



GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#173)
The Holy Spirit at work!

1

**IF the SPIRIT is present...
there will be consequences.**

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you.
(And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

... you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
Romans 8:9, 12b-14 (NLT)

(If the Holy Spirit is NOT present, you do not belong to Jesus.)

2

**The Spirit does so much in the lives of God's people...
... and it actually begins before we are saved!**

★ **It even began before we were born!** ★

**He does so much,
that we will only be able to look at a few of the things.**

We will focus mostly on passages that use the phrase "Holy Spirit."
 You are encouraged to search the Scriptures – especially the New Testament – because there is so much more for you to find!

3

First of all, the Spirit is involved in our salvation.

❖ **BEFORE WE WERE BORN, HE PREPARED THE GOOD NEWS FOR US!**

- He spoke through the **prophets**. (Many verses mention this.)
- He **empowered** them to speak **God's words**.
 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the **Holy Spirit**.
 2 Peter 1:21 (NIV)
- He testified about the **New Covenant**, under which we are saved.
 The **Holy Spirit** also testifies ... he says:
 "This is the covenant I will make with them ..."
 [followed by a description of the New Covenant].
 Heb 10:15b-16a (NIV)

4

- He taught the **apostles**. (What he taught them would become the New Testament message.)
 But the Counselor, the **Holy Spirit**, ... will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.
 John 14:26 (CSB)
- He **confirmed** the **truthfulness** of the apostle's message.
 God also testified to [their message] by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the **Holy Spirit** distributed according to his will.
 Hebrews 2:4 (NIV) (We see some examples of this in the book of Acts.)
- The proclamation of the Good News was done in his **power**.
 And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the **Holy Spirit** sent from heaven.
 1 Peter 1:12b (NLT)

5

❖ **HE IS INVOLVED IN SALVATION ITSELF!**

- He was there **when the Good News was proclaimed**. [Previous page, last verse.]
- He **empowered the message**, so it could accomplish its purpose.
 ... because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the **Holy Spirit** and deep conviction.
 1 Thessalonians 1:5a (NIV)
- He "**renewed**" us – and more!
 [God] saved us ... through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the **Holy Spirit**.
 Titus 3:5 (CSB)

(Because of the New Covenant (described in Jeremiah and in the book of Hebrews), he makes salvation and holiness available to **non-Jews** – Romans 15:16 – as well as to Jews.)

6

- When people accept its message, he "fills" them – EXAMPLE.

... many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and urging them to continue in the grace of God. ...

When the Gentiles heard [God's offer of salvation], they rejoiced and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed. ...

And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:43b, 48, 52 (CSB)

- He "sealed" us. His very presence guarantees our future inheritance.

When you believed, you were marked in [Christ] with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Eph 1:13b-14 (NIV)

7

The Spirit is involved in the changes caused by (or resulting from) salvation.

❖ SOME OF THE BLESSINGS WE RECEIVE.

- Recipient of God's special love – a love that the unsaved do not experience.

... God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5b (GW)

- Righteousness, peace, joy.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17 (BSB)

8

- Hope for the future (also associated with peace and joy).

May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (GW)

- Joy that can exist even when persecution comes our way.

So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 (NLT)

- Encouragement (connected with the "fear of the Lord").

So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 9:31 (CSB)

9

❖ HE ENABLES US TO DO HIS WILL.

- Providing gifts and abilities that benefit the group – EXAMPLE.

[God's] church ... over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders.

Acts 20:28b (NLT)

(This passage is about the *leaders* he provides. Other passages, such as 1 Corinthians 12, mention gifts and abilities that the Spirit gives to *all* of the believers, for the benefit of the group.)

- Leading and guiding us – EXAMPLE.

... the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.

Acts 16:6b (NLT)

(This passage doesn't tell us *how* it happened. It could have been providential circumstances.)

10

❖ HE ENABLES US TO FULFIL OUR "COMMUNICATION OBLIGATIONS."

- God's communication to us: We are to guard God's Word. (Here, the "good deposit" refers to the Good News.)

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

2 Timothy 1:14 (NIV)

- Our communication to God: We are to pray.

... building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ...

Jude 1:20b (BSB)

- This "faith" refers to the *teachings* (and values) of Scripture. We are to use the Word (= the "good deposit" that we are to guard, 2 Timothy 1:14) to "build ourselves up"!
- Remember that the Spirit also prays *with* us (Romans 8:26-27)!

11

❖ HE INFLUENCES OUR TALK.

- We acknowledge that Jesus is Lord.

So I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1 Co 12:3 (NET)

- When we are persecuted, he will enable us to say what we need to say. (He uses what we have learned in Scripture; but different circumstances will result in different needed responses.)

"When you are put on trial in synagogues or in front of rulers and authorities, don't worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say. At that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what you must say."

Luke 12:11-12 (GW); see also Mark 13:11.

(This is *not* a guarantee that they will stop persecuting us.)

12

- He will **empower us to tell others** the Good News – to testify about what the Bible says.

"But you* will receive power when the **Holy Spirit** comes upon you. And you* will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

* **"YOU"?** This *worldwide* task is *greater* than what the apostles could ever expect to accomplish. It belongs to *all* who are followers of Jesus.

... they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit**. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.
Acts 4:31b (NLT)

★ At this point, we end up going back to the starting point, where the Spirit prepares the next person to receive the Good News! ★

13

What if some of these changes don't seem to be present in my life?
(Especially those that imply action on my part?)

SOME OF THESE CHANGES... I DON'T SEE THEM IN MY LIFE...

SOMETIMES THE HOLY SPIRIT SEEMS TO BE MISSING!

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

AM I A SPIRITUAL FAILURE?

SAME HERE. I DON'T ALWAYS SEE THEM IN MY LIFE.

I'VE FAILED MANY TIMES.

BUT EACH TIME I FALL DOWN, I GET UP AND START AGAIN TO PURSUE A HOLY LIFE.

14

I DON'T WALLOW IN MY FAILURES, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL!

SOMEDAY I WILL REACH THE GOAL... AND I WILL PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE DID TO GET ME THERE!

YOU ALSO CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THIS GOAL!

I don't mean to say ... that I have already reached perfection. **But I press on** to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **I press on** to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.
Philippians 3:12–14 (NLT)

THE QUESTION IS...

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Things to consider...

✓ **ARE YOU GROWING?**
If you are growing, remember this:
❖ God is involved in it.
❖ God saved you at your worst – though you probably didn't recognize how bad you were!
He isn't going to quit on you now!

✓ **DOES SIN PURSUE YOU, OR DO YOU PURSUE SIN?**
You can expect sin to pursue you. The problem is when you choose to pursue sin. (The issue here has to do with *focus*.)
❖ Are you trying to *sin*, or trying to *do what is right*?
❖ How serious are you in the pursuit of holiness and righteousness?
↳ **Regardless of how you answer this, don't dwell on the sin! Refocus on Jesus!** It's the only way you can *stop* sinning! (Success may require time and patience.)

16

✓ **DON'T UNDERESTIMATE YOUR WEAKNESS!**

Without the Spirit, you can do nothing!

- ❖ Even *Jesus* relied on the Spirit!
- ❖ When you recognize your weakness and God's power, you can have the strength to resist sin and to follow Jesus – 2 Corinthians 1:9; 12:9-10. (You're using *his* power to do so!)
- ❖ Our strength is not in ourselves. It is only *"in Christ"* (John 15:5); and it is brought to us by the Holy Spirit.

WRONG! I ONLY NEED THE SPIRIT FOR THE "BIG" PROBLEMS OF LIFE!

↳ You need him for all things in life!

17

✓ **DON'T PREOCCUPY YOURSELF LOOKING FOR "SUPERNATURAL" MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT!**

The Spirit normally works **secretly, behind what you can see.**
His presence (or lack of presence) is seen in:

- ❖ The changes that occur in our lives – the effects on what we think, value, say and do.
- ❖ Our recognition of sin for what it really is, our willingness to trust God, our pursuit of a renewed mind (Romans 12:2), and our obedience to Scripture.

WRONG! I "FEEL" THE SPIRIT TELLING ME TO ...

↳ Feelings are *often* wrong! You need to consider Scripture, circumstances, your God-given abilities, the needs of others, etc.

18

**This week's
mission...**

Consider these things,
and
GROW
in your appreciation of
what the Holy Spirit is doing
in your life!

The Spirit is *constantly* (though often *secretly*)
at work in the lives of God's people!

**HE WILL
MAKE SURE
WE REACH
THE GOAL!**

... that **perfection** for which Christ Jesus first
possessed me.

... the **heavenly prize** for which God, through
Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12b, 14b (NLT)

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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