

How the Holy Spirit Works

The Holy Spirit, sent by God into this world, is the agency that God and the Lord Jesus Christ work through. The ministry of the Holy Spirit orchestrates and consummates the plan of God for this world. It was the Holy Spirit that came upon the Virgin Mary to conceive, and it was the Holy Spirit that did the miracle for Elizabeth and Her husband to conceive.

Luke 1:5-20; 24-38; 57-65: There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitudes of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until

the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue

loosed, and he spake, and praised God. And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

It was the Holy Spirit working throughout the book of Acts: Acts 2:1-4: **And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

Acts 10:44-48: **While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.**

Acts 19:1-7: **And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.**

What the Holy Spirit Does

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:16,17, 26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: John 15:26

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. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. John 16:7-14

When we intercede, the Holy Spirit is able to cause the impossible to become possible. He's able to lead us and guide us to be at the right place at the right time. He's the one Who orchestrates the spiritual connections. He wants to flow and have His liberty in all our church services, and He wants us to yield to Him. He's our teacher and our guide. He wants to teach us the Word.

The Holy Spirit Reveals Things to Come

Some people are going to know way ahead of time before something happens, and some people will know a moment before it happens. That is because the Holy Spirit can tell some people things, and they won't jump to conclusions or

say anything about it, or step out prematurely, until the time comes to do so. Others seemingly can't keep their mouth shut, so they're not going to know about something until it happens.

We just read an illustration of this in Luke 1:5-20; 24-38; 57-65. Apparently, Zechariah could have messed up the plan of God, so his mouth had to be sealed.

We all need to become more sensitive to the move of the Holy Spirit than ever before. Pay close attention to any prompting you get in your heart. If you sense that you're supposed to call someone, call them. Don't waste time wondering why you keep thinking about them. It's the Holy Spirit bringing someone to your attention.

Just say, 'God, I don't know what's going on, but I'm going to trust the Holy Spirit to help me pray for them. And, Father God, if there's anything else You want me to do, I thank You that the Holy Spirit reveals it to me.' Then begin praying for them after you quote Romans 8:26-28.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Intercede for the Lost

The ministry of the Holy Spirit needs you and me to intercede, fast and pray for others. So, be careful who you associate with, because you want to make sure that the people in your life are God-sent. Now is not the hour to be wasting time in fleshly and soulish relationships.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
Romans 8:14-16

There are things in our life that God is going to want us to turn away from, or lay aside so we can serve Him more effectively. We live in a selfish, self-centered nation today. Millions of people are trying to get something for themselves. But our top priority, as God's children, is to see what we can do for God, and to find out what He wants to be done.

The rapture is close; Jesus is coming soon, and we want to get as many people saved and into God's kingdom as we can. So, our top priority is reaching the lost for Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17: **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

Revelation 16:15: **Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

Revelation 22:12: **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

Through our prayers and intercessions, God can turn our country around. And He will, if we pay the prayer price. Remember, when we don't pray and intercede, it costs us dearly. Let's not permit ourselves to have a spirit of slothfulness or think, 'What good would it do for us to pray now?' (Job 21:14,15)

Jesus is interceding for the lost (Isaiah 53:12) and He needs us to join with Him. Intercessory prayer is a lot of work, and it needs to be done right now. God is depending on us today to get this job done. The Holy Spirit is yearning to move mightily in this world. Let's allow Him to move through us until we see the plan of God in full manifestation.

There's no greater joy than seeing one sinner come to Jesus. **I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Luke 15:7**

Gather up all the names of people you know who aren't saved, or who don't act saved, and start praying for their salvation, and God will send forth laborers into their lives (Matthew 9:37,38). Tell Satan, in Jesus' Name that he can't have them and that you've claimed them for God. God is looking today for intercessors. Let's let Him use us!

My grandmother told me when I was a little boy that the reason she was still on earth was to pray her children in to the Kingdom of God. My mother was one of those children. I was one of the grandchildren she prayed for to get saved. She prayed for years that her children would come to Jesus Christ.

She believed in paying the prayer price, and that it was up to her to intercede and pray. She wasn't expecting someone else to do her spiritual work for her.

She took it personally, and you and I need to do the same thing. Our main focus should not be on getting a new car, or a new house, or a new whatever.

Our main focus should be to pray people into the Kingdom of God. You'll never regret the time you put in prayer; it's the best spiritual investment you can make. So, make it your top priority to pray your loved ones through, and into the Kingdom of God.

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow. Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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