

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

God the Holy Spirit

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

THEOLOGY

Calvary Old Path believes in the triune nature of God. The third person of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit.

DOCTRINE

This paper will take a big picture look at His interaction within the church and within the unbelieving world. There is much confusion in the modern church as it pertains to the Holy Spirit and scripture makes a difficult topic understandable, if people will look at all of scripture in order to better understand.

These are the areas we will cover so as to set in order our beliefs about the work of the Holy Spirit.

1. How Does the Holy Spirit Interact with the Unbelieving World?
2. How Does the Holy Spirit Interact with the Individual Believer?
3. Two Views of the Gifts in the Church.

Though the answers to these two questions are multifaceted, they are certainly able to be understood from God's Word.

How Does the Holy Spirit Interact with the Unbelieving World?

Jesus taught concisely in *John's* Gospel the work of the Holy Spirit in chapter 16:7-11.

Verse 8 reads like this:

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

So the primary work of the Holy Spirit among the unbelieving is to convict mankind of their need to have their sin forgiven. The Holy Spirit may use any number of ways to accomplish this from personal testimony of a believer, a recording of a gospel message, some variety of written material, or the bible directly.

A few examples of this work are found in a number of passages such as *Acts 2:37, 8:36-7, 16:30*. In these instances, people came to a decision to trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin after the personal witness of believers, sent by God to be witnesses of the gospel.

In summary, whenever a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, it is the work of the Holy Spirit who brings people to a saving knowledge.

The Holy Spirit has many attributes among the church and in the individual members of the church. Jesus tells the disciples of the work of the Holy Spirit which would be realized shortly after He spoke the words of *John 14*.

*“¹⁵ If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will **give you another Helper**, that He may abide **with** you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you **and will be in** you.”*

There was coming a time when the work of the Holy Spirit was not only going to be dynamic through them, but The Spirit would reside **in** them. As that promise is realized in the believer, a number promises come into realization. We examine those below.

The believer is Born Again.

Jesus first used this term when talking to Nicodemus in *John 3:3*:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

This promise was realized in *John 20* when Jesus breathed on them and they were born again of The Holy Spirit (*John 3:8*). What that means is they were indwelt with The Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised in *John 14:17*. This was the beginning of a greater work of The Holy Spirit in the church.

“²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

The believer is guided by The Holy Spirit. Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit, residing in the believer, would be a guide to them and lead them in truth. This shows a necessary dependence upon Him so that we may know God's Word and follow the instruction learned from it. We rely upon the Holy Spirit for direction, as we read in *John 16*:

"¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

In order to navigate the day to day of life it is necessary to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The disciples had Jesus for a short time. After His ascension, the Holy Spirit was sent to continue the work of guidance from that time forward to our modern day.

The believer is promised power. Much is made of this in modern church culture and all too often it is abused by some in the church. Things which would not be done by the Spirit are ascribed to Him in signs and wonders, but with no reason, biblically, to support the claims.

However, there is a promise given to the believer by Jesus in Acts chapter 1. As He addresses the disciples, He gives the promise of something that would be in addition to their having the Spirit present within, but now outwardly too in miraculous ways. The writings of Paul, primarily, help us to know this is also for use in the larger church. Examples of these miracles can be observed in the miracles recorded in The Book of Acts (See our distinctives booklet *The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit*). This is sometimes referred to as The Baptism of The Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:1-4 19:1-3*).

Acts 1

"⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We have further information and greater detail on the various ways the Holy Spirit works among the church in our distinctives and apologetics sections.

We cover in our distinctives:

- Being Born Again
- The Guidance Of The Holy Spirit
- The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

We also cover some of the false teachings surrounding the topic of the Holy Spirit in our apologetics section:

- The NAR
- Signs and Lying Wonders
- Word of Faith.

Two Views of the Gifts in the Church

Continualist View

This is the view of Calvary Old Path. We believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit have continued to the present age. We believe the need for them is as much needed today as they have ever been. We believe the reason the gifts described in *1 Corinthians 13:8* are singled out is because Paul began the chapter with those gifts. It isn't as if those ceased, but all of them will when Jesus returns.

Cessationist (Ceased) View

There is a rivaling view of the gifts known as Cessationism. It is the belief that the gifts of tongues, prophecy, word of knowledge, healing ended with the close of the apostolic age, (the end of the late first century), as the last books of the New Testament were completed.

Why the Different Views?

The problem and division is complex, but the reason is quite simple.

1 Corinthians 13:8-9 ⁸ Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”

Both sides believe the gifts are vital to the health of the church. The difference is that some believe that all the gifts are in operation today and some believe they are no longer available. Notice verse 10 for the word “perfect” and when the “perfect” (Jesus) has come, then the gifts mentioned (prophecies, tongues, knowledge and other “sign” gifts) will cease. Although we believe the perfect is Jesus, the Cessationists believe the perfect is the scripture.



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.