

Doctrine of God: Part 3 – God the Holy Spirit

The doctrine of the person and work of the Holy Spirit is a subset of our belief that God is a trinity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The mystery of God's triune nature is that He is three, yet one. Because there is much confusion today about the person and work of the Holy Spirit we must take care to understand who He is and what He does (see especially W. A. Criswell, *The Holy Spirit for Today's World*).

1. **The Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit** – In the life of the believer He is the internal witness of the validity of our faith (Jn 14:15-18; Rom 8:15-16), the motivator to service (Acts 6:1-7), the seal of protection and guarantor of our redemption (Eph 1:13-14).
2. **The Holy Spirit as a Guide to All Truth** - The Holy Spirit guides us to all truth and helps us remember the truths in His Word (Jn 16:13-15). The full emphasis of His ministry is to bring remembrance of and glory to Christ. Also, in His role as a guide to truth, the Holy Spirit was the motivating force to inspire the authors of Scripture (Act 1:16; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 9:8; 10:15-16; 2 Pet 1:16-21).
3. **The Holy Spirit Convicts Us of Sin** – We cannot be saved apart from the conviction of sin and lostness that the Holy Spirit brings to the life of those without Christ (Jn 3:5; 1 Cor 2:4; 1 Thess 1:5; Titus 3:5-6). Also, when a believer sins it is the conviction of the Holy Spirit that leads one to repent and to seek forgiveness from the Father (2 Cor 7:8-12; Rev 2:5; 3:19).
4. **The Holy Spirit Helps Comforts and Sustains Believers** - The Holy Spirit is helper in weakness and our advocate in prayer. He teaches us how to pray and what to pray for (Jn 14:16-18; Rom 8:26-27).
5. **The Holy Spirit Gives Victory over the Flesh** – It is the power of the Holy Spirit working in us that convicts us of our sins, to give us victory over works of the flesh, and to give us life and victory over sin (Rom 8:1-11; Gal 5:16-21).
6. **The Holy Spirit Enables us to Bear Fruit** – The attitudes and conduct of the man or woman of faith should complement and showcase their commitment to God (1 Tim 1:3-11). Paul gives us a glimpse of what the fruits of the Spirit look like in Galatians 5:22-26.
7. **The Holy Spirit Seals us, Guards and Protects Our Eternal Life** – Paul clearly states that one of the supreme works of the Holy Spirit is to guard and protect the eternal life of the believer. This protection is called the “seal” of the Holy Spirit that guarantees our final redemption (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30).

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