



THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN

By Thomas Lindberg

INTRODUCTION

Many people assume that all harmonicas are alike. Such is not the case. You can buy harmonicas in the keys of C, F, G, etc.

As there is variety in harmonicas, so the Holy Spirit has a multitude of ministries within every believer's life.

MESSAGE

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES US (TITUS 3:5)

Spiritual life begins when the Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus and we deposit our faith in Him as Savior.

Illustration: As a ferryboat was sinking in the English Channel, Andrew Parker stretched his 6-foot-3-inch body across the gap to a rescue boat. "Walk on my back to safety!" he shouted. Twenty people trusted Parker and were saved.

We are saved as the Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus and we trust Him.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT ASSURES US (ROMANS 8:16)

The Holy Spirit in the believer's life is more than head knowledge; He is also heart knowledge. The devil is an accuser (Revelation 12:10). When the devil flies at us with his false accusations, the Holy Spirit guarantees that we are secure in Christ.

Example: At his final trial, the apostle Paul stated everyone deserted him (2 Timothy 4:16); but then he significantly added, "The Lord stood with me, and strengthened (enedunamosen) me" (2 Timothy 4:17). That's the certain ministry of the Holy Spirit.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES US (1 PETER 1:2)

The believer appropriates sanctification by the Holy Spirit as he submits to divinely imparted power within, rather than struggling to conform to external rules. The Holy Spirit sanctifies as He sets the believer free from the law of sin and death and as He enables one to produce spiritual fruit (Romans 8:2).

This does not cancel the believer's responsibility, but it empowers him for opportunities for spiritual growth.

Illustration: A cook salts a roast on the outside. As it cooks, however, the salt permeates the entire roast.

So it is with the Holy Spirit — as we cooperate with Him our total life is permeated by His sanctifying power (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US (ACTS 10:19; 16:7)

The Holy Spirit's guidance particularly relates to areas of service for God. To be led by the Spirit, we ought to set aside dependence on self and look to God.

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Illustration: In a Scandinavian country a tourist was looking with dismay at a statue of Christ. A local resident asked what was wrong.

“I can’t see His face,” the tourist answered.

“To see His face you must kneel at His feet,” replied the local. So it is with God’s leading.

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTS US (1 JOHN 2:20)

The anointing of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to be more effective in work for God. The Bible teaches that all genuine believers have the anointing abiding in them (1 John 2:27). Keep it fresh and then use it.

CONCLUSION

A college diploma often reads, “We hereby confer upon this person all the rights and privileges appertaining to this degree.” The believer has all the rights and privileges of the Holy Spirit within him.

If we allow the Spirit to become a subject only for classroom discussion, we are asking for trouble. The Holy Spirit has a daily purpose in each life. Let us yield to Him.