

"He Will Guide You Into All Truth"



Among those functions is that of revealer of truth. The Spirit's presence within us enables us to understand and interpret God's Word. Jesus told His disciples that **"When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth"** (John 16:13). He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living. He is the ultimate guide,

going before, leading the way, removing obstructions, opening the understanding, and making all things plain and clear. He leads in the way we should go in all spiritual things. Without such a guide, we would be apt to fall into error. A crucial part of the truth He reveals is that Jesus is Who He said He is (John 15:26) **"When the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth Who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me..."** The Spirit convinces us of Christ's deity and incarnation, His being the Messiah, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, His exaltation at the right hand of God, and His role as the judge of all. He gives glory to Christ in all things; "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:14).

"He Is The Gift Giver"

Another one of the Holy Spirit's roles is that of gift-giver. First Corinthians 12 describes the spiritual gifts given to believers in order that we may function as the body of Christ on earth. All these gifts, both great and small, are given by the Spirit so that we may be His ambassadors to the world, showing forth His grace and glorifying Him.

"He Is The Fruit Giver"

The Spirit also functions as fruit-producer in our lives. When He indwells us, He begins the work of harvesting His fruit in our lives— **"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"** (Galatians 5:22-23). These are not works of our flesh, which is incapable of producing such fruit, but they are products of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

"He Taken Up Residence In Our Lives"

The knowledge that the Holy Spirit of God has taken up residence in our lives, that He performs all these miraculous functions, that He dwells with us forever, and that He will never leave or forsake us is cause for great joy and comfort. Thank God for this precious gift—the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives!



In the process of revealing His plan of salvation for mankind, God established His annual Holy Days around the harvest seasons in Israel (Leviticus 23:9-16 – 9; Exodus 23:14-16 14). Just as His people harvested their crops around these three festival seasons, God's Holy Days show us how He is harvesting people for eternal

life in His Kingdom. The Holy Days have meanings that build upon each other. Together they progressively reveal how God works with humanity. Earlier we saw **"Passover"** symbolizing Christ's giving of Himself for us so our sins could be forgiven and we could be redeemed from death. We also learned how the **"Days of Unleavened Bread"** teach us that we must remove and avoid sin and instead obey God in actions and attitudes. The next festival and Holy Day, **"Pentecost"**, builds on this important foundation.

"The Feast Of Harvest"

This festival is known by several names that derive from its meaning and timing. Also known as the **"Feast of Harvest"** (Exodus 23:16) **"And the Feast of Harvest, the first fruits of your labors, which you have sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when you have gathered in your labors out of the field."** (Exodus 23:16) It is also called the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22) **"And you shall observe the feast of weeks, of the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end."** With this name coming from the seven weeks plus one day (50 days in all) that are counted to determine when to celebrate this festival. Similarly, in the New Testament, which was written in Greek, this festival is known as Pentecost, which means "fiftieth." Among Jews the most popular name for this festival is the Feast of Weeks, or Shavuot, in Hebrew. When celebrating this festival, many Jewish people recall one of the greatest events in history, God's revealing of the law at Mount Sinai. But Pentecost doesn't just picture the giving of the law; it also shows—through a great miracle that occurred on the first Pentecost in the early Church—how we can persist in living by the spiritual intent of God's laws.

"The Gift Of Pentecost: The Holy Spirit"

God chose the first Pentecost after Jesus Christ's resurrection to pour out His Holy Spirit on 120 believers. (Acts 1:15) **"And in those days Peter stood up in the middle of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)**



"Now when the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house

where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). The speaking in various languages occurred as a crowd of people from many nations gathered in Jerusalem, with each visitor hearing the speech of the disciples in his own native tongue. These astounding events demonstrated the presence of the Holy Spirit. At first the people of Jerusalem who witnessed this miraculous phenomenon were astonished, with some attributing the proclamations of the Christians to drunkenness. (Acts 2:12-13) "And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What means this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. The apostle Peter, now filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly explained the event to the crowd as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:17) & (Joel 2:28) "And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

Peter explained how his listeners could also receive this Spirit: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39).

"The Birth Of The Church"



God used these miracles and Peter's preaching to add 3,000 people to His Church in one day. These converts were all baptized and received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:40-41) From this pivotal point, God's Spirit has been available to all who truly repent and are properly baptized. The Day or Feast of

Pentecost is an annual reminder that God poured out His Spirit to establish His Church, the group of believers who are led by His Spirit.

"Who Is The Holy Spirit "



We know Jesus and we know the Father but fewer know—really know—the Holy Spirit or have a relationship with Him in their daily lives. The truth is the Spirit of Truth—the Holy Spirit—will revolutionize our lives if we'll let Him. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the

Trinity. He is co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is not a mist, a cloud, or a strange feeling. He has feelings just like you and me. He can be grieved. He is sensitive and compassionate. He is powerful and mighty. He is the change agent on the earth—God in action in the world.

"The Greatest Gift To Mankind"

Of all the gifts given to mankind by God, there is none greater than the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has many functions, roles, and activities. First, He does a work in the hearts of all people everywhere. Jesus told the disciples that He would send the Spirit into the world to; "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." (John 16:7-11). Everyone has a "God consciousness," whether or not they admit it. The Spirit applies the truths of God to minds of men to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners. Responding to that conviction brings men to salvation.

"The Holy Spirit Seals Us"

Once we are saved and belong to God, the Spirit takes up residence in our hearts forever, sealing us with the confirming, certifying, and assuring pledge of our eternal state as His children. Jesus said He would send the Spirit to us to be our Helper, Comforter, and Guide. "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever" (John 14:16). The Greek word translated here "Counselor" means "one who is called alongside" and has the idea of someone who encourages and exhorts. The Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the hearts of believers (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 12:13). Jesus gave the Spirit as a "Compensation" for His absence, to perform the functions toward us which He would have done if He had remained personally with us.