

5. The Holy Spirit

God the Eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures, leads it into all truth.

The Holy Spirit is one Person of the Godhead. He was active in the world even before God created life on earth. He inspired the writing of the Bible.

- He was active in the work of Creation. Genesis 1:1-2
- He was active in the incarnation of Christ. Luke 1:35
- He played an active role in Christ's redemptive work on earth. Luke 4:18
- He inspired those who wrote the Bible. 2 Peter 1:21

Texts for further study: Job 33:4; Romans 8:11-16; Acts 10:38

The Spirit is active today in drawing people to God and in assisting Christians.

- He attracts people to God. Revelation 22:17
- He convicts people of their sinfulness and need of God's forgiveness. John 16:7-13
- He brings about the new birth. John 3:3-8
- He renews the image of God in people. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- He leads the church into all truth. John 14:26, 15:26-27
- The truth He leads to is in harmony with the Bible. Isaiah 8:20
- He is always with us, comforting and helping us. John 14:16-18
- He gives spiritual gifts to the church. Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:4-11
- He empowers the church to bear witness to Christ. Acts 1:8
- He can be grieved away if we ignore His promptings. Ephesians 4:30
- The Christian's body is the Spirit's temple. I Corinthians 6:19-20
- We are sealed by the Spirit as children of God. Ephesians 1:13-14

Texts for further study: Ezekiel 36:26-27; Galatians 5:22-23; Joel 2:28; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Luke 12:11-12

Personal Application

-  What spiritual gifts has God given me, and how can I use them to His glory?
-  What safeguard has God given to help me check whether the impressions I receive are from the Holy Spirit or not?
-  The Holy Spirit is God's gift to me. He is an ever-present Friend who hears me and helps me. I need not be discouraged for I know that as I invite Him into my life He will renew me. He will guide me, and empower me just as He did Jesus while He was on earth.

Commitment

- Thank You, God, that You have promised to give me Your Spirit. I invite You today and every day into my life. Please make me like Jesus. Guide me as I read the Bible, meditate on it, and pray. I trust you to show me how to use the talents You have given me to help others.