

The Roles of the Holy Spirit

Passages: Acts 2; 5; 10; 13; 15; 16

Memory Verse

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
The Holy Spirit plays important roles in the church, in our lives, and in our salvation.	God is Spirit.	Experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Roles of the Holy Spirit in the Church
- B. The Roles of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives
- C. The Roles of the Holy Spirit in Our Salvation

Life Application

Experiencing the Power of the Holy Spirit

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Through the work of the Holy Spirit in the church, in our lives, and in our salvation, we can see that He is powerful and able to transform lives. Let us continue to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and live a life that glorifies God’s name.

Spiritual Teachings

A. The Roles of the Holy Spirit in the Church

During the apostolic period, the Holy Spirit played a great role in the guidance and work of the church. Today, the Holy Spirit guides us in these ways as well.

1. Empowers the apostles to preach

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.’” (Acts 2:14)

Before receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter relied on his own power to follow Jesus Christ, which resulted in his denial of Jesus Christ. After receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter underwent a visible transformation. He was able to stand before a multitude to preach boldly and eloquently. His words were able to pierce through the hearts of the people who heard him and, when he had finished speaking, around 3,000 people came to believe and be baptized.

2. Guides where the gospel is preached

a. *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.” (Acts 10:44–45)*

A “holy angel” instructed Cornelius, a centurion and a Gentile, to summon Peter to speak at his house (Acts 10:22). As a result, when Peter preached to Cornelius’ household, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles who listened. This was an important event because before this occasion, the gospel had only been preached to the Jewish. When the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his household, this was proof to the apostles that salvation was also for the Gentiles. In this way, the Holy Spirit guided the church to this understanding, allowing the gospel to be preached to the Gentiles, even to this day.

b. *“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.” (Acts 16:6)*

As Paul was preaching, there were times when the Holy Spirit would stop him from preaching in a certain area or direct him to a different area to preach. In Acts 16, Paul and his companions were stopped from traveling to Asia and Bithynia by the Holy Spirit, and were instead directed to Macedonia (Acts 16:9). While worshipping on the Sabbath in Philippi in Macedonia, they then met Lydia and, through her household, established the first European church.

3. Sends out workers

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” (Acts 13:2–3)

As the apostolic church was growing, the Holy Spirit guided the work of the church by selecting workers to be sent out. Right after the breakthrough, when the gospel had been preached to

Cornelius and his family, the Holy Spirit spoke and called Paul and Barnabas to be separated for the work to which He called them. This was the beginning of Paul's ministry to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

4. Punishes those who deceive the church

"But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?' " (Acts 5:3)

During the early days of the apostolic church, many believers sold their belongings and offered the entire proceeds to the church. Ananias and his wife Sapphira wished to appear to do the same, but secretly kept a portion of the proceeds for themselves. Peter rebuked Ananias, saying, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? [...] You have not lied to men but to God" (Acts 5:3–4). After hearing this, Ananias fell down and died.

Shortly after, Sapphira also came in, not knowing that her husband had just died. When Peter asked her if she had sold the land for the amount offered, she also lied. Peter rebuked her for testing "the Spirit of the Lord," and she immediately fell down and died as well (Acts 5:9–10). These events brought great fear upon the church and demonstrated to the believers that it is wrong to lie to or deceive the Holy Spirit.

5. Deepens our understanding of the truth

"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell." (Acts 15:28–29)

After the gospel was preached to the Gentiles, an issue divided the believers: circumcision. One group believed circumcision was necessary, and the other believed it was not. As a result, this issue was brought before the elders and apostles during the Jerusalem council. Through the discussion of the council, the Holy Spirit moved all of them to reach the consensus that circumcision was not required for salvation. They sent out a letter to all the churches which stated: "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality."

B. The Roles of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

1. Helps us

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (Jn 14:26)

Jesus Christ promised the disciples that after He left them, He would send a Helper to teach them all things. The Holy Spirit is able to give us understanding about and help us remember the things that Jesus Christ has taught in the Bible. There are many testimonies about how people had a hard time understanding the teachings in the Bible, but once they received the Holy Spirit, the teachings made sense. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is able to help us understand the word of God.

2. Gives us power

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit empowers us to do the work of God. This includes preaching the gospel or helping us to overcome the temptations in our lives. Either way, the Holy Spirit gives us the inner strength to do what we think we are unable to do.

3. Teaches us what to say

“For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Lk 12:12)

The Holy Spirit helps us to preach by teaching us what we should say. Sometimes, we may find that we are afraid or do not know how to preach to our friends. Jesus Christ promised that the Holy Spirit is able to teach us what to say and to help us speak, even to those who may be against us.

4. Gives spiritual gifts

“God also [bears] witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will[.]” (Heb 2:4)

The Holy Spirit gives us a variety of spiritual gifts that we can use to serve one another. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, it lists a variety of spiritual gifts, such as the gift of healings, of working of miracles, and of interpreting tongues. All these gifts have a central purpose: to serve the body of Christ.

C. The Roles of the Holy Spirit in Our Salvation

1. Allows us to be born of water and the Spirit

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” (Jn 3:5)

When we receive water baptism, the presence of the Holy Spirit is highly important. His presence distinguishes us from other churches and makes our baptism effective in washing away our sins.

2. Seals our inheritance in heaven

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Eph 1:13–14)

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. He is the “guarantee,” or proof, of our inheritance in heaven. It is through the Holy Spirit that we know that we have salvation in heaven.

3. Baptizes us with the Spirit

“[For] John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:5)

When Jesus Christ spoke to His disciples before He ascended to heaven, He told them to remain in Jerusalem because they were to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. We know that to be baptized with the Holy Spirit means to receive the Holy Spirit, for it was on the Day of Pentecost that the promised Holy Spirit came down on all the people praying in the upper room.

4. Washes and renews us

"[Not] by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit[.]" (Tit 3:5)

As mentioned previously, it is the abidance of the Holy Spirit during water baptism that allows our sins to be washed away and allows us to be reborn in the spirit. After we have received the Holy Spirit, He continues to renew us as we strive to live our lives to glorify our God.

Check for Understanding

- 1. Share one instance of how the Holy Spirit worked in the apostolic church.** See *Spiritual Teachings, Section A.*
- 2. Share one role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives.** See *Spiritual Teachings, Section B.*
- 3. Share one role the Holy Spirit plays in our salvation.** See *Spiritual Teachings, Section C.*
- 4. In Acts 1:5, what does Jesus Christ mean when He says: "[You] shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit"?** To be baptized with the Holy Spirit is to receive the promised Holy Spirit.

Life Application

Experiencing the Power of the Holy Spirit

Today, we are blessed to have the abidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. However, more often than not, we do not experience the power of the Holy Spirit. So, let us take some time to reflect on whether we experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If we find that we do not, let us identify the obstacles that may be in our way.

1. Do I experience the power of the Holy Spirit in my life? If so, what does it look like?

To experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to feel God's presence in our lives. If our conscience rebukes us for doing something that we should not do, or if we feel peace in the midst of a stressful situation, these are all ways that we experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Do I have doubts?

The Bible teaches that those who come to God "must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6). This means that for us to truly experience God's abidance, we first need to believe in Him. We can also pray to God and ask Him to help us overcome our unbelief (Mk 9:24).

3. Do I have sin in my life?

This is the most common and most difficult obstacle that each of us must overcome if we want to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Though the Holy Spirit is able to help us, oftentimes we are unwilling to let go of our old ways. Over time, sin can cause us to become numb and desensitized to what is right in the eyes of God. However, the Bible encourages us that if we walk in the Spirit, then we will be able to overcome the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16). This is the promise that God has given us to help us overcome our sinful nature.

Discussion

- What are other obstacles that may stop us from experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What can you do to experience the power of the Holy Spirit?

Testimony

Hallelujah! In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify.

Around the age of seven, I had many doubts about God, the church, and the Holy Spirit. I wondered if True Jesus Church was the only true church and whether the Holy Spirit was real or not. I would often wonder why I had to come to church every Saturday because I thought that church was a waste of time. I would often hear my classmates talk about what they did over the weekend and where they went, which all seemed so much more fun to me. Their weekends seemed to be full of fun and their lives weren't constrained by the many teachings of the Bible. Since I had to go to church, I felt like I was forced to miss out on these activities.

During a spiritual convocation, I decided to go to the baptism site because I wanted to skip RE class. At the baptismal site, I noticed that there was a different church holding a baptism. Their baptism was different because the person being baptized was pushed backwards and was not fully immersed. Our church, however, baptized forwards, bowing down, and fully immersed. It was in the middle of the baptism that I saw the water around the pastor turning red, like blood. I looked at where the other church was, and their water did not change. As the last member and pastor from our church started getting out of the water, the blood slowly disappeared from the water.

From the baptism, I learned that God knew about my doubts. Even though I had not received the Holy Spirit yet, He wanted me to have full faith in Him. God is with us wherever we are, and He will always be there to guide us as long as we have faith in Him.

It was during the following spiritual convocation that I received the Holy Spirit. Looking back, it was really God's plan and grace for me. He knew when the best time was to give me the Holy Spirit and why I needed the Holy Spirit. I am very thankful to God for granting me this experience when I was younger because it really strengthened my faith. May all the glory, honor, and praise be unto His holy name. Amen.

– Anonymous

Memory Verse

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

Meaning

1. The Holy Spirit is our Helper and Teacher. He can help us to understand the truth and remind us of the things that we have learned about God.
2. As we go through our lives, there may be times when we do not know what to do, but we can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us. This does not mean that we should treat Him like a genie who fulfills our whims at our beck and call. Rather, when we are able to build a relationship with God, we come to know more about Him.

Conclusion

Junior 1 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 2

Through the work of the Holy Spirit in the church, in our lives, and in our salvation, we can see that He is powerful and able to transform lives. The Holy Spirit is also a precious Helper sent by our Father, as proof of His abidance with us. Knowing this, let us continue to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and live a life that glorifies God's name.

Lesson 2 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What is the Spirit's purpose in our lives?
The Spirit is our Helper and our Teacher. He can help us to understand the truth and remind us of the things that we have learned about God.
2. "For the _____ will _____ you in that very hour what you _____ to _____." (Luke 12:12)
Holy, Spirit, teach, ought, say
3. Pick one of the Holy Spirit's roles in the church and describe an example from the Bible.
See Spiritual Teachings, Section A.
4. What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts that the Spirit gives to us?
The Spirit gives us a variety of spiritual gifts so that we can serve one another. All of the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, are for a central purpose: to serve the body of Christ.
5. What is a major obstacle that blocks our experience of the Spirit's power? Why is this the case?
The most common and difficult obstacle to overcome is sin. Over time, it can make us numb or desensitize us to what is right in God's eyes.
6. Do you have any personal obstacles that block you from experiencing the Spirit's power?
Personal answers.