

*** The Heights Baptist Church * Sermon Series: Doctrine ***
*** Topic: The Holy Spirit–Work and Ministry * Various Verses * 3/1/26 ***

MAIN POINT

“The Holy Spirit’s presence assures us of our relationship with Christ. He guides believers into all truth and exalts Christ. He convicts people of their sin, God’s righteousness, and the coming judgment. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Christ.”
(The Heights website, under “Beliefs”)

INTRODUCTION

Can you share a time you were on a guided tour, and the tour guide was either amazing, or terrible? What made the guide effective or ineffective?

Do you think you could have had an equally successful or more successful trip without the guide? Why or why not?

We need guides when we lack a good understanding of where we are and where we are going. Guides show us the way or pass knowledge on to us. For our Christian walk, we can look to the Bible, and to mature Christians, but a vitally important guide God has given us is the Holy Spirit.

Today we continue our series on Christian doctrine by looking at the Holy Spirit. This is a two-part topic; this week considers the Holy Spirit’s work and ministry. Next week we will look at His fruit and gifts.

Note 1 to study leader: There is not enough time to cover in depth each of the roles of the Holy Spirit discussed in this lesson. Either keep the lesson general or be selective on what topics you cover.

Note 2 to study leader: This is the outline for today’s lesson looking at the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

1. *The Holy Spirit’s attributes.*
2. *The role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation.*
3. *The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians.*
4. *The role of the Holy Spirit in our sanctification as Christians.*

UNDERSTANDING

ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Note to study leader: Make a list on the white board as people come up with attributes of the Holy Spirit.

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

What truths about the Holy Spirit are mentioned in these verses?

- **Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 5:3-4:** The Holy Spirit is a divine person of the Trinity.
- **1 Corinthians 2:9-11:** The Holy Spirit knows the deep thoughts of God.
- **Isaiah 40:13:** The Holy Spirit is beyond our human understanding
- **Luke 10:21 and Hebrews 10:29:** The Holy Spirit has emotions.
- **John 16:13-14:** The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ.
- **Matthew 1:20 and Luke 1:34-35:** The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in Mary’s womb.
- **Romans 8:11 and 1 Peter 3:18:** The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR SALVATION

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

Based on these verses, what roles does the Holy Spirit play in our salvation?

- **John 16:8:** The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.
- **John 15:26:** The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus.
- **1 Corinthians 2:14 and Ephesians 1:17-18:** The Holy Spirit draws us to God.
- **1 Corinthians 12:13:** The Holy Spirit baptizes us.
- **John 14:16-17 and Romans 8:9:** The Holy Spirit indwells us.
- **Ephesians 1:13:** The Holy Spirit seals us. (Guarantees our salvation)

MORE ON THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Water baptism pictures us being buried with Christ and raised to new life in Him. This symbolizes the spiritual work done in us by the Holy Spirit, who indwells us at salvation. He gives us new life in Christ. The Greek word translated as “baptize” is “baptizo”, which means “to immerse” as a vegetable is immersed in vinegar during the pickling process and in theology is used to describe the believer identifying with Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us a new identity in Christ and in His body, the church.

MORE ON BEING SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

A seal (such as a wax seal) is placed on something to identify it as genuine, and to ensure it won't be tampered with. The Romans put a seal on the gravestone of Christ. This meant that no one was to steal the body, and this was backed by the authority of the emperor himself.

When we are sealed by the Holy Spirit at salvation, we are authenticated as belonging to God. And this seal shows us we are eternally secure in Christ.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

Based on these verses, what roles does the Holy Spirit play in our lives as Christians?

- **Romans 8:26-27:** The Holy Spirit intercedes for (prays for) us.
- **John 14:26:** The Holy Spirit comforts and helps us. The Greek word translated as Advocate, Helper, or Comforter is “parakletos”, which means, to come alongside and aid someone. It is a legal term for the legal counsel for a defendant.
- **John 16:13:** The Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4:** The Holy Spirit gives us gifts. (More on this next week)

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR SANCTIFICATION AS CHRISTIANS

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

Based on these verses, what roles does the Holy Spirit play in our sanctification as Christians?

- **Galatians 3:1-3:** The Holy Spirit sanctifies us.
- **Acts 1:8:** The Holy Spirit empowers us.
- **Ephesians 5:18:** The Holy Spirit fills us.
- **Galatians 5:22-23:** The Holy Spirit develops fruit in our lives (More on this next week)

MORE ON SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification literally means to be set apart. The same Greek root word is also translated as “saint” and “holy”. Sanctification is a term given to the process of a Christian growing to become more and more like Christ, and less and less like the world. We are being set apart from the world, and set apart for Christ. This process is not automatic in the life of a Christian. The Holy Spirit does the work in our life, but it is up to us to walk with Jesus, submit to Him, and get His living word into our lives (John 17:17).

MORE ON BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

We read earlier in Ephesians 5:18 that we are not to get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery, but to be filled with the Spirit. The command to be filled with the Spirit is not just arbitrarily connected to the command to not be filled with wine. Just as wine controls you when you are drunk, so in the opposite sense we are yielding control of our lives to the Holy Spirit when we choose to allow Him to fill us.

Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time decision we make as Christians. It is an ongoing decision that we make as Christians to yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to be in control our lives. And we make this decision by walking with Jesus, the vine, rather than abiding in our flesh or in the world.

Testimony: A woman named Crystal came across this verse (Ephesians 5:18) during a group Bible study on Ephesians. She shared that she was an alcoholic before coming to Christ. In the past, whenever she did something really stupid while drunk, she would tell herself the next morning, “That wasn’t me, that was the alcohol.” Now as a Christian, when she does something good that is contrary to her sinful nature, she says, “That wasn’t me, that was the Holy Spirit.”

APPLICATION

THREE DON’Ts

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING THREE VERSES

- **Acts 7:51:** Don’t resist the Holy Spirit. (to resist means to strive against)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:19:** Don’t quench the Holy Spirit. (to quench means to extinguish a fire)
- **Ephesians 4:30:** Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit. (to grieve means to make sorrowful)

PRAYER

We praise You God for sending us your Holy Spirit, who is living water in our lives. We thank you that He convicts us of sin, comforts us, helps us, teaches us, empowers us, and sanctifies us, and fills us. Help us not to resist Him, or quench His work in our lives, or grieve Him. Help us fully submit to Him.

Note to study leader: *Since this lesson is comprised of many individual passages from scripture rather than one larger chunk of scripture, the usual Commentary section is not included in this lesson.*