



Good morning I am Josh Burnham and I'm the lead pastor here at Bethel. For all of our guests, those watching online, and all our covenant members, welcome! Why are days like today so important? We gather to strengthen our grip on the truth and majesty of Jesus and glorify His name alone.

We are continuing a series we are calling, "because you asked," where we answer some of life's most pressing questions from the Holy Scriptures. **Today's big idea: Why Do I need the Holy Spirit if I have Jesus?**

If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference –A.W. Tozer

Why Do I need the Holy Spirit if I have Jesus? (John 14:15-17)

Who is He? The Holy Spirit is God (Gen. 1:1; John 14:15-17) From the beginning of time, we see vestiges of the unique three in oneness of the Sovereign Lord: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **It is significant that the Bible opens on a triadic note:** Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. From the very beginning, even before the beginning, the presence of the Living God was revealed through and to creation. **In John 14:15-17**, Jesus reminds His people that we will always have a glimpse of the glory of Yahweh in our lives. Did you catch the triadic formula in John 14? I (Jesus) will ask the Father and he will give you the Spirit. To deny the truth of the trinity, or even to relegate the Holy Spirit to a lower status is to lapse into heresy and to ignore what Jesus said would happen. The Holy Spirit is God and through the Holy Spirit, God is continually revealing Himself to the world and through the church as He did from the beginning of time. **Our God is a revealing God.** *To ignore the Holy Spirit is to ignore the Father and deny the Son.*

Who is He? The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus (John 14:15) The HS was promised because He is the continuation of Immanuel in the world. God never intended, and refused to leave, the world broken as it is today. Jesus—God Incarnate—came to redeem humanity back to Himself. God the promised Spirit **reminds** us of this redemption. **This is what you need to know about God's promises, you will never find a promise that God has not kept.** This **promise** of the Holy Spirit comes with a

caveat. A promise is only as good as the **word** of the person issuing the promise. When the Word gives you a promise mark it down! I don't know about you, but I want what Jesus wants, and I long for Jesus' promises, a forever Counselor.

Who is He? The Holy Spirit is given to those who love Jesus (John 14:15) Twice in this short passage the Messiah reminds us that there are only two groups of people in the world, not categorized on the basis of ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, or any other cultural indemnity. Jesus is the dividing line (14:15, 17). One day everyone will be held accountable for what they do with Jesus. Those who do not love Messiah are unable to receive the Spirit.

For those who love Christ, follow Him, and keep His says, he gives us the counselor. When God gives, He gives abundantly and generously. "He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5-6 CSB17) God doesn't simply give us His Spirit, He gives the Spirit **"into" us. Not just "to" us,** but by an act of what can only be called intimate impartation His Spirit resides within to encourage, energize, and enable. **The Spirit isn't just here, He's inside.** –Sam Storms The Holy Spirit is not a baton passed but the presence of Yahweh given to those who love Jesus Christ. Not given to, but give into, he remains in you and you know Him!

Some today in our gathering struggle with the Holy Spirit because you struggle with Jesus. If you say, "I am not sure if I have ever received the Holy Spirit." Listen to what Jesus says, **"the world is unable to receive Him."** **Have you receive the Lord Jesus?** Will you confess your sins, repent, turn to Jesus, and receive the Spirit! The Holy Spirit is given to those who love Jesus.

What Does He do? Essential for Salvation (John 3:5) If the Holy Spirit is given to and remains with those who love God, if those who do not love God are unable to receive the Spirit, how can we love God? In response to this question, "how can one be born again." **John 3:5** Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

To enter the kingdom, you must be born of the Spirit. The essential role of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin, display your short fall and sinful condition, and draw you to the Messiah. If the Spirit has not stirred your soul to run to Jesus Christ, you have not been born of the Spirit. **You might as well expect to raise the dead by whispering in their ears, as hope to save souls by preaching to them, if it were not for the agency of the Spirit.** –Spurgeon

No revival, no aisle, no baptism, no class or catechism, no pastor has ever saved any person. **If you are a child of God, rejoice that the Spirit of the Lord brought you to the point of faith and belief!** If you are a child of the King you were saved because the Holy Spirit was working on and in your life! **"Donna Conversation."** **How long has the Spirit been working on you?** Nicodemus, how long has the Spirit drawn you? You came in darkness but the Spirit brought you to the Light. Some today, the Holy Spirit is convicting and drawing you to the Cross today! **The Spirit is essential for Salvation.**

What Does He Do? Counselor (John 14:15) παρακλητος, (a title for the Holy Spirit) one who helps, by consoling, encouraging, or mediating on behalf of. **Have you ever felt like you were in over your head and you need help?** Have you ever been in a place where you could only pray one word: **help!** I have. Yahweh's answer? The Holy Spirit is the helper in our time of need, the counselor in our time of doubt, the encourager in our time of discouragement.

However, the counselor and the comforter comes with risk. “Why would we need to experience the Comforter if our lives are already comfortable?” – Francis Chan. The selfish risk is that I can not live for me and self and comfort and be led by the comforter. Are you comfortable enough that you don’t need or want the Holy Spirit. **The Spirit is our counselor and comforter.**

What Does He Do? The Will of God (John 14:17) John 14:17 exhorts us that the Spirit remains with you and will be in you. The Greek here (remain) means to continue to exist. Often, we concern ourselves with the will of the Lord for our lives. We know that God has two levels of will: his sovereign will which is over all things and his commanded will (honor your father and mother) in which we as moral agents have free will to do. Is it possible that we are seeking the knowledge of God’s will rather than obeying and abiding?

Listen to how Jesus prayed: “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”(Luke 22:42 CSB17). In the Garden, Jesus never asked, “Lord what is your will. Rather, he proclaimed, your will be done! How did Jesus know the will of the Father? **Because He remained and abided.** Often, we ask for the will as a map, and yet we forget that the Spirit is our GPS. *Quit asking for the will of God while neglecting the abiding comfort of the Spirit.* If you have His Spirit, seek to abide in the Spirit and watch at the will of the Father work through you. **What does the Spirit do? Always the will of the Father.**

What Does He Do? Magnifies the Son (John 16:14) The spirit is not about self-promotion but Savior exaltation. In essence, the Holy Spirit is a messianic hype man. He always points to the Son who always glorifies the Father. John 16:14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. As J.I. Packer puts it, “The Spirit’s message to us is never, ‘Look at Me; listen to Me; come to Me; get to know Me,’ but always, ‘Look at Him, and see His glory; listen to Him, and hear His word; go to Him, and have life; get to know Him, and taste His gift of joy and peace. The Spirit will NEVER do anything that is not Christ exalting and bringing glory to the Father.

What Does He Do? Fills, gifts, and employs (Acts 4:31) Acts 4:31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly. Now, the Spirit had already been poured out at Pentecost. This was not a second Pentecost but a fresh filling, a renewed awareness of the Spirit’s power and presence in their life and witness. **What means, “They were filled?”** It means, **They were inflamed; and the Gift burned up within them. “And they spake the word of God with boldness –John Chrysostom.** We need a fresh filling and renewed awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

When you are **filled** with the Spirit you will be **used** by the Spirit for the glory of Yahweh! “**And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person. A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:**” (1 Corinthians 12:6–7 CSB17). What is your gift? How is the Holy Spirit working through your life today to display the glory of Jesus Christ to the world? **What Does He Do? Fills, gifts, and employs.**

What Does He Do? Prays (Romans 8:26) In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26–27 CSB17) Have you ever wanted to pray but you simply don’t have the words? Have you ever desired to pray but you find yourself weak, worn out, or

distracted? **When our lack of faith undermines certainty in prayer, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf.** So intense is his prayer that Paul described it as “groans that words cannot express.” God is a searcher of hearts and knows the desires of the Spirit as the Spirit intercedes for us. No passage of Scripture provides greater encouragement for prayer. The Spirit comes to the aid of believers baffled by the perplexity of prayer and takes their concerns to God with an intensity far greater than we could ever imagine. **Our groans (v. 23) become his (v. 26) as he intercedes on our behalf.** How can we declare the triumph of Romans 8:28, because the Spirit intercedes?

What Does He Do? Don't Stifle (1 Thess. 5:19-21) The Spirit of God is always equated with the power of the Lord—wind and fire throughout the Old and New Testament. However, the Holy Spirit will not overpower you or coerce. **19 Don't stifle the Spirit. 20 Don't despise prophecies, 21 but test all things.** is good.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire attempts to convey the connotation of a **verb that was used literally of extinguishing a flame or figuratively of suppressing or stifling something.** It is possible to suppress or extinguish the spirit in your life.

One of the saddest verses in all of Scripture is founded toward the end of a man named Sampson's life. **Samson** was a mighty man and accomplished tremendous feats of strength through his time through the Spirit. But, **Judg. 16:20 Then she cried, “Samson, the Philistines are here!” When he awoke from his sleep, he said, “I will escape as I did before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had left him.**

My greatest fear is that any person of God any church, could live their life and not need or even realize the power of God. We stifle the Spirit in two major ways: cynicism to the **Word** of the Lord and sin or disobedience to the **ways** of Christ. Further, the stifling of the Spirit is not usually the dam breaking, but the slow dripping of spiritual apathy, the gradual descent of sin, or the cynical and critical attitude towards righteousness. Oh that we would never suppress the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

Our Response

What does He do? If you are a child of God, rejoice that the Spirit of the Lord brought you to the point of faith and belief. If you are not sure today, whether the Spirit of Christ lives within you, today you can get your heart right with the Creator. ***Believe in Jesus- repent/turn- surrender***

To the believer: Dear brother, honor the Spirit of God as you would honor Jesus Christ if He were present. If Jesus Christ were dwelling in your house you would not ignore Him, you would not go about your business as if He were not there. Do not ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit in your soul. I beseech you, do not live as if you had not heard whether there were any Holy Spirit. To Him pay your constant adorations.... Love Him, obey Him, worship Him. –Spurgeon

Who is He? He is God. Love Him, obey Him, worship Him.

Notes

Work of the Holy Spirit, to actively make manifest the presence of the Lord in the world and in the local church. –Wayne Grudem

5 categories on the work of the Holy Spirit –Wayne Grudem

1. The Holy Spirit Empowers
2. Purifies
3. Reveals
4. Unifies
5. Gives evidence of God's presence

John 14:25 “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. **26** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

“Why would we need to experience the Comforter if our lives are already comfortable?” – Francis Chan

The Holy Spirit is the bringer of truth and will give you exactly the truth you need however much or little.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

You might as well expect to raise the dead by whispering in their ears, as hope to save souls by preaching to them, if it were not for the agency of the Spirit. –Spurgeon

Acts 4:31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

4:31 Their prayer was answered by the shaking of the house. Perhaps a shaking from thunder or a quaking of the earth, it gave them a tangible sense of God's presence and his response to their prayer. And their prayer was fulfilled at once. Immediately they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word with boldness, just as they had petitioned. This was not a “second Pentecost.”⁷¹ They had already received the Spirit. The Spirit had helped Peter and John in a mighty way before the Sanhedrin. It was a fresh filling, a renewed awareness of the Spirit's power and presence in their life and witness. This was not an ephemeral ecstatic manifestation but a fresh endowment of power for witness that would continue (cf. 4:33).

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together.” (v. 31.) This was the proof that they were heard, and of His visitation. “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.” What means, “They were filled?” It means, They were inflamed; and the Gift burned up within them. “And they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.” (v. 32.) –Chrysostom

1 Thess. 5:19 Don't stifle the Spirit. **20** Don't despise prophecies, **21** but test all things. Hold on to what is good. **22** Stay away from every kind of evil.

1 Thess 5:19

The collection of five exhortations in 5:19–22 represents an attempt to help the church maintain its trim in the storm currents of conflicting truth claims (cf. Eph 4:14). The first two exhortations (vv. 19–20) are negative. The last three (vv. 21–23) are positive. The only connective in the passage is the adversative *de* (which the NIV does not translate; cf. NASB “but”), which marks the transition at v. 21. Paul did not wish the church to become so cynical that they treated with contempt those who came with a word of prophecy (5:19–20). Neither was the church to be so gullible that they accepted whatever a so-called prophet said without carefully weighing it and determining that it was indeed a true word of God (5:21–22).

5:19 The first two exhortations warned the church against excessively cynical behavior. “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire” attempts to convey the connotation of a verb (*sbennyte*) that was used literally of extinguishing a flame or figuratively of suppressing or stifling something. The present imperative of prohibition (used in vv. 19 and 20) generally forbids the continuing of an act already in progress. This is not always the case, however, and these verses may be preventative rather than curative. There is no word for “fire” in the text, but the Spirit is symbolized by fire in the New Testament (cf. Acts 2:3–4, 17); the verb “put out” indicates that this probably was the image Paul had in mind. In what way might the Thessalonians have stifled the Spirit? The parallel exhortation in v. 20 provides the answer.

Quench not the spirit (το πνευμα μη σβεννυτε [*to pneuma mē sbennute*]). Μη [*Mē*] with the present imperative means to stop doing it or not to have the habit of doing it. It is a bold figure. Some of them were trying to put out the fire of the Holy Spirit, probably the special gifts of the Holy Spirit as verse 20 means. But even so the exercise of these special gifts (1 Cor. 12–14; 2 Cor. 12:2–4; Rom. 12:6–9) was to be decently (εὐσχημονως [*euschēmonōs*], 1 Thess. 4:12) and in order (κατα ταξιν [*kata taxin*], 1 Cor. 14:40) and for edification (προς οἰκοδομην [*pros oikodomēn*], 1 Cor. 14:26). Today, as then, there are two extremes about spiritual gifts (cold indifference or wild excess). It is not hard to put out the fire of spiritual fervor and

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(Titus 3:5–6 CSB17)

God doesn’t simply give us His Spirit, He gives the Spirit “into” us. Not just “to” us, but by an act of what can only be called intimate impartation His Spirit resides within to encourage, energize, and enable. The Spirit isn’t just here, He’s inside. –Sam Storms

“And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person .A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:”
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And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person. A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: (1 Corinthians 12:6–7 CSB17)

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
(Romans 8:26–27 CSB17)

Romans 8:26

8:26–27 As it is hope that carries us through our times of suffering (vv. 24–25), so it is the Spirit who comes to our aid when we find ourselves unable to pray as we ought. Paul said that the Spirit “helps us in our weakness.” In context that weakness is our lack of understanding regarding prayer.¹⁸⁴ Prayer has always been one of the great mysteries of the spiritual life. We understand that God is listening, but we sense our inadequacy when it comes to knowing how to pray or exactly what we should pray for. How many times have we wondered how to pray for a friend suffering a serious illness? Sometimes volumes of prayer have gone up to God, but the response from heaven was not what we wanted or expected. When our lack of faith undermines certainty in prayer, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf. So intense is his prayer that Paul described it as “groans that words cannot express.” The NEB makes the believer, not the Spirit, the one who groans (“through our inarticulate groans the Spirit himself is pleading for us”). This removes the somewhat difficult image of the Spirit groaning in prayer, but in view of Gethsemane (cf. esp. Luke 22:44) there is no reason to deny emotional/spiritual involvement in prayer to the third person of the Trinity. Here again we stand at the edge of mystery. It is better to acknowledge humbly our spiritual incapacity than to reduce the action of the Spirit to human terms.

God understands what the Spirit desires even though it is inexpressible in human terms (v. 27). God is the one who has complete access to the heart. His knowledge is direct, not dependent upon one’s ability to articulate concerns. God is a searcher of hearts and knows the desires of the Spirit as the Spirit intercedes for us. He knows that the Spirit is interceding for saints in harmony with his will.¹⁸⁸ No passage of Scripture provides greater encouragement for prayer. The Spirit comes to the aid of believers baffled by the perplexity of prayer and takes their concerns to God with an intensity far greater than we could ever imagine. Our groans (v. 23) become his (v. 26) as he intercedes on our behalf.

18 Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Illustrations

Crisis

. Once he hands the ball off, the entire focus of the opponent changes. Hand the ball off to Christ

Application

“I want to live so that I am truly submitted to the Spirit's leading on a daily basis. Christ said it's better for us that the Spirit came and I want to live like that is true. I don't want to keep crawling when I have the ability to fly.” — **Francis Chan,**

“I don't want my life to be explainable without the Holy Spirit. I want people to look at my life and know that I couldn't be doing this by my own power.” — **Francis Chan,**

“The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God.” — **Francis Chan,**

“There is a big gap between what we read in Scripture about the Holy Spirit and how most believers and churches operate today.” — **Francis Chan,**

To the believer: Dear brother, honor the Spirit of God as you would honor Jesus Christ if He were present. If Jesus Christ were dwelling in your house you would not ignore Him, you would not go about your business as if He were not there. Do not ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit in your soul. I beseech you, do not live as if you had not heard whether there were any Holy Spirit. To Him pay your constant adorations. Reverence the august guest who has been pleased to make your body His sacred abode. Love Him, obey Him, worship Him. –Spurgeon