

The Holy Spirit Partnership

Series: The Divine/Human Partnership

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It has been a tough road for Christians to begin to understand the work of the Holy Spirit, and even tougher for us to understand how we are to partner with the Holy Spirit in the work He is doing. Where do we begin?

The Holy Spirit Is At Work:

- Jesus introduces the Spirit to his disciples. “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever-the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But, you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:16-18) **Counselor means one who comes along beside another for the purpose of encouragement.**
- What will the Counselor be doing? “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26) **Generally speaking the Holy Spirit is in the revealing business. He makes spiritual things visible, clear and understandable.**

Pause: Let's use some holy imagination at this point. Imagine the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of you. Can you “see” Him? What images come to mind? Teacher in a school room? Someone with an arm around your shoulders? Someone sitting around a campfire with you? Him sitting in a chair with you laying on a couch? Someone jogging with you running alongside? Someone with a sword in hand leading you into battle? Someone whispering in your ear as you try to make a decision. Or on the job with you as you are sharing the gospel with someone?

Two Specific Works of the Holy Spirit We Partner In

- The Convicting Work of the Holy Spirit in Conversion:
 - “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the

Father, where you can see Me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” (John 16:7-11)

- Notice the apostles were told “I will send Him to you” not just sent generally. The Holy Spirit is being sent to God’s people.
- His purpose in coming is to convict the world-convince, bring to a realization of sin, righteousness, and judgment. These must be made real to people or they cannot be saved. People have to understand that they are condemned, destined to be separated from God for eternity, and that each person must make a decision to believe in Jesus, accept His righteousness, and to be ready to face Him in judgment.
- The song: I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED, second verse: “I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing men of sin, revealing Jesus thru the word, creating faith in Him.” I agree that I don’t know all the ways the Spirit does this, but I do know He does it in partnership with us.
- Man’s partnership: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Rom.10:13-15) “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (10:17)
 - When the convicting work is combined with the preaching of the gospel, men are saved. Does the Spirit convict without the word being preached? I think not!
 - Sending, preaching, hearing, believing, and calling on the name of the Lord is a process leading to salvation. The Holy Spirit injects the truth serum into the person that brings about repentance. WHAT A GRAND PARTNERSHIP!
- The Sanctifying Work of the Holy Spirit
 - When Peter wrote his first letter to certain Christians he addresses them as those “who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood...” (1 Peter 1:2) What is the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit?
 - Sanctifying means to make men Holy. Makes sense that the Holy Spirit would be busy making men holy.
 - Notice Paul’s words in 1 Thess.4:3-8, It is God’s will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that **is holy** and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or

take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to **live a holy life.** 8

Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

- The instruction is given by men, i.e. Paul, but the rejection of it is to reject the Holy Spirit. See the partnership.

What is the point of this partnership? This is disciple-making. It begins with the convicting work of the Holy Spirit as the word of God is preached and continues as men and the Holy Spirit work together to bring new disciples to holiness. Discipleship is not merely making converts, but it is teaching them to obey what Jesus commands, becoming like Him in holiness and righteousness. Every Christians is in this business. Every Christian is a partner with Jesus and with the Holy Spirit.