

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN YOU

1. The Holy Spirit lives in the believer.

At the moment of conversion, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the life of the believer. He is a permanent resident. He does not check in and check out like a guest in a hotel.

“You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” Romans 8:9

A person without the Holy Spirit living in his or her life is not a born-again believer.

2. The Holy Spirit seals the life of the believer.

The sealing of the Holy Spirit refers to an official mark of identification placed on a letter, contract or document. In biblical times, government officials sealed documents with an insignia to show the authority and authentic nature of the documents.

“In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation – in Him when you believed – were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14

When the Holy Spirit seals a believer, He secures that person's residence in the kingdom of God. His sealing means you are an authentic believer, marked forever as the property of Jesus.

3. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the believer for service.

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers when they trust Jesus as their Savior. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for all believers to serve in the Kingdom of God.

See: Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-12; and 1 Peter 4:10-11

God has uniquely gifted some to be evangelists, but all Christians must bear witness to the saving work of Jesus.

“Then Jesus came near and said to them, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission is a command of Jesus to all believers. The Holy Spirit moves us to share the Good News of Jesus, leading others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR YOU

The believer needs to be aware of four bits of wisdom or warning concerning our interaction with the Holy Spirit.

1. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.

“And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit, who sealed you for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

The Holy Spirit becomes grieved when you choose to sin. A single sin grieves the Spirit of God. When He convicts you of sin, confess it and renounce it through the power of God.

NOTES:

2. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.

“Don't stifle the Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Stifle means to suppress, quench, or smother. When we suppress what the Holy Spirit wants to do through us, we stifle the Holy Spirit.

According to Jay Strack, an evangelism specialist, 95-98 percent of American Christians do not share their faith regularly. When we fail to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us, we stifle the Spirit who lives in us.

3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

“And don't get drunk with wine, which [leads to] reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18

An understanding of being filled with the Spirit can be derived from the uses of the word in the Greek language. One usage is wind filling the sail of a ship causing the ship to move in the appropriate direction. Another usage is the practice of rubbing salt into meat to preserve and flavor it. A third, but negative, usage is wine taking over the senses of an alcohol abuser causing the person to act under its influence.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be directed, permeated and controlled by Holy Spirit. We submit our lives to the leadership of the Spirit of God.

4. Walk in the Spirit.

“I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Galatians 5:16-18

Walking in the Spirit is a daily awareness of the control you allow the Holy Spirit to have in your life. The difference between walking in the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit is the difference between power and control. We are filled with the Spirit to be empowered for the task before us. When we walk in the Spirit, we surrender to His leadership all day long.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK DURING THE WITNESSING ENCOUNTER

The Holy Spirit will be at work in you when you share your faith. He doesn't prepare you and the unbeliever before the witnessing encounter just to abandon you while you share. He will be with you during the entire encounter. This list describes the Spirit at work in you during the witnessing event.

- The Holy Spirit empowers you.
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8
- The Holy Spirit gives you boldness.
"When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God's message with boldness." Acts 4:31
- The Holy Spirit helps you.
"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17
- The Holy Spirit gives you the words to speak.
"Whenever they bring you before synagogues and rulers and authorities, don't worry about how you should defend yourselves or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what must be said." Luke 12:11-12

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN THE UNBELIEVER

Likewise, the Holy Spirit is at work in the unbeliever. When you understand what the Holy Spirit is doing in the life of an unbeliever, you are prepared to join God at work in that person's life. Also, an understanding of the Spirit's role in evangelism will free you from witnessing from a position of guilt. It is not your responsibility to save anyone. Salvation is the work of God who uses your words as a tool, not the means, for salvation.

