

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 3:7-11

Introduction: The Holy Spirit and what He does is often misunderstood. If you asked two people in the world what the Holy Spirit does you will get two different answers. Some people will say He performs miracles today. Others will look at you funny and ask, “What Holy Spirit?” The discussion of the Holy Spirit is a big subject. On top of that, there is a lot of false teaching on this important subject. We are going to strictly address the work of the Holy Spirit.

I. Jesus explains the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:5-15).

- A. Jesus says He is leaving and He would send the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of the following three things: sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8). Further, the Holy Spirit guides us in all truth (John 16:13). This includes telling of “things to come,” and glorifying Christ by declaring the things of Christ to us.
- C. But how does this occur?

II. The Holy Spirit initially worked through the apostles.

- A. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles (John 14:16-18). Notice Jesus says, “Whom the world cannot receive.” Those who do not know the Holy Spirit are not capable of receiving the Holy Spirit. The apostles know the Holy Spirit; therefore, the Holy Spirit would dwell with them.
- B. The Holy Spirit would teach the apostles and remind them of the things Jesus taught (John 14:26-27).
- C. Jesus told the apostles that at the appropriate time, the Holy Spirit would guide their words (Matt. 10:19-20).
- D. The Holy Spirit was promised to the apostles (Acts 1:4). The apostles were never commanded to receive the Holy Spirit. Their salvation was not dependent upon them receiving the Holy Spirit. (This is a common misapplication.)
- E. The Lord would accompany the apostles with signs and miracles to confirm the words they would speak through the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:20).

III. The Holy Spirit works today through the Word of God.

- A. The Holy Spirit works the same today through His word as He has ever done. There is nothing magic nor miraculous in the Holy Spirit's work today. The gospel was given to us by the Holy Spirit (1 Pet. 1:12). It is the “power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16-17).

B. It must be heard (Rom. 10:17). [Stress the word heard in the following passages.]

1. The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37).
2. The five thousand (Acts 4:4).
3. Cornelius (Acts 11:14).
4. Lydia (Acts 16:14-15).
5. Bereans (Acts 17:10-12).
6. The Corinthians (Acts 18:8).

Conclusion: It is when we reject (we refuse to hear) what is written in God's word that we resist the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51; Heb. 3:7-11). We resist the Holy Spirit by not listening to the Bible just like the children of Israel resisted God in the wilderness by not listening to Him. The Holy Spirit invites and entreats, "today, if you will hear His voice harden not your heart..."