

Light In The Darkness
“The Ministry of the Holy Spirit According to Jesus”

John 14:15-31

Since the coming of the Holy Spirit at the birth of the church, His ministry has been misunderstood. This confusion about who He is and what He does is a result, in large part, to the preferences of men — from wanting a cosmic genie to the unbiblical desire for divine experiences and emotionalism brought on by the perceived supernatural.

The Holy Spirit is God. Equal in nature and in essence, and He is one of the same kind as that of the Father and of the Son. He should not be referred to as a presence, although He is present in the life of a true believer. He should not be called an “it” as if He is an alien. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

In John 14:15-31, Jesus introduces the ministry of the Holy Spirit that would begin after His return to the Father. Jesus also mentions Him again in John 15:26 and John 16:7-15. It is crucial for the Church to fully understand who He is and what He does. There is no better place in Scripture to begin this understanding than the words of Jesus in John 14:15-31.

What does Jesus say about Him and how did the Lord introduce Him to the disciples in the Upper Room?

The Holy Spirit is the divine advocate known only by true believers. (John 14:15-17)

Jesus begins the introduction of the Holy Spirit with the result of truly loving Him — obedience to what He has commanded. Jesus is saying true believers have a continuing attitude of love for Him that is reflected and demonstrated in their obedience to His Word.

The Holy Spirit — although known in the Old Testament — would have a ministry directed primarily to the disciples and all those who would come to faith in Christ through their ministry. The Holy Spirit would direct their decisions, counsel them continually, and remain with them forever. He would be invisible to all and entirely unknown to the world. The individual indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the specific privilege of the true believer.

The Holy Spirit endears true believers to the Lord Jesus. (John 14:18-24)

The Holy Spirit helps true believers understand the relationship that Jesus has with the Father (v.20). He will also endear them to the Lord so each one will have the ability through the new nature to obey His Word.

Whoever does not obey the Word does not love Christ. Jesus said this in no uncertain or vague terms. John later wrote the same straightforward message in his first letter to the churches in 1 John (*cf. 1 John 2:1-6*).

The Holy Spirit teaches true believers all of God's revealed truth. (John 14:25-26)

The function of the Holy Spirit is teaching. He instructs from within, enlightening the mind, giving understanding to the otherwise obscure. He works in us to recall to memory the teaching of Jesus — which we now possess in the whole of Scripture.

The Spirit will, therefore, impress the commandments of Jesus on the minds of His disciples and thus prompt them to obey His Word.

The Holy Spirit brings peace to all true believers. (John 14:27-31)

The peace promised by Jesus is not the absence of conflict, wars, trials, or trouble. The peace He speaks of is the calm confidence in God.

Jesus had this peace because He was sure of the Father's approval and love. The world only gives a false peace — a false sense of security. Real peace is having peace with God through repentance of sin and receiving His forgiveness.

The Holy Spirit is not a "thing" — He is not a "force" — He is not an "it" — He is the third Person of the triune Godhead, sent to encourage all followers of Jesus in the truth of the Word of God. He is our Shepherd in truth, and as God, He deserves all the honor and respect as such.

He is not to be used as some genie of mystical power and insight. He is not to be insulted by claiming His presence and power in situations that are nothing more than counterfeit works of the enemy.

The Holy Spirit is our guide, teacher, and shepherd of the Word of God. His role in our life is to glorify Jesus Christ.

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Upcoming Events

Ladies Bible Study. Hebrews. Begins Thursday **8/15**. Every other Thursday.
7 PM @ C.A.S.T. See Dawn Fitzpatrick if you have questions.

Men's Bible Study. 8/28. 6:30 PM @ Kevin Hector's home.
See Scott Meredith if you have questions.

TCT-I Party @ Bains 8/31, 10-2. Thank you/Goodbye for Jack and Nichole.
See Wes Crenshaw if you have questions.

Monthly Ladies Fellowship, first Wednesdays of the month. **Begins 9/4.** 6:30 PM @ Angela Morris' home. See Suze Meredith if you have questions.

Lance and Rainna All-church **Baby Shower. 9/8**, 1 PM @ Diaz's home.
Details and sign-ups to come. See Katie Ford if you have questions.