

# WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

## The Nature of the Holy Spirit

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

See John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7.

Activities of his person:

- He teaches (John 14:26),
- He speaks (Galatians 4:6),
- He guides (Psalm 143:10),
- He gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6),
- He bears witness (Romans 8:16),
- He intercedes for Christians (Romans 8:26).
- He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11).

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

He has divine attributes:

- All-powerful creator (Job 33:4),
- All-knowing (Isaiah 40:13)
- Eternal (Hebrews 9:14).

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

### IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- He had a part in creation (Genesis 1:2, Psalm 104:30),
- He inspired chosen people to prophesy (1 Samuel 10:10, Isaiah 48:16),
- He was in Joseph (Genesis 41:38),
- He gave skill to workers on the Tabernacle, the tent used as a sanctuary before the temple was built (Exodus 28:3, 31:1-6).
- He empowered certain individuals to defend and build up the nation of Israel (Judges 3:10, 6:34, 15:14).
- He allowed various Old Testament writers to prophesy of Jesus (Acts 4:25-28).
- He is the origin of all scripture (2 Timothy 3:16).

### IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

- Carried out the conception of Jesus in Mary (Luke 1:35 and Matthew 1:18).
- He anointed Jesus for ministry (Luke 4:18, Acts 4:27),
- He came upon Jesus at his baptism (Luke 3:21-22).
- Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1).
- He led Jesus out into the desert to be tempted (Matthew 4:1).
- He empowered the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:14 and Matthew 12:28).
- He raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11, 1 Peter 3:18).

### **IN REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED JESUS**

- The Spirit was sent into the world after the ascension of Jesus (John 7:39, 16:7).
- He came on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 30, allowing Jesus' followers to testify in many languages that Jesus is the Messiah (John 15:26, Acts 2).
- The church began and continues to preach the word of God in accordance to the Spirit, convicting the world of sin so that people see their need for a savior (Ephesians 6:17, John 16:8-11).

### **IN THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL DURING CONVERSION**

- When a person comes to faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit enters the person's heart. That person's spirit is brought to life by the Spirit (Romans 5:5, 6:4-5; Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 2:13).
- The transforming work of the Holy Spirit within an individual begins at baptism (Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5).
- Baptism is the outward demonstration of God's inward immersion of the Spirit, who brings a person's dead spirit to life (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- The believer is marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit until Jesus' return (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30). This is a guarantee of the heavenly home waiting for us (2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5).

### **IN THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AFTER CONVERSION**

- The Holy Spirit lives within believers, continuing to give them new life (Romans 8:9-11, 2 Timothy 1:14).
- He guides Christian in prayer (Romans 8:26) and in love (Romans 15:30).
- He remains with Christians to provide the power we need to defeat our sinful natures so that we can glorify God through our good works (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 3:16-19, 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7).

## **The Special Role of the Holy Spirit and the Church**

Acts 1:1-2 implies that Jesus uses the Holy Spirit to continue his work now that he is no longer physically present on earth. The Holy Spirit is the gift of the ascended Christ (Acts 2:33). In fact, he is called the "Spirit of Jesus" (Acts 16:7).

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE CREATOR OF THE CHURCH**

- The church consists of people who come together to share the good news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit allowed Jesus' followers to do exactly that when he entered them at Pentecost (Acts 2).

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE UNITING FORCE FOR THE EXPANDING CHURCH**

- He came upon the Samaritans, a mixed racial group that Jews would normally not associate with (Acts 8:14-17), and he came upon gentiles, non-Jews (Acts 11:1-18). These incidents were miraculous testimonies to early believers that God wanted to reach all people through his church (Matthew 28:18-20).

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE POWER OF THE CHURCH'S WITNESS**

- He was the one who sent Peter to preach to Cornelius, one of the earliest gentile converts (Acts 10).
- He took Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40),
- He directed one church to send Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey (Acts 13:1-4).
- He empowered the church to share the Gospel courageously (Acts 4:8-20).
- He rose up various people of faith to carry out special tasks in the church (Acts 6:3-5, 11:22-24).

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

- The Spirit of God is concerned with the inner life of congregations everywhere (Acts 9:31).

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT APPOINTED THE FIRST ELDERS (Acts 20:28)**

- Believers within and among churches would come together to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 15).