

HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

By Grant Neuper
Christian Centre Abbotsford

10 September 2023

Key verses: John 15:26-16:15

Introduction

In this passage Jesus gives His disciples such important orientation regarding the work of the Holy Spirit, who would be sent from the Father after **Jesus'** earthly departure. (Let's read together: John 15:26-16:15)

1. The Holy Spirit at work in the world

Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit convicting or convincing people. Holy Spirit would do this work in relation to three key elements of the Gospel / the good news (viz. sin, righteousness and judgment).

1. He would make people aware of their sin. This is good news because it stirs up within us, as lost people in the world, a sense of need. We realise why we need a Saviour. **'Conviction regarding sin – because they do not believe in Me (Jesus)'**. This is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Q: Aren't you glad He convinced you of your need to deal with sin?

It is evil (in other words – it is sin) to refuse to believe in the grace and salvation offered to humankind in Jesus.

2. The Holy Spirit would convict or convince people regarding righteousness *'because I go to the Father (and you will see Me no longer)'*. Salvation will then become a matter of faith, no longer sight!

Our own righteousness will never be sufficient. The gift of righteousness in Jesus is available to us as a result of His death, His resurrection and His ascension. The gift of righteousness is received by faith – us putting our faith in Jesus, the One we can no longer see.

3. The Holy Spirit would convict / convince people regarding judgment. *'because the prince / ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged' (and found guilty or condemned).*

The Holy Spirit gives us revelation of the cross and we see that Satan was stripped of his power - & the evil effect of sin was made obvious.

The Holy Spirit is at work in the world. He draws us to Jesus. He gives revelation that brings salvation and the new birth – people are made completely new when they realise their need for a saviour; when they understand the free gift of righteousness that is available to them because of what Jesus did; and when they understand that Satan has been judged and his power over their lives can be broken because of the victory of Jesus.

Q: Aren't you grateful that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world – revealing the work of Jesus to unbelievers (like you were) and breaking into hearts with new life!

(By the way - He still uses people in this process...) He certainly worked that work in me...

2. The Holy Spirit at work in the life of the believer

As we reflect further on this passage we discover something beautiful about the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. He is a communicator – **He is God’s spokesperson!!**

Q: When last did you hear Him speak to you? (During worship or prayer time this morning? On **your way here today? During the few minutes of today’s message?**) Or has it been months / perhaps even years? That should not be so.

Already in John 15:26 we hear that He will bear witness to what Jesus has done. What do witnesses do? They speak up!

Then we get to John 16:13-15:

v.13 Guide v.13 Speak v.13 Speak v.13 Declare v.14 Declare v.15 Declare

Hebrews 1:1 Our God speaks: ‘At many times and in many ways’

Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

What does God speak to us about? Holy Spirit is **“Friend”**

He can speak to us about anything:

- Activities of the day (including to guide / direct)
- Strategy for a relationship
- Financial decisions
- Education
- Parenting (e.g. “nothing thrives in an environment of criticism...”)
- Work
- Career
- Holidays
- **Other people (phone so and so; stop and talk to ...; pray for ...)**

Clearly Holy Spirit is sent to us as a Helper, Friend, Guide and Communicator – amazing!

But there is another special way that the Holy Spirit is at work...

The Holy Spirit at work in answer to prayer

Holy Spirit at work in the world – brings us to salvation

Holy Spirit at work in the life of a believer – renews/lives within/speaks/directs

Holy Spirit empowering people – often happens in answer to prayer

Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?

(This was an introduction into the supernatural realm for me)

Are you walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

Are you communing with Him and hearing His voice?

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Acts 1:3-5, 8 What Jesus said –

3 He (Jesus) presented himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

8 You will receive power... to be My witnesses...

Luke 11:9-13 ESV – **key teaching on prayer...**

9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Throughout Acts we see numerous times when people received the Holy Spirit in very specific ways through others laying hands on them.

(Very often the evidence of the Holy Spirit empowering them was that they spoke in other tongues – a beautiful supernatural language by Holy Spirit.)

Let's pray this kind of prayer today – asking the Father for the Holy Spirit / for more of the Holy Spirit!