

Why Do We Need the Holy Spirit?

2020-02-16

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“Why Do We Need the Holy Spirit” and, “What Does the Holy Spirit Do?”

As we continue to build on our understanding of the Holy Spirit, let us remember an important Scripture from Ephesians:

“**17** ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18**having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...”
(Ephesians 1:17-18)

The purpose of studying God’s Word, the Bible, is to give us God’s Spirit of understanding and give us a revelation to know Jesus better. We also learn more about God, the Father. Once we know God and the work that Jesus did on our behalf, we live with hope. We see God’s love in Jesus. We understand that all Believers will inherit riches beyond measure from God. God’s saints, all Believers, receive an inheritance of Eternal Life with Jesus in a New Heaven and New Earth!

With that in mind, is it only for me that I follow Jesus and receive His Spirit? Is it only to make myself a better person or do more good things that Jesus calls me to follow Him? Is there a greater purpose to receiving, and accepting, God’s call?

Answering those questions will also answer, “Why do we need the Holy Spirit?” and “What does the Holy Spirit do?” In reality, knowing Jesus will make me a “better” person and help me do “good” things but, there is also a much greater purpose.

So, why do we need the Holy Spirit of Jesus? In the Bible, we find many reasons for the Holy Spirit. At the beginning of the Book of Acts, Jesus told His follows to wait in Jerusalem to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Here, Jesus told us the primary reason:

Acts 1:8

8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit gives us power! We *receive* Power. Power in Greek is **δύναμις**, *dunamis*: It means miraculous power, might, strength, physical power, force, might, ability, efficacy, energy. That is a big meaning! One word in Greek takes almost a dozen words in English to fully explain.

But why do we need power? The verse continues to tell us the reason for this power from the Holy Spirit is to help us witness—Evangelism: We are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Again, Jesus told His followers:

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To be clear, Jerusalem was the Holy City of Israel, “Judea and Samaria” were the surrounding regions to the south and north, which represented both Jews and mixed cultures (like the “Good Samaritan”) and, “the end of the Earth” is everyone else.

In Greek, Witness is **μάρτυς**, *martus*: This means a witness; an eye- or ear-witness. In English, *martus* is the root for “martyr”. A “martyr” is one who dies for a cause. Like Stephen in Acts 7, we must be prepared to give our lives for Jesus. We are to tell people about Jesus (from the Bible). We are to explain what Jesus did to forgive our sins and give us Eternal Life, as written in God’s Word. People should hear and see how Jesus has made us into new creations. They should see our changed lives in following Jesus.

In some places in the world, even today, evangelism may cost our lives. Sadly, there are many countries that persecute and kill our Christian brothers and sisters: North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen, Iran, India, Syria, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, China, and many more. You can find a list of the persecuted church on www.OpenDoors.org (In Korean: <https://www.opendoors.or.kr/>)

We must evangelize because we believe and receive faith by the Holy Spirit, through *hearing* the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, from those who “witness” about Jesus. We do not “earn” faith. We can never be good enough to “deserve” the Holy Spirit. We cannot buy it or steal it. We cannot live off other’s Holy Spirit or faith. We must *each* receive the Holy Spirit and faith for *ourselves*, for God’s glory and purposes. We only receive faith by the Holy Spirit through *hearing* the Word of God. And, the primary purpose of God in Jesus Christ, is written in Acts 1:8 (above) and found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19:

“19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

So, “Why do we need the Holy Spirit?” and, “What does the Holy Spirit do?” We receive the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to **“Make Disciples of all nations”**. God’s Spirit gives us God’s power to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to the entire world! Though that is a big mission, we serve a bigger God. He gives us all that we need to carry out His Mission. This is not *our* mission but, it is *God’s Great Commission!* Thankfully, God also gives us His Holy Spirit and power to fulfill *His* calling.

Thanks be to God! May we be humble and faithful to do God’s work through His powerful Holy Spirit! Amen. **Let us pray...**