

## Holy Spirit's Power

How much power does the Holy Spirit have? The Spirit has all the power of God because He is God. The life-giving power of the Spirit is seen at creation. We are told in Genesis 1:2 that the "Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters" and that God said, "Let us make man in Our likeness" (Genesis 1:26), demonstrating the equality of the God and the Spirit. We receive the POWER of the Holy Spirit the moment we receive Christ. Romans 8:11 says, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." Read also John 20:22-23.

**Power to Love and Witness** - What kind of power does the Holy Spirit give? Paul tells us two important things. The Spirit gives us the power to love others as God loves us and to be witnesses for Jesus. Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**Ask and Receive** - Where do we begin to access this power? We begin by asking God to fill us with His Spirit and confessing areas where we have ignored God. Jesus said, "how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11:13). Ask the Holy Spirit today to help you

love others as God does and be a great witness to Jesus in the world. You will begin to experience the abundant life God has for you as you do. Read Acts 4:31.

## Living in the Spirit

What kind of life do you want? Jesus makes a promise to us in John 10:10: "I come that they have life and have it to the full." We can claim that promise by living life in the Spirit. In the last lesson we learned that life is a battle between our sinful nature and our spiritual nature. Paul teaches us a great lesson in Galatians 6:7-8: "People harvest only what they plant. If they plant to satisfy their sinful selves, their sinful selves will bring them ruin. But if they plant to please the Spirit, they will receive eternal life from the Spirit." Think of yourself as a farmer and your life as a crop. What do you want to grow in your life? If we sow seeds of selfish desires, we grow a crop that reflects that. Read Romans

**Two Kinds of Lifestyles** - However, we can sow seeds according to the spirit and have a crop that produces wonderful, spiritual fruit. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Read also Ephesians 4:30 and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

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## Who is the Holy Spirit?

And what does He have to do with your life? You received the Spirit the moment you accepted Christ as your Saviour, and He will never leave you. Ephesians 1:13 says, "You were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise." Have you ever put a label on something to show others it is yours? When you became a Christian, God put a stamp on you, claiming you as redeemed and forgiven. That stamp is His own Spirit. And this Holy Spirit is your greatest friend and helper in life. He prays for you, helps you deal with the challenges of life, and is the power that transforms your life. Think of it this way: before we accepted Christ we were like a light bulb without electricity. But now, the Holy Spirit is the

**A New Life** - The Spirit gives you a whole new life. Jesus, in John 6:63, says, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." The Bible talks about being "born again." What that means is simply that

the Spirit has given you a fresh start and an entirely new nature to live differently. Galatians 2:20 says, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” It’s like a car that was constantly breaking down, and someone came and put in an entirely new engine. If you are a Christian, you already have the Holy Spirit living inside of you; now you just need to learn how to relate with Him and walk in the new life He has for you. Read on in the next lessons about what exactly the Holy Spirit does to change your life and how to receive His power and grace. Read Ephesians 1:13-14.

## Filled with the Spirit

We are given the gift of the Holy Spirit when we truly ask Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and to forgive our sins. But it is our choice whether we are truly filled, and controlled, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Think of it like this. You may have a King who comes to live in your house. You can ask him to live in a small room; or you can ask him to be in charge of the whole house. So you can have the Holy Spirit in your life but you can try to run your own life, or you can ask God the Holy Spirit to fill and control your entire life. Read Romans 8:2, 9.

**Ask to be Filled** - To ask the Holy Spirit to fill

and control and empower your life, and to fill you with God’s love and power, you can pray and ask in faith for God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Here is a sample prayer that you can pray. “Holy Father, thank You that You gave Your Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. I ask forgiveness for my sins and want You to be Lord over my life and to be in control. I give You control of my life and ask that you fill and control me with Your Holy Spirit. Please be in charge of my life every day and give me Your power to live a Christian life each and every day.” Read Galatians 5:16.

## Holy Spirit's Work

The Holy Spirit is your constant companion and helper. Have you ever been given a task that is too big for you? Living like Jesus is impossible for us on our own. But that’s why God gave us His own Spirit—to help us live as new people. Jesus said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26). As we saw in the last lesson, the Spirit is the stamp of God’s salvation and gives us new life. But He does a lot more. Let’s look at the things He does for you:

**The Spirit Teaches** - Do you ever wonder how to live the Christian life? 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching.” “Inspired by God” is a reference to the Holy Spirit who is the life-

giving breath of God. It’s like studying a book and having the author of the book there with you to help you through the hard-to-understand parts. Since the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, He will help you to understand it and give you new life as you read it. Read 1 Corinthians 2:11 and John 14:26.

**The Spirit Corrects** - 2 Timothy 3:16 also tells us another benefit of the Holy Spirit: He corrects us. “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching us how to live right.” As believers, we will experience the prompting of the Spirit in our lives when we do things that God does not want us to do. For example, sometimes we may not want to forgive someone for wronging us. The Spirit will keep reminding us of the importance of forgiving that person and how God has forgiven us.

**The Spirit Leads** - John 16:13 tells us, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” When you follow the leading of the Spirit, you follow God’s will for your life. Sometimes we resist the Spirit and do things of our own will and not God’s. To be self-willed only delays God’s blessing in our lives. Read John 14:16-17.