

# LIFE QUESTIONS



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## The Holy Spirit

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In the beginning humankind was made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26-27) of which the Holy Spirit, who is the third person in the Trinity along with Father and Son Jesus Christ, had a part. In the first half of the scriptures, the Holy Spirit would come upon various people to enable them to carry out particular God-given tasks or functions.

At Jesus' baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, after which Jesus commenced His ministry, where He went around doing good - healing and transforming peoples' lives. In addition, Jesus came to reveal God to people who had never seen God in such a positive way, as well as fulfilling everything the Father wanted Him to do.

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus gave His disciples some in-depth teaching on the Holy Spirit - who He is as well as what He will do - thereby showing them the important role which the Holy Spirit would have. In John 16:7 Jesus says something of great significance, "However, I am telling you the truth: It's good for you that I'm going away. If I don't go away, the helper won't come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you" (GW). Jesus clearly states that the Holy Spirit would take His place here on earth. A statement that would have shocked His disciples and still shocks people today - when they realise the extent of what He is saying.

Jesus went on to say that the Holy Spirit would be just like Him and would come alongside to help, teach, lead and guide us, to name but a few of His roles. A lot of Christians still do not recognise the Holy Spirit's importance, but this is what our Lord taught, and how through the Holy Spirit God would continue to work in the hearts and lives of men and women all over the world.

The important thing we all need to grasp is that on at least four occasions, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Comforter or Helper - meaning that He is there to encourage, help and build us up. Unfortunately many believers have been wrongly taught that the Holy Spirit is there to make you miserable, particularly when you step out of line or do something wrong. This is not the Holy Spirit, but the result of the person's own conscience bothering them. The wonderful thing about the Holy Spirit is that He is amazingly good and positive and working within you to make Jesus real to you.

In Acts chapter 2 we read of the occasion when the Holy Spirit came upon 120 believers in an upstairs room, and they started to praise and worship God in languages they had never learnt. As a result of the Holy Spirit's activity, the Church was born and these believers travelled all over the world in the power of the Holy Spirit, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, something which is still going on today. The Holy Spirit is still filling people who, like these early believers, are able to praise and worship God in earthly or heavenly languages

they have never learnt. This is a gift for all who are prepared to ask the Father (Luke 11:11-13) to baptise or immerse them in the Holy Spirit. You too can have a similar experience which these early Christians had. This is a gift from God and cannot be earned, and will also enable you to live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit as these early believers did (Acts 1:8).

Paul in writing to the Christians in Corinth shows the importance of the Holy Spirit when he writes, "The grace (favour and spiritual blessing) of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the presence and fellowship (the communion and sharing together, and participation) in the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (so be it)" (2 Corinthians 13:14 Amplified Bible). The translators noted that in the original the word for 'fellowship' could also include communion, sharing, and participation or partnership, thereby illustrating the extent to which the Holy Spirit wants to play a part in our daily lives. How He comes to play all these roles through fellowship, communion, sharing, participation and partnership in our lives. Time or space does not permit me to show the extent to which the Holy Spirit was involved in the lives of the Christians in the Early Church following the ascension of Jesus Christ, but will be addressed later on in this site.

I pray that you will open your heart and ask the Father to baptise you with His Spirit. Once you have done this, begin to thank the Father for all He is and for the way He is working in your life.

If you have seen the Holy Spirit in a different light to what is written in this article, why not ask Him to reveal Himself to you as He really is and to help you to recognise whenever this happens.