

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit worked only in part before the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He came upon the Prophet, the Priest, and the King, and He could withdraw from them if they sinned. The disciples had only limited knowledge of the Holy Spirit.

In instructing His disciples, regarding the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, (John 16:7-8) ***“7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”*** To reprove means to convict, admonish, tell a fault, rebuke.

1. ***Convict men of the sin of unbelief:*** (John 16:9) Unbelief is a very grave sin. It means not trustworthy. Some definitions of ***unbelief*** are:

- ***An infidel*** 1 Tim. 5:8, 2 Corinthians 6:15
- ***Faithless.*** This word was used with Thomas in John 20:27; Also, in Luke 9:41 and Mark 9:19 and Matthew 17:17; Hebrews 3:12.

2. ***The Holy Spirit Convicts men that Jesus is the righteousness of God.***

John 16:10; Romans 10:3-10; Romans 1:17; Philippians 3:9

3. ***The Holy Spirit Convicts men that the power of Satan has been broken.***

John 16:11; Luke 10:17-19.

4. ***The Holy Spirit also regenerates the believer.***

John 3:5; Titus 3:5. To regenerate means to have a spiritual rebirth, or spiritual renovation especially Messianic restoration. See Also Matthew 19:28.

5. **The Holy Spirit indwells the believer**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16.

6. **The Holy Spirit seals the believer –**

Seal means to stamp with a signet ring or private mark for security or preservation. 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30; Revelation 7:3.

7. **The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the body of Christ.**

Romans 6:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 12:13;.

8. **The Holy Spirit infills the believer.**

Ephesians 5:18. This verse actually reads: in being filled, be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is an ongoing progress, not just a one-time infilling.

9. **The Holy Spirit empowers the believer.**

Acts 1:8: ***“You shall receive power after the Holy Ghost shall come upon you”.***
This power enables all believers to be a witness and gives them the power to overcome sin and walk in the spirit and not in the flesh.

10. **The Holy Spirit leads the believer.**

Galatians 5:16-18; Romans 8:1-2

11. **The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the believer.**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The Holy Spirit came to believers on the day of Pentecost, to remain with the church until it is complete and presented to the Lord Jesus at His coming. Just as Jesus Christ finished the work He came to do in the flesh, so the Holy Spirit will finish the work He came to do in the Church.

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. (Galatians 5:22a) Only as we live in love can we fulfill the will of God in our lives. The believer must become love-inspired, love-mastered, and love-driven (2 Corinthians 5:14; Romans 5:8). Without the fruit of the Spirit (love), we are just a religious noise (1 Corinthians 13:1).

The fruit of the Spirit is “love,” and it is manifested in joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:

1. **Joy is love’s strength.**

1 Chronicles 29:1-9; Ezra 3:12-13; Nehemiah 8:10; Esther 8:15-16; Job 33:26; Psalm 51:12; Psalm 98:4; Psalm 126:5; Matthew 25:21; John 16:24; Acts 8:6-8; Luke 15:7; Romans 15:13

2. **Peace is love’s security.**

Leviticus 26:6; Numbers 6:26; Psalms 4:8; Psalms 34:14; Psalm 55:16-18; Psalm 119:65; Psalm 122:6-7; Proverbs 3:1-2; Isaiah 26:3; Isaiah 48:22; Ezekiel 37:26; Nahum 1:15; Matthew 5:9; John 14:27.

3. **Long-suffering is love’s patience.**

Long-suffering or patience is one of the most difficult fruit of the Spirit. Most of us want instant everything. Yet, the scriptures tell us through faith and patience we inherit the promises.

One example of longsuffering is Hebrews 6:12. Another is James 5:10 where longsuffering is used with suffering affliction.

Other examples are found in Romans 2:4; Romans 9:22; 2 Corinthians 6:6; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 1:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:10; 1 Peter 3:20 and 2 Peter 3:15.

The body of Christ has not been taught enough about this fruit of the Spirit. It is evident since so many lack this fruit in their lives.

4. **Gentleness is love's conduct.**

Many in the body of Christ have zeal but are not gentle when it comes to being a witness for Christ. Gentleness is defined as excellence in character or demeanor. It is also defined as kindness and is used in four instances in scripture as kindness, being: **II Corinthians 6:6; Ephesians 2:7; Colossians 3:12; and Titus 3:4.**

We must conduct ourselves with gentleness for many have been hurt by harsh words and actions in the body of Christ.

5. **Goodness is love's character.**

There was a saying once that said "Watch your thoughts; they become words; Watch your words; they become actions; Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. Goodness is something we have to develop by choice. Scripture references of goodness are found four times:

Romans 15:14; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:11.

6. **Faith is love's confidence.**

There is much to be said about faith. It is a topic in itself. Faith can be described as assurance (**Acts 17:31**); It can also be described as a moral conviction of a religious truth, or the truthfulness of God.

The word Faith (pistis) is found 239 times in the Bible *but only in the New Testament*. Faithfulness is found in the Old Testament but only faith is in the New Testament.

Faith is the foundation of the Christian life. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (**Hebrews 11:6**). A whole chapter (11) in Hebrews is called the "hall of faith". Faith is "just believing God meant what he said" and acting on it! Scripture references:

**Hebrews 6:12; 1 Timothy 6:12; Ephesians 3:17; Galatians 3:7-14;
2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:8-17.**

7. **Meekness is love's humility.**

Meekness is not weakness. Meekness is being humble and not prideful. Moses was the meekest of all but also had strength that came from God.

Scripture references: 1 Cor. 4:21; 2 Corinthians 10:1; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:2;

Pride was the downfall of Satan, and pride comes before a fall. Meekness would be the opposite of pride.

8. **Temperance is love's victory.**

Temperance simply means self-control. It is used three times in scripture. Once in Galatians 5:23, and twice in 2 Peter 1:6. Self-control or temperance is a fruit of the Spirit that has to be developed. God will allow us to be put into situations that this gift is refined. In previous centuries metal was tempered in the fire to make it stronger. It would be heated up almost to the melting point. It is said that it toughens the steel by lessening brittleness and reducing internal stress. Temperance is needed in the Christian's life to make it stronger. We must yield to it in order not to break when trials come.

In Galatians 5: 18 it states that if these nine fruit are manifested in our lives then there is no law that can oppose them. A Holy Spirit-controlled person needs no law to cause them to live a righteous life. The secret of a Spirit controlled life is found in Romans 12:1-2. Put your all on the altar of God, and the Holy Spirit will fill your heart with the love of God (Romans 5:5)

SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

This is a solemn study, because the Holy Spirit is God and can be sinned against by both the believer and the unbeliever. May He help you search your heart as you consider the following:

1. **The sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit**

Matthew 12:31-32 “³¹ *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. ³²And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.* See also: (Mark 3:28-30)

Some may think they have committed this sin and didn't know it. This sin is done willfully, and you will have no regret for doing it. This sin is committed by unbelievers. It is often called the "unpardonable sin." It has no forgiveness. It was committed by the enemies of Jesus when they accused Him of casting out devils by the power of Satan (Matt 12:24) when Jesus claimed to cast them out by the "Spirit of God", (Matthew 12:28).

This sin is ongoing. It is the persistent, knowing, verbal attribution of the work of God to Satan. Anyone doing this has rejected the grace of God revealed in and through Jesus Christ. The Pharisees maliciously contradicted what they had witnessed with their own eyes. By persistently rejecting God's free gift of salvation in Jesus, the sinner sears his conscience and stiffens his neck. Eventually he gets to the place where genuine repentance is no longer possible. It would be fair to say that this stubborn and unrepentant attitude is the chief mark of true blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. If you are afraid that you have offended God, then your heart is in the right place and you have not committed this sin.

2. The sin of resisting the Holy Spirit.

This sin is committed by the unbeliever when rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Acts chapter 7, specifically Acts 7:51)

Stiff necked means obstinate, hardheaded, (Exodus 33:5; Exodus 34:9; Deuteronomy 10:16; 2 Chronicles 30:8;)

3. The sin of grieving the Holy Spirit.

Grieve means to distress, make sorrowful, to be sad. This sin is committed by believers. He is *grieved* by us unless He controls our lives to the glory of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 2: 4-11; Hebrews 3:10-12)

4. The sin of quenching the Holy Spirit.

This sin is committed by Christians when known sin is allowed to go unconfessed. (1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 John 1:8; Isaiah 59:1-2)

5. The sin of lying to the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 5:1-11) The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was deception, born in jealousy. They tried to mock God (Galatians 6:7). The Holy Spirit can be sinned against because He is God.