

Belief #5 **The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts**

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity, fully God, who indwells every believer at salvation. He distributes spiritual gifts to the body of Christ — including gifts of tongues, prophecy, healing, wisdom, and others — for the building up of the Church. These gifts are active and needed today, and believers are commanded to eagerly desire them.

Reason 1 The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at salvation

At the moment of salvation, every believer receives the Holy Spirit as a permanent indwelling presence and seal. Paul declares that anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him — making the Spirit the very mark of being born again.

Romans 8:9

"You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

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1 Corinthians 3:16

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"

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Reason 2 The Holy Spirit teaches, guides, and leads believers into all truth

Jesus promised his disciples that the Holy Spirit would be their Counselor — teaching them all things, reminding them of everything Jesus said, and guiding them into all truth.

John 16:13

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

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John 14:26

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

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Reason 3 The Spirit produces fruit in the life of every believer

The Holy Spirit's presence in a believer's life produces visible transformation — the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22–23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

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Reason 4 The Spirit distributes gifts to every believer for the common good

Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit distributes a variety of gifts — wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues, and more — to each believer as he determines, for the building up of the whole body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:7–11

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge... to another gifts of healing... to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy... to another speaking in different kinds of tongues... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

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Reason 5 Gifts are given to build up the whole body of Christ

In Ephesians, Paul describes how Christ gave gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip the saints and build up the Church — making clear that spiritual gifts are not for personal glory but for the maturity and unity of the whole body.

Ephesians 4:11–12

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

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Romans 12:6–8

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

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Reason 6 Believers are urged to eagerly desire spiritual gifts

Paul commands the Corinthian church to earnestly desire spiritual gifts — especially prophecy. And he instructs believers not to forbid speaking in tongues, affirming that these gifts remain valid and valuable today.

1 Corinthians 14:1

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy."

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1 Corinthians 14:39

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."

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Reason 7 The Spirit intercedes for believers and helps in our weakness

One of the most comforting ministries of the Holy Spirit is his intercession on our behalf. When we do not know how to pray as we should, the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Romans 8:26–27

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

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Summary — Belief #5

- **The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at salvation** — Romans 8:9 and 1 Corinthians 3:16 make the Spirit the mark of belonging to Christ.
- **The Spirit teaches, guides, and leads into all truth** — John 16:13 and 14:26 show him as active Counselor and Teacher.
- **The Spirit produces fruit in the believer's life** — Galatians 5:22–23 lists the fruit as the overflow of a surrendered life.
- **The Spirit distributes gifts to every believer** — 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 lists the gifts and their divine source.
- **Gifts are given to build up the whole body of Christ** — Ephesians 4:11–12 and Romans 12:6–8 show gifts serving the Church.
- **Believers are urged to eagerly desire spiritual gifts** — 1 Corinthians 14:1 and 14:39 command pursuit of the gifts.
- **The Spirit intercedes for believers in our weakness** — Romans 8:26–27 shows him praying on our behalf before the Father.