



## Roles of the Holy Spirit

Knowing the roles of the Holy Spirit will help us to stop doing things in our effort and begin to trust Him to work through us. A lot of the frustration we face is down to us trying to help the Holy Spirit out. We have turned into Junior Holy Ghost.

I also must note that many in the body of Christ are splitting hairs about using "the" when referring to the Holy Spirit. They claim it is not personable as you do not use "the" to our names, God the Father, or Jesus. While they may have a valid point what does that achieve except a continued divide in the body. I do not believe it is not worth it. I also run this in my e-sword bible software, and I found that the King James version uses "the Holy Ghost" in the New Covenant 89 times.

Some go on to split more hairs over Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit. Which is which? The answer is both. No one is more accurate than the other. The Holy Spirit is used interchangeably with the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:3). Luke 11:13 and Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:8 all use the words Holy Spirit and are referring to the Holy Ghost.

### **What are the roles of the Holy Spirit?**

Just like Jesus, the Holy Spirit has a specific assignment here on earth and the Word of God has detailed that for us.

1. Reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and Judgment.

John 16:7-11 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Many times, the way some have viewed the ministry of the Holy Spirit is in a way that He convicts people of what they are doing wrong.

The Holy Spirit has roles not just to believers, but to also the unbelievers. Unbelievers are drawn to by the Holy Spirit through Jesus.

The believers are not called to do the work of the Holy Spirit. They are called to be a witness (Acts 1:8). We need to live right and share the truth with the people. We should not reject it for them but rather allow them the opportunity to reject it themselves. They have a decision to make, and we can't be making it for them.

- a) Reprove (convict) the world of sin.
  - i) Notice it does not say reprove believers of sin. The sin He reproveth the world of is one of not believing on Jesus. The greatest sin there is one of rejecting Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.
  - ii) John 6:44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."
- b) Reprove (convict) the world of righteousness
  - i) Notice that He reproveth the world of right standing with God because Jesus has made a way for us to come into right standing with the Father to who He is going having finished His work.
- c) Reprove (convict) the world of judgment.
  - i) The prince of this world, Satan, will be judged. Those who are of his kingdom will be judged too. There is no escape unless they put faith in Jesus and be translated into His kingdom.

## 2. Salvation and regeneration

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

- a) When we believe in Jesus the Holy Spirit does the regeneration work in us and also baptizes us into the Body of Christ. He makes us apart of the body after we are born again.

## 3. Power

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- a) Before Jesus left, He instructed the disciples to wait to receive power. The Holy Spirit is the power of God here on earth. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit they were endued with power like never before. This enabled them to be a witness to the world.

- b) Those who have not been filled with the Holy Spirit are missing out on one of the greatest measures of power.

#### 4. Comfort

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- a) The Holy Spirit is our Comforter.
- b) We all need comfort. Soon or later we will all use some comfort. The Holy Spirit is called the comforter. He is here to comfort us. This is a major role He plays in our lives and we can take advantage of it.
- c) The Holy Spirit is called the comforter. This word "comforter" comes from the Greek word "Parakletos" which is from two Greek words (Para which means "besides") and another word "Kaleo" which means "call." This means "called to one's side, especially called to one's aid"—Thayer's Dictionary
  - i) The Amplified Version says defines comforter as (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthenener, Standby).
  - ii) The point I want to make is that the Holy Spirit helps some people more than others because we allow Him to and ask for His help as the helper. You determine to what degree you get help from the Lord—more or less. This underscores a greater need of acknowledging Him.

#### 5. Teach us all things

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- a) None of us knows things by themselves. Whatever we know we have been taught by others or someone either directly or indirectly. We need the Holy Spirit, and this is an outstanding role He plays in our lives.
- b) Notice that He shall teach us all things, not some or a few. For that reason, we need to show up in class to be taught of Him and we have to have the heart to learn.
- c) 1 Corinthian 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

## 6. Bring all things to our remembrance

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- a) Another major role of the Holy Spirit is to bring things to our remembrance, yet not all things but those that He has said to and taught us.
- b) Notice that He will bring all things, not some. This shows that He is very secure, and He is not keeping things from us.

## 7. Testify of Jesus and Bear witness

John 15:26-27 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [27] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

- a) The other role of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness of Jesus. He is a witness to Jesus; who He was and the finished work on the cross.
- b) The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus. He is a witness of and to Jesus. He does not testify of Himself. He is continually pointing people to Jesus. Jesus is the center of our relationship with the Father.

## 8. Guide or lead into all truth

John 16:13-15 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- a) Guidance into all through is going to spring from the Holy Spirit and our dependence on Him. The more we depend on Him the more we will be led and guided by Him.
- b) It is one thing to know the truth, it a whole another level to be guided into it. Sometimes we know but lack guidance.
- c) Also notice that He will guide us into all truth not some of it. If we want to know all the truth, we can rest assured that He will show it to us.

## 9. Glorify Jesus

John 16:13-15 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- a) How many times do we speak of our own selves? Not the Holy Spirit. He speaks not of Himself but whatever He hears of the Father He speaks. We should be like the Holy Spirit, after all, He lives inside of us.
- b) Notice that He speaks. The Holy Spirit Speaks.
- c) The Holy Spirit is not here to glorify Himself but to glorify Jesus. He is pointing people and drawing them to Jesus.
- d) What a lesson we can learn and apply in our daily lives. If the Holy Spirit—God (Acts 5:4), magnifies and glorifies Jesus, why should we do otherwise? The least we can do is glorify Him.

#### 10. Show you things to come

Even more, the Holy Spirit plays a role in our lives, but that role is not negative. It is a positive role and a positive ministry.

John 16:13-15 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- a) The roles of the Holy Spirit can be summarized in three major categories:

- i) Past
- ii) Present
- iii) Future

- b) One of the most untapped areas of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the promise that He would show us things to come. This is a benefit to the born-again believer that needs to be taken advantage of. This is also one avenue through which God speaks to us. These things to come could be negative or positive. The Lord is showing us to either give us peace, assurance, warning, direction, or have us do something.

- c) Acts 21:9-11 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.
- i) Agabus was able to see things to come as concerning Paul. He was operating in this promise (John 16:13).
  - ii) When the Lord shows us things to come, it could be in the form of direction or a warning.
  - iii) God shows us things to come both positive and negative.
    - o Positive—for our future and the good plans He has for us
    - o Negative—revealing to us the negative plans of the enemy. The reason for this is not to strike fear in our hearts but to avoid, avert, stop the plans of the enemy from happening. We can do something about it. We can pray and stop all these negative things and take action.

During the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, attack on US soil by the enemy, 3,000 people died of which 1,000 were first responders. The people that worked there were about 50,000 yet that day few people showed up to work and about 13,000 to 15,000 were able to get away.

I was once told by a dear friend that during the tsunami, animals went on higher ground. Their instincts warned them, and they followed suit.

## 11. Boldness

Acts 4:29-33 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Notice they were all filled—not some. Even then, this is was after they had prayed. Prayer was a key in them being filled and this place being shaken.

After they were filled, having been filled earlier in Acts 2, they were filled again, and a few notable things were seen:

- a) They spoke the Word with boldness. This implies that they were not bold before but after they were filled with the Holy Ghost. This was another level or dimension of boldness. Being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues will cause boldness to spring out of you hence leading to salvations.
  - i) The disciples that had fled from the Lord (Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:50) in terror were now different men (1 Samuel 10:6) after they were filled with the Holy Ghost.
  - ii) Example: After Peter got filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was no longer the same man. Before this filling of the Holy Spirit, Peter was fearful and denied the Lord. However, after the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he became as bold as a lion, standing up and preaching the gospel and getting over 3000 people saved (Acts 2:14-41). He later died the death of a martyr. This was another Peter. He had been turned into another man for sure as King Saul was at the beginning of his reign (1 Samuel 10:6). And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. —1 Samuel 10:6
  - iii) You can't speak with boldness what you do not know. These men and women knew the Word.
  - iv) Notice also that whenever they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke either the Word of God or new tongues. You can't separate being filled with speaking!
- b) Great power
  - i) Because of them being filled with the Holy Spirit, they were given great power.
- c) Great grace
  - i) Yet not just great power alone, but also great grace. All these were results of all of them being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Notice also that there is not just one filling (Acts 2). Here in Acts 4:31 shows that there was another filling of all the disciples. Furthermore, Ephesians 5:18 tells us to be being filled which indicates a continuous process. When were you last filled? In our souls, we need a continuous filling. Unlike our born-again spirits, our souls leak hence the need for a continuous filling of the Holy Spirit.