

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Conviction
 New Birth
 Indwelling
 Sealing
 Baptizing
 Filling/Full
 Gifts/Anointing

Evidence of Obedience: Spirituality

Love – Not Self-Centeredness
 Joy – Not Negativism
 Peace – Not Anxiety
 Patience – Not Fretfulness
 Kindness – Not Harshness
 Goodness – Not Meanness
 Faithfulness – Not Unfaithfulness
 Gentleness – Not Ill-tempered
 Self-Control – Not Possessed

Important Distinctions

What has happened to us does not tell us who we are!
 What has happened to us does not tell us who God is!

Introduction

A. Very important promises have been written regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

B. God has not saved us and then left us to flounder about in our own weakness and ignorance. He has made every provision for us. A part of that provision is the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

I. The Ministry of Conviction is Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. John 16:8

Comment: The Holy Spirit brings people to the realization of their lost conviction and separation from God. He also works in the believer to convict of sin and to correct us.

II. The Ministry of the New Birth is Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.” John 3:5

Comment: His work is to apply the power of the atonement to the believing sinner. As a result the person is "born again." The result is that one becomes a new creation (2 Cor 5: 17) through a radical transformation in one's spirit. Such a person is united to God in a living relationship.

III. The Ministry of Indwelling is Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

*Don 't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you ?
 1 Cor 3:16*

Comment: It staggers our imagination to think that we can be that temple. Consider what that should mean to us in terms of fellowship, priorities, goals, gifts and the ability to serve. Read the Book of Acts and note how the Holy Spirit worked in and through the early believers.

IV. The Ministry of Sealing is Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory. Eph 1:13,14

Comment: The "seal" is a mark of ownership, authenticity, and protective security. His presence is also a "deposit" signifying God's assurance that we will get to Heaven.

V. The Ministry of Baptizing is Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Cor 12:13

Comment: It was John the Baptist who said the Lord Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:6-8). That came to pass on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:33,34). From that time on it is the Holy Spirit who baptizes the believing sinner, at the moment of the new birth, into the "body of Christ" the Church. Note the use of "all" in the text that teaches us how this work is true for every believer.

Some denominations teach a "baptism of the Spirit" that is designed by God to follow the new birth. It is like a "second work of grace" and usually described as evidenced by speaking in tongues. There is no question that a believer may have such an experience. While not wanting to quibble about terms it is better to call such an experience or experiences as "being filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). It was R.A. Torrey, who, with many others, spoke of such a "baptism" and strongly urged people to receive such a work of grace. However, he used the term baptism as synonymous with "filling," "gifts," "endued," etc. (See his book *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*, P. 172). I believe most Christians do not know, nor are taught what full surrender means. When they learn, and surrender to God, the result is a filling of the Spirit that is so powerful for many that they speak of it as a revolutionary work of God. At such a time God's gifts may surface in their life with a deep joy and fellowship with God.

VI. The Ministry of Filling and being Full are Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Do not get drunk on wine ... Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Eph 5:18

Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. Acts 6:3

Comment: The Greek for Eph 5:18 is "Be constantly being filled with the Spirit." The reference is to "inner control." It is God's will that every believer live filled with the Spirit and full of the Spirit (all areas of life under His control). Such a life is one of love, joy, peace, etc., (Gal 5:22,23) and power for service.

VII. The Ministry of Gifts and Anointing are Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Cor 12: 7

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 1 John 2:20

Comment: All believers have been given gifts to serve God. It is an anointing (enablement) to glorify the Lord Jesus through involvement in His work. Most believers are unaware of this great truth and the ability they have. The Holy Spirit desires to work through us and enable us to be a fruitful servant of the Lord Jesus.

