spirit brings power for living a victorious life (Keswick movement)
- * the Spirit brings the gifts of the Spirit (Pentecostal/Charismatic)
- * the Spirit brings power (signs and wonders) for living and for witness (Third Wave)

Many of have had various experiences with the Holy Spirit and it is important that we view our experiences in light of Scripture. In our understanding of the Scriptures, we believe that the active work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christ follower manifests itself in these ways:

1) **Regeneration** - when we come to faith in Christ we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into body of Christ - this is the initiation of an ongoing *relationship*.

2) **Relationship** - God draws us into an ever-growing relationship with Himself and with other people. In the context of these relationships, the believer experiences *many fillings of the Spirit*.

3) **Many Fillings of the Spirit** - Scriptures tell us to “be being filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18), meaning that it is not a one-time experience, but rather the normal lifestyle of the believer. The scriptural evidences of being filled with the spirit include speaking in unknown tongues, bold declaration of the Word of God, miraculous gifts, signs and wonders, and Christ-like character. These fillings of the Spirit result in the ultimate work of the Spirit in our lives: *transformation*.

4) **Transformation** - The work of the Spirit is always for the purpose of transforming me and the world around me. This includes power for holy living and power (boldness, gifts, miracles, etc.) to be an effective witness that Jesus Christ is Lord of all (Acts 1:8). This also includes the fruit of godly character, evident in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23).

Cessationists believe that the work of the Holy Spirit in gifts, signs and wonders is no longer for today. *Emphatically, we are not cessationists*. We believe that the preaching of the Word should be accompanied by signs, wonders, gifts and miracles. These things should happen, not only in our services and House Churches, but also in our homes, jobs and at school.

The active work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer and in church life should be experienced in several ways (see *The Active Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Christ Followers*, below).

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

We believe that the scriptures teach that all believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit at conversion and all other experiences are subsequent fillings of the Spirit. When we are born again, we are baptized into a new realm - the kingdom of God - which is a supernatural realm where God can and will work by His Spirit to bring His purposes in the earth. The Holy Spirit is active in the life of believers, and through believers, in many ways (see *The Active Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Christ Followers*, below).

Many of us, when we experienced the Holy Spirit, were introduced to the term “baptized in the Holy Spirit”. There was an experience of unusual love and power, normally accompanied by the gift of speaking in unknown tongues. The idea then was that we *had* been born again, but did not “have the Holy Spirit”. Then, after this experience, we considered ourselves to be “Spirit-filled”. One problem with this mentality, is that it left people believing that their experience was ***the experience*** of being filled with the Spirit. They spoke with tongues, but they were not sure why. They may have a mediocre Christian walk now, but they “received the Holy Spirit” years ago - so they are “in”.

The normal experience of the believer, though, according to Scripture, should be much more than this.

Are you saying my experiences of the baptism in the Holy Spirit are not valid?

Not at all. Many of us had very real and valid and life-changing experiences which were called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We believe these are valid experiences. We believe this was the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are simply saying that, looking at the Scriptures, the terminology may need to be corrected.

In the Bible, the phrase “baptism in the Holy Spirit” is not mentioned. And the word “baptized”, when used in the context of the work of the Holy Spirit, tongues, power, etc., is never a noun, but a verb. The “baptism in the Holy Spirit” is not a thing, scripturally speaking. But the work of the Spirit, wherein He baptizes or fills the believer, is a very real thing.

Two things are clear: 1) The believer has the Holy Spirit when he or she is regenerated (born again), and 2) the Holy Spirit fills the believer, many times over, providing power to live a Christ-like life and to witness for others.

If you were “baptized in the Holy Spirit”, you had a valid experience, but it was not meant to be the second, subsequent experience, but rather one of many continual, ongoing fillings of the Spirit to transform you and the world around you.

How important is this doctrine?

The active work in the life of the believer is crucial - it is not an option. It is the normal Christian experience. Jesus said it is expedient that He should go away, so that He could send the Helper to be with us and in us. One should never be content to say “I believe in Christ and that is enough.” God redeemed us to Himself in order to have a living, vibrant relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit is essential to this relationship and to empowering us to witness for Christ and make a difference in this world.

Can believers have differing views on this?

Yes. There are some doctrines that are essential in order to be an orthodox church (e.g. the Virgin Birth of Jesus, His atonement for our sins, his resurrection, etc.). There are also some doctrines that are not essential for salvation or fellowship, but they may be matters of preference or understanding of scripture. Two people may read the same passage and come up with different stances on a non-essential issue. The important thing is that they walk in love, humility and mutual respect with one another and not allow different views to divide the body.

Is there a difference between being “full of the Holy Spirit” and being “filled with the Holy Spirit”?

It is possible to see a distinction in the scriptures between these two terms. It seems that being “full of” the Spirit has to do with being empowered for character and holy living and living free from sin - it is more of a day to day experience. The phrase “filled with” the Spirit seems to refer to times when the Spirit specially empowers someone for service or proclamation of the Word of God - it is a specific empowering for a specific time or task. These distinctions are not dogmatic, however.

Are tongues “an” evidence, or “the” evidence?

It seems to us, in careful study of the Scripture, that speaking in tongues is not *the* only evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit, but that it certainly is *an* evidence. Other evidences include power to speak the Word boldly and effectively, praise, signs and wonders, and holy and sacrificial living.

It is important to realize that there are some people who operate in powerful gifts such as miracles, faith, evangelization and who have tremendous character of the fruit of the Spirit operating in their lives - yet they don't speak in tongues. We must not look at these people and say that they are not filled with the Holy Spirit. In the end, the Holy Spirit gives gifts to the body as he wills. We have to leave it to Him.

Is a personal prayer language for everyone? Everyone should ask for and seek the gift of tongues, but in the end, it is the Holy Spirit who gives gifts to the church as he wills. There are many benefits to the gift of a prayer language.

The Bible also speaks of praying in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:14-15) and prayers when we are unable to think of adequate words (Romans 8:26-27). In those times, the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us.

As we read the scriptures, one of the evidences that a Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak or pray in an unknown tongue. It is a gift of the Spirit and He gives it as he desires to give it. It is not the only gift of the Spirit and it is not the only evidence of being filled by the Spirit (*an* evidence, not *the* evidence).

When we pray in an unknown tongue, 1 Corinthians 14 tells us that:

We speak to directly to God (14:2)

We speak mysteries with our spirit - (14:2)

We build ourselves up (14:4)

Our spirit is praying (not merely our mind) (14:14-15)

We are giving thanks well (14:17)

This is why we do not stand around for the entire service and speak with tongues - When we are together we are to look to the edifying of the entire body. Tongues without interpretation does not edify the corporate congregation.

Romans 8:27 - And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

How would you like to pray perfect prayers? The Holy Spirit is the only one who knows how to pray. This is where my will, Gods will and the working together of all things intersect. He knows our hearts, He knows the mind of the Spirit and He prays the perfect will of God through us.

Some churches say they believe in the Holy Spirit, but there is no evidence of spirit-filled activity in the church. How do we keep from being functional cessationists?

It is true that some churches do not forbid the gifts, but do not seek the gifts. They are not cessationists in terms of their theology, but functionally they do not make room for the gifts of the Spirit in the life of the church. We are told to earnestly desire spiritual gifts. The practical way to make sure we are truly believing in and practicing the gifts of the Spirit is to honor and expect the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and families, our House Churches and services. During our services, we should be open to and make room for the spontaneous gifts of the Spirit to flow and have people praying on our prayer teams who have gifts of healing and faith. We should not, however, strive to try to make things happen, and we should not think that the service is less of a service if we don't experience these things. It is up to the Holy Spirit to move and up to us to be sensitive and give a place for Him to move.

It is just as important to expect the gifts of the Spirit outside the service as it in during a service. God wants to prophesy, to heal, and to encourage through us *everywhere we are!* Let's believe and expect His Spirit to work in and through us!

What about the New Testament passages that seem to suggest that believers in Jesus are later baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Acts 10 and 19 - Close study of these passages reveal that the people mentioned here were clearly not disciples of Jesus yet.

Acts 8 - Samaritans were believers, then the apostles came down and they received the Holy Spirit. Some scholars has asserted that this event happened so the apostles could witness first-hand that the Holy Spirit fell upon the Samaritans (which was a major change in the way they thought about the kingdom of God and their mission). This would have been an evidence to the apostles. In the end, we cannot force God into a mold or a pattern - He will do what He wants, and our doctrine should be flexible enough to accommodate the facts portrayed in Scripture.

Acts 1 - Here, the disciples were clearly not baptized in the Holy Spirit yet, though they were believers. This is somewhat confusing because Jesus had breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit", but at that point the Holy Spirit had not yet been sent from the Father. He was sent on Pentecost, and the followers of Jesus were filled with the Spirit.

The Active Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Christ Followers

As we study the Scriptures, we are refreshed in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Counselor, Guide, Convictor, Teacher, Helper and Empowerer. Here are some of the Scriptures that reveal His work in our everyday lives.

Covenant Presence

Almighty God has promised, covenanted, to every believer that His presence will be with them. These promises and His faithfulness are the bedrock of our assurance that He is present and active in our lives. Every day is "With Day".

Exodus 33:13-17

"My presence will go with you and I will give you rest". And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not your going with us so that we are distinct, I and your people from every other people on the face of the earth"?"

God promises His presence, but it is interesting that Moses always ties himself to God's people, "I and your people". From the beginning, the presence is not just personal, but corporate.

John 14: 15-16

"If you love me you will keep my commands. 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. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

One called alongside to help, who will be by your side forever and continually. Presence and truth, continually, not just with me, but in me. This presence and truth are exclusive. The world does not have access to this power. It is a tremendous privilege. I know and experience the Spirit of God intimately.

Spiritual Regeneration

The salvation of man is not possible apart from the Holy Spirit. Conviction of sin, awareness of our need for a Savior, revelation of Jesus, drawing ourselves to God and the regeneration of our souls only happen by the work of the Holy Spirit. Any truth we come to know about Jesus Christ, ourselves and salvation, we come to know only through the active revelation of the Spirit.

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but Spirit gives birth to spirit."

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life, the flesh counts for nothing.

Sealed in Christ

Almighty God has sealed me in Christ with the Spirit of promise. The Spirit is a down payment of the inheritance, a “sign of things to come” - God’s full redemption... proving that I am God’s possession.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Baptized into One Body

I, being one member, was immersed by the Holy Spirit, at my regeneration, into this many-membered body of Christ where racial and social-economic distinctions are dissolved and we are made one in Christ. Again, this experience of the Holy Spirit is not merely personal, but corporate - essentially, necessarily and fundamentally corporate

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one spirit.

Dwells in Us

My body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, which compels me to think about keeping my body well and glorifying God with my body. He owns me and lives inside of me - my body is for Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (see also Romans 8:9)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not you own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Bears Fruit in Us

The Holy Spirit causes the life of Christ within me to come forth in practical ways in my life. Christ-likeness is provided, from within me, by the sovereign work of the Spirit. Life develops from a life source. The source is Christ and the fruit is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23, 25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Gift and Promise of the Father

The Father knew that we needed the Spirit and there is nothing we can do to earn it; it is outside and inaccessible to us. He pledged by His honor to give us His presence, and He kept that promise.

Acts 2:33

Having therefore been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Generous Giver of Gifts to the Church

The Holy Spirit is generous in that he gives gifts freely. He is not only the gift to every believer (the "gift" of the Holy Spirit), he is also the bestower of many and diverse spiritual gifts to believers. They are divine, diverse and dependent gifts - activated for the common good (again, notice the corporate nature of the Spirit's work).

(Generous: adj. - showing a readiness to give more than expected)

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as he wills.

Leader

To all those who are "the sons of God" (in relationship with Him) the Holy Spirit is a leader. He leads us in righteous thought, words and behavior. He goes places and we follow. This requires that we pay attention and that we obey. It also implies that our Father calls us to act together with Him on this earth. Inconceivable, but true!

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.

Galatians 5:25

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk (keep in step with) by the Spirit.

Psalms 23:2-4

He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake... I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

Revealer of the Thoughts of God

The things we cannot know, the Holy Spirit reveals to us, for only He knows the things of God. The Spirit reveals to us God's thoughts. He gives us the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (excerpts)

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men know the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. But we have the mind of Christ.

Speaker to the Church

Just as Jesus created and sustains the world, He both founded and constantly sustains and guides His church by speaking to her. Seven times He speaks to seven churches - a distinct and unique message to each one. But apparently it is possible to not hear what the Spirit says to the church. This passage is both a comfort and an alarm - that the Spirit speaks and that we may miss it.

Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Speaker in the Moment

The Holy Spirit speaks, not only the thoughts of God, not only to the church body and not only in general directive terms, but specifically, immediately in this present moment to us.

Acts 8:29

Then the Spirit said to Phillip, "Go up and join this chariot."

The One Who Speaks Through People

The Holy Spirit's leading includes giving me words - precise words at the precise moment; accurate words that are beyond my thoughts and pre-conceptions. He teaches me, in the moment, what to say.

Mark 13:11

When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand what you will say, but say whatever you are given in that hour. for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

Luke 12:12

For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say

Foreteller of Things to Come

The Spirit speaks beforehand. He tells things before they happen.

Acts 1:16

Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

Empowers Us to Prophecy/Speak the Word Boldly

The work of the Holy Spirit in us includes enabling us to proclaim God's general and articular word in a bold, effective and timely manner.

Acts 2:17-18

And it shall be in the last days, God says, that I will pour forth of my Spirit on all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy.

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Power for Witness

God gives us power to naturally (and supernaturally) bear witness of Christ and be an active part in the mission of His kingdom. Immersed, submerged, covered and surrounded by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of making Christ known, where we are and wherever He sends us.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the remotest part of the earth.

Guide Into All Truth

The present Holy Spirit takes the things that belong to Jesus and to the Father and discloses them to me. In this way, He keeps the truth before me and leads me in it. He is both the source and conduit of truth. He is both crucial and precious to the believer.

John 16:12-14

I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes He will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever he hears he will speak; and he will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and disclose it to you.

Helper Who is Always Present

One of the most precious promises in the Bible is “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you”. The generous Father, at the request of the Son, gives freely this Helper to come alongside and abide “with you and... in you”. This is exclusive to believers, for the world cannot know see or know him. “With you forever... with you and in you” - an eternal, abiding, intimate relationship.

John 14:15-18

“If you love me you will keep my commands. 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. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

Convictor

It is mind-blowing that the presence of the Spirit is actually more profitable for us than the very bodily presence of Jesus himself. He is specifically profitable to us in His role to convict (expose, reprove) us, or open our eyes in three areas:

- 1) Sin: that sin messed up the world and separates me from God
- 2) Righteousness: That God is perfectly righteous and that He imparts that righteousness to us in Jesus Christ
- 3) Judgment: Satan is subdued by the power of Jesus and I will (as we all will) face the righteous judgment of God on the day of judgment.

John 16:7-11

But 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. 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 no longer see me; and concerning judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Constrainer and Compeller

While the apostles were going (in obedience to Jesus' command) the Spirit showed them exactly where to go - forbidding them from going some places; actively pursuing and compelling them to go other places. He is pro-active in leading us, if we are listening.

Acts 16:6-10

They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they had come into Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithinia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; passing by Mysia they came to Troas. A vision appeared to Paul in the night; a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The Spirit Can be Resisted or Grieved

By being stubborn and unbroken by God - even uncommitted to God - we can resist (literally fall away or strive against) the Holy Spirit. We can grieve (find ourselves opposing God and causing the Spirit sorrow) or we can quench (by our actions or words extinguish) the Spirit. The Spirit of God is a person and we can damage our personal relationship with Him if we do not treasure it.

Acts 7:51

You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit: you are doing just what your fathers did.

Ephesians 4:30

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

The Spirit Anoints Us in Order to Bless Others

God has chosen and empowered me by the Spirit to bring His kingdom blessings to others. This fact is especially seen in the life of the great Servant, Jesus, but it is also true of other servants of God who yield themselves to Him.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive and freedom to the prisoner.

Builds Me Up, Makes Me Increase

Together with others in the body, I experience peace, growth and increase through the fear of God and the comforting work of the Holy Spirit (these two work together).

Acts 9:31

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

The Spirit Falls on People

God sometimes effects people for His purposes by the work of the Spirit from without. This is accompanied by supernatural outward signs.

Acts 10:44

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

Calls and Sends Out Laborers

At times, when His people are seeking Him and ministering to Him, God, through His Spirit, calls laborers out specifically to tasks that serve His purposes. He speaks for mission and purpose and He separates some for particular ministry.

Acts 13:2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Pours the Love of God in Our Hearts

God is at work in us, even through tribulations, pouring, gushing forth the love of God in our hearts - we can know and experience the love of God, by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Prays for Us

The Holy Spirit helps our weaknesses, for when we do not know how to pray, He does. He searched our minds. He knows the mind of God and my mind and He prays the will of God for me.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Sanctifies Us

Part of the process of salvation is sanctification, which is accomplished in the life of the believer by the Holy Spirit. To sanctify means to hallow; to make holy and/or to keep holy. Sanctification is the work of the Spirit making us practically in our daily lives, more like Jesus in character and deeds.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Brings Freedom

Where the Spirit is, there is a release from both captivity and oppressive restraint. The Spirit of God does not bind me to the law of Moses, but it liberates me into the life of Christ, transforming me into the image of the glorious God.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Helps Us Understand that We Are the Children of God

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of adoption, making us (and making us aware that we are) sons and daughters of God. Through the Spirit we bear witness to our sonship and we cry out, as children, to our “papa” - our heavenly father.

Galatians 4:6

And because we are His children, God has sent forth the spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father”.

Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery, leading to fear again, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out “Abba, Father”.

Strengthens Our Inner Man

The Spirit takes the unlimited resources of God and joins us to (plugs our life into) this infinite source in order to empower us and strengthen our inner man. We are strong from the inside by the Spirit within us connecting us to God’s power.

Ephesians 3:16

I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources, He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit.

Helps Us Worship

The Holy Spirit helps us to connect to God in worship, for God is Spirit and the only way to truly worship Him is in spirit.

John 4:24

For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.