



JOURNEY BASICS: LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

WHAT DOES PLUM CREEK BELIEVE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The nine fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are the by-product of a Spirit-filled life and evidence of spiritual maturity. The nine gifts of the Spirit are different manifestations of the Spirit to build up the body (I Corinthians 12:1-11). We are instructed to diligently seek the gifts (I Cor. 12:31, 14:1), but they must be exercised in an orderly way (I Corinthians 14:26-33) in the context of love (I Corinthians 13:1-13).
-From PCCC Statement of Faith

DEFEATER BELIEF

The Holy Spirit is not personal, it a "force" of God; or The Christian life is one of perfection – and you can reach sinless perfection in this life.

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully God. He is the Third Person of the Trinity, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. He is not an influence or an impersonal force. Jesus referred to Him as a person (John 16:13-14). Several characteristics of the Holy Spirit given in Scripture also make clear that He is a person. **He can...**

- Cry out to God (Galatians 4:6)
- Know thoughts (I Corinthians 2:10-11)
- Speak to us (Acts 15:28)
- Intercede for us (Romans 8:26)
- Be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
- Be quenched (I Thessalonians 5:19)
- Be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- Be lied to (Acts 5:3-4)
- Be blasphemed against (Matthew 12:31, Mark 3:29)

He is not *impersonal*. He is someone we can talk to and with whom we can have a personal relationship.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the world and humankind (Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13, 33:4, Psalm 104:30), the giving of prophecy and Scripture (Ezra 2:2, II Peter 1:21, II Timothy 3:16), the ministry of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:21, Matthew 4:1, 12:28), and the redemption of believers (Ephesians 4:30, I Corinthians 12:3).

The Holy Spirit personally indwells every individual believer in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9). Our bodies are referred to as the Temple of God (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

The work of the Holy Spirit in the believer includes many areas. At the time of salvation, it is the Holy Spirit who convicts a person of sin and his or her need for a Savior (John 16:8-11, John 6:44). The Holy Spirit also indwells (Romans 8:9), baptizes (I Corinthians 12:13), and seals (II Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13-14) the believer at the moment of conversion.

Regeneration A secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us; sometimes called "being born-again"

The work of the Holy Spirit in a believer is not complete when he is regenerated, but rather, just beginning. The Holy Spirit is involved in filling (Ephesians 5:18), sanctifying (II Thessalonians 2:13, I Peter 1:2, Philippians 1:6) and empowering the believer to be a witness for Christ and to live a holy life (Acts 1:8, Romans 8:13). He guides (Galatians 5:16, 25, John 16:13), teaches (John 14:26), illumines Scripture (I Corinthians 2:9-16), and witnesses to our human spirit in times of need (Romans 8:15-17, 26). He also desires to produce Christ-like characteristics in the life of the believer. These characteristics include: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

The work of the Holy Spirit in relationship to unbelievers involves working through individuals to accomplish God's will (Isaiah 44:28-45:6, Romans 9:15-17), restraining lawlessness (II Thessalonians 2:6-8), and convicting the world of guilt in regards to sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).

Jesus told his disciples and by implication, he is telling us, "But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere-in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Journal

- **According to Acts 1:8, what should be a primary purpose of our life as Christ-followers?**
- **Why is this directive so important?**

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Gifts of the Holy Spirit All abilities that are empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

Scripture teaches the Holy Spirit has given every believer at least one spiritual gift to be used in ministry within the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:7, I Peter 4:10, Romans 12:6). These spiritual gifts include, but are not necessarily limited to the Gift of:

- Helps (I Corinthians 12:28, Philippians 2:25)
- Service (Acts 9:36, Romans 12:7)
- Mercy (Romans 12:8)
- Teaching (Romans 12:7, I Corinthians 12:28-29)
- Prophecy (I Corinthians 14:1)
- Exhortation (Romans 12:8, Acts 4:36)
- Hospitality (III John, I Peter 4:9)
- Shepherding (I Peter 5:1-5, Ephesians 4:11)
- Giving (Romans 12:8)
- Faith (I Corinthians 12:9, I Corinthians 13:2)
- Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:26-40)
- Apostleship (Acts 13:1-4, I Corinthians 9:19-23)
- Wisdom (I Corinthians 12:8, Acts 6:3)
- Knowledge (I Corinthians 12:8)
- Discernment (I Corinthians 12:10, I John 4:1-6)
- Leadership (Romans 12:8, I Peter 5, I Timothy 3)
- Administration (I Corinthians 12:28)
- Healing (I Corinthians 12:9, 30, James 5:14-18)
- Miracles (I Corinthians 12:10, 29, Acts 8:4-13)
- Tongues (I Corinthians 12-14)
- Interpretation of tongues (I Corinthians 12-14).

Every spiritual gift is given at the sovereign discretion of the Holy Spirit. The primary objective for the use of these gifts is to edify the Church (I Corinthians 14:12).

Journal

- **What do you think your spiritual gift(s) might be?**
- **How are you using them to help build up the church?**

*If you are interested in discovering what your spiritual gift(s) might be, this is a helpful online Spiritual Gifts Inventory
www.buildingchurch.net/g2s-i.htm

The Doctrine of Sanctification

Sanctification Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

Sanctification is the work of being set apart as holy by God. It can also be described as growing in the Christian life or becoming more like Christ. Sanctification is an act and a process. Scripture teaches we are sanctified at conversion (Hebrews 10:10, 12:23, I Corinthians 6:11). We are no longer a child of darkness, but a child of the Light (I Peter 2:9). It is also the process in which God is working in us to make us more like Christ. However, the believer is also responsible for both avoiding sin and practicing holiness (Philippians 2:12-13). The fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5 are the qualities and character God wants to establish in our lives. Our aim should be to live a life totally free from sin. The ultimate goal of sanctification for the believer is perfection, which will not take place until we are glorified at Christ's return (Romans 8:30).

What is God's Role in Sanctification?

* If you choose to read only one, read the first reference. It is primary evidence.

It is primarily a **work of God the Father** – Read I Thessalonians 5:23; Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 12:5-11

It was **earned by God the Son** – Read I Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 12:2; 13:20-21; I Peter 2:21; I John 2:6

It is **specifically God the Holy Spirit working to change us** – Read II Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23; I Peter 1:2

Journal:

-How have you seen the specific work of God the Holy Spirit in your life?

-As you have grown in your walk with Christ, how have you become more conscious of the weight of sin that remains in your heart?

What is Our Role in Sanctification?

* If you choose to read only one, read the first reference. It is primary evidence.

We have a **“passive” role** - Read Romans 8:13 (emphasis on the phrase “by the **Spirit**”); 6:13, 19; 12:1; Philippians 2:13

We are encouraged to trust God or to pray and ask that he sanctify us. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit's work to grow to be more like Christ. Sanctification is primarily a work of God.

But, we must be careful not to take this idea of yielding to the Spirit of God in our lives to mean that we have no responsibility at all.

Sometimes the popular phrase “let go and let God” is given as a summary of how to live the Christian life. But this is a tragic distortion of the doctrine of sanctification, for it only speaks of one half of the part we must play, and, by itself, will lead Christians to become lazy and to neglect the active role that Scripture commands them to play in their own sanctification.
~ Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

We have an **“active” role** - Read Romans 8:13 again (this time emphasis on the phrase “by the Spirit you”); Philippians 2:12-13; I Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 12:14; I John 3:3

Paul acknowledges that it is “by the Spirit” that we are able to turn away from the sinful actions of our past, but he also says we must do it!

The New Testament does not suggest any short-cuts by which we can grow in our relationship with Christ, but simply encourages us repeatedly to give ourselves the old-fashioned, time-honored means of Bible reading, meditation, prayer, worship, sharing our faith, fellowshiping with other Christ-followers and self-discipline.

Journal:

- **Can you remember in your own experience the definite beginning to sanctification that occurred when you became a Christ-follower?**
- **Did you sense a clear break from the ruling power and love of sin in your life?**

It is important that we continue to grow both in our passive trust in God to sanctify us and in our active striving for holiness and greater obedience in our lives. If we neglect active striving to obey God, we become passive, lazy Christians. If we neglect the passive role of trusting God and yielding to him, we become proud and overly confident in ourselves.

It is also a “**corporate process**” - Read Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:2-3; I Thessalonians 5:11

Becoming more like Christ is to be done in relationship with other Christ-followers. It happens in community.

Journal:

- **How would it affect your life if you thought more about the fact that the Holy Spirit is continually at work in you to increase your sanctification?**
- **How have you experienced becoming more like Christ in the context of community or relationships?**

Sanctification Affects the Whole Person

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Intellect - Read Romans 12:2; Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:10; 3:10

Knowledge of God is more than intellectual knowledge, but there is certainly an intellectual component to it. Becoming more like Christ through sanctification means finding our thoughts to be more and more the thoughts of God found in his Word.

Emotions – Read Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 6:17; Ephesians 4:31; I Peter 2:11; I John 2:15

When Christ changes our hearts it is natural that the fruit produced in our emotional lives will start to reflect the heart of Jesus. This change does not happen overnight, but the goal should be an upward growth pattern.

Will – Read Philippians 2:13; James 4:7; I Corinthians 2:16b

Sanctification will have an effect on our decision-making process. As the Spirit is at work in us, our will will be more and more conformed to the will of God.

Spirit – Read II Corinthians 7:1; I Corinthians 7:34; I Thessalonians 5:23

As we become more like Christ it will affect the non-physical part of our beings – sometimes referred to as our soul.

Physical Body – Read I Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 6:12; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 7:1

We should treat our bodies with care knowing they are the means by which the Holy Spirit works through us in this life. They should not be recklessly abused or mistreated.

Journal:

- **Are there areas or aspects of sanctification that need to be improved with respect to your intellect, emotions, will, spirit and/or physical body?**
- **What action steps can you take today to make these improvements?**

Motives for Obedience to God

* If you choose to read only one, read the first reference. It is primary evidence.

Desire to Please - Read Psalm 40:8; John 14:15, 21; I John 5:3;

Clear Conscience – Read Romans 13:5; I Timothy 1:5, 19; II Timothy 1:3; I Peter 3:16

Increased Effectiveness – Read II Timothy 2:20-21

Effective Witness – Read I Peter 3:1-2, 15-16

Blessings – Read I Peter 3:9-12

Fear of God – Read Hebrews 12:3-11; Acts 9:31; II Corinthians 5:11; 7:1; I Timothy 5:20; I Peter 2:17

Heavenly Reward – Read II Corinthians 5:9-10; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 19:17-19; I Corinthians 3:12-15

Deeper Walk – Read John 14:21; Matthew 5:8; I John 3:21-22

Peace and Joy – Read Philippians 4:9; Hebrews 12:1-2

Journal

- ***What have been your motives for obedience to God in your life?***
- ***Which of these will now become a part of your life?***

THE BIG IDEAS

The Third Person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit is personal and knowable.

The Holy Spirit is involved in the regeneration and sanctification of the believer.

The Holy Spirit gives each believer at least one spiritual gift to be used for building up the ministry of the local church.

Sanctification is a progressive and cooperative work of God and man, making us more and more free from sin, and like Christ, in our actual lives.

Special Terms

Regeneration A secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us; sometimes called “being born-again”

Gifts of the Holy Spirit All abilities that are empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

Sanctification Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

Sources: Systematic Theology, W. Grudem; Bible Instruction Course, E. Bender and J. Forstrom; Spirit Life, S. Briscoe

JOURNEY BASICS: LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Who is the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit is _____.
2. The Holy Spirit is the _____ of the Trinity.
3. The Holy Spirit is One with whom we can have a _____.

What is Regeneration?

Definition: A secret act of God in which He imparts _____ to us; sometimes referred to being "born-again".

1. At the time of salvation, it is the Holy Spirit who _____ a person of sin and need for a Savior.
2. At the time of salvation, it is the Holy Spirit who comes to _____ us.
3. At the time of salvation, it is the Holy Spirit who _____ and _____ us into the life of Jesus Christ.

What is Sanctification?

Definition: Sanctification is a _____ work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

1. It is both an _____ and a _____.
2. God has a _____ and I have a _____.

What are Spiritual Gifts?

Definition: A spiritual gift is a specific _____ or _____, given by the Holy Spirit, which enables each believer to contribute to the Body of Christ with pleasure and effectiveness.

1. Every Christ-follower has at least _____ gift.
2. Many Christ-followers have more than one gift - "_____ - _____"
3. The Benefits of Spiritual Gifts are:
 - a. _____ the believer.
 - b. Helps the church to _____.
 - c. _____ God.

Check out this Online Spiritual Gifts Inventory: www.buildingchurch.net/g2s-i.htm