

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

John 17:7-15

1. Glorifies Jesus.

- John 16:14-15, 14:26

2. Guides us.

- John 16:13, 7-8, 3:17; 1 Corinthians 6:11

3. Gives.

- 1 Corinthians 2:12; Romans 8:26; John 15:26, 14:27

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West Valley Church
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Anything else we need for a BBQ? Next week there will be BBQ for families? I invite you to join us if you are in town next weekend?

We are in week 2 of a 3-part series on the Holy Spirit. Last week we saw how the Holy Spirit was active in creation and in our lives, but we seem to know so little about the Spirit.

He does so much in us and through us, and that is what we will discover more of today, what does the Holy Spirit do? Last week, we answered, who He is, and if you missed last week's sermon, it is online, as are many past sermons. To help us answer the question, what does he do? Let's turn to John 16, to read what Jesus told his disciples about the Holy Spirit.

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.

Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

"There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.' (John 16:7-15)

So one thing we can see, from this passage that we know the Holy Spirit does, He glorifies Jesus.

1. Glorifies Jesus.

The Holy Spirit reveals to us God's plan, He reveals to us, the message and life of Jesus. Just as Jesus glorified his father, by revealing him; so the Holy Spirit glorify Jesus, by revealing him.

Let me read verses 14-15 again. Jesus said this about the Holy Spirit:

“He will **glorify** me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” (John 16:14-15)

The Holy Spirit reminds us and makes known to us, what Jesus said. He points us back to Jesus and His example He lived for us. The Holy Spirit reveals what Jesus wants us to do. Sometimes the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus by revealing something new to us. When you read a Bible verse you have known or memorized before, but it suddenly makes sense in a different way, that is the Holy Spirit. It's God's presence revealing something new. It doesn't mean the Bible changed, or Jesus changed. It means you changed. You grew spiritually and the Holy Spirit spoke to you and revealed or taught you something new. I knew John 3:16 as a kid, but the Holy Spirit helped me see it totally different when my son Judah was born. Kind of like when you watch the Chosen, or movies based on Scripture. You watch a story acted out and it's a story you have heard and learned before. But watching it in a different way causes you to notice something different. And the Holy Spirit can use that to glorify Jesus and reveal to us something new about Him.

The Holy Spirit can also use a song. One you have heard before just speaks differently to you on a particular day, this can also be the Holy Spirit in you.

Remember, though, that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus. He reminds us, of what Jesus did and said, so if you think you are hearing the Holy Spirit, compare that to what Jesus said. The Holy Spirit isn't going to tell you something that goes against Jesus and how He lived.

As a kid I had a box of offering that I had saved up to give to the church. The money was going to be used to help missionaries start new churches. Well I probably had 20 dollars in change in the box, and one time I really wanted a quarter for sticky hand. I didn't have any quarters, but I knew where a bunch were. I asked my mom if I could have one from the offering for the missionaries, and of course, she said “no”. Well I thought I'd just pray and ask God if it's ok. Sometimes the Holy Spirit does speak in us. The problem is I didn't hear from the Holy Spirit, I heard or thought what I wanted. I prayed for a good five minutes, and I really tried to listen. I didn't realize then, that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus; and Jesus is not going to tell me to do something I shouldn't do; which means the Holy Spirit is not going to tell me to do something I shouldn't do. Well I took the quarter without my mom knowing, so I thought. A few days later she sees me playing with a sticky hand, and I was busted. She wasn't buying the “God said it was ok” line either. The Holy Spirit does speak to us in a lot of ways – other Godly people, our Bible, songs, in our prayer time, etc. We need to remember that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, so if you sense the Holy Spirit telling you to do something or stop doing something, compare it to what Jesus already said. The Holy Spirit comes alongside us, so that we can understand what Jesus' message to the world is, so what else did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit?

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy

Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. (John 14:26)

Last week we learned a little about the Greek word that gets translated most often as “advocate” - the Greek word is Paraclete. The most common English translation, for this is advocate, but it's also translated as comforter, consoler, helper, and counselor. The literal translation is “someone who is called to come alongside someone else”. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit, as our advocate, will be with us forever and He will teach us and will remind us of everything Jesus said.

While the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, He also guides us.

2. Guides us.

Going back to John 16:13a...

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13a)

The Holy Spirit is like a flashlight in the dark, you can't see in the dark, but his light guides us and shines light around us and revealing what's in the darkness around us. Sometimes we have sin and darkness in our heart, and the Holy Spirit brings light to reveal what we've done wrong, or how we need forgiveness. The Spirit convicts us so we can ask for forgiveness and be made clean and given a fresh start. In verses 7-8, we see more about what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do when it comes to conviction:

“Nevertheless, 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 when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” (John 16:7-8)

He guides us in convicting us of our sin, righteousness, and judgment. It's not our job to convict others, that is exactly what Jesus said the Spirit will do. It's our job to love others. The Holy Spirit convicts us so we can live like Jesus. So we can see others, the way Jesus sees them. The Holy Spirit doesn't convict us to condemn us, but to save us and cleanse us. Most people know John 3:16, but verse 17 is really important too:

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)

God convicts us, so He can save us from the pain and suffering that come with our sin and brokenness. Paul wrote about how the Holy Spirit guides us to freedom from the sin and brokenness in his first letter to the Corinthians. After listing off a bunch of evil and sins of others, Paul said:

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

The Holy Spirit guides us in a life of freedom, joy, hope, and transformation. And the

Holy Spirit is the agent of this transformation, also known as **sanctification**. As a believer walks obediently in the Spirit, setting their minds on things of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of a believer's heart to know God better, to strengthen them, and to fill them with the fullness of God.

The act of Sanctification is another way the Holy Spirit guides us. Sanctification comes initially, as God removes the guilt and defilement of our sin and establishes a loving relationship with him. This happens when we choose to follow Jesus. This is the beginning point of our salvation, our initial sanctification. When we begin a new life following Jesus, the relationship grows but eventually, the tendency for people to want their own way reemerges. Like tug-of-war. We want to follow God but not enough to entirely give up some of our past. It's common for Christians to want to please God but also want to do something that displeases Him. God knows about the struggles that we have, so the Holy Spirit guides us through entire sanctification. Entire sanctification is God's gift to us that enables us to be fully or entirely devoted to him in love. Entire Sanctification doesn't make us perfect, but it does make a difference in the way we look at everything. We try to see things and people through God's eyes and try to show love to God and others in everything we say, and do. If we still do something that does not honor Jesus, the Holy Spirit convicts us and helps us realize our errors so we can repent of them.

Sanctification is how we glorify Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Jesus. God gives us the Holy Spirit so we can resist the tug-of-war and be fully committed to him. I have one other point, but before that, will you let me pray for our church family?

Prayer

For those playing tug of war? Sanctification and those wanting to be entirely devoted. To see things and people through God's eyes and try to show love to God and others in everything. Another thing the Holy Spirit does, is the Holy Spirit gives.

3. Gives.

When we need grace, the Holy Spirit gives us grace. When we need love, the Holy Spirit gives us love. The Holy Spirit gives us power, and knowledge and lots of gifts, but there's so much we just don't understand about God. So the Holy Spirit guides us to see and understand all that God has given us. Paul told the Corinthians the same thing:

And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. (1Corinthians 2:12)

Sometimes, the Holy Spirit gives us strength, that's where I am this week: I have a baby not sleeping and I'm running on energy drinks and peanut M&Ms. Yesterday was our final day of Upward Soccer games and we have our final Upward Soccer BBQ today and

tomorrow. It's not too late to help as we welcome about 1300 people into the building and celebrate a great season. A team of people right now are barbequing 300 pounds of beef so we can assemble roast beef sandwiches today at 4pm. This event is one last impression we get to make on the families involved in soccer. So if you'd like to help serve food, greet families, let kids jump on an inflatable, stop by the Ministry Center after the service to sign up. The Holy Spirit is giving me strength in my weakness, he'll do it for you too. The Holy Spirit also gives us knowledge in what to do. Paul told the Romans:

"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." (Romans 8:26)

Have you ever prayed but you just weren't sure how to pray? Some of you know Alyssa and I are foster parents, and so we have had kids in our home come and go. Our hope was that we would get to adopt more children through foster care, and so far, it hasn't happened. We had one girl almost 2 years and we thought she was going to stay with us. Then her dad turned things around, and she went back home. I wanted her to stay with us, but I also wanted her family to succeed and do well caring for her. So when we aren't quite sure how to pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes and guides us in how to pray, and in seeing others the way He sees them.

Another thing the Holy Spirit gives is peace. Not the type of peace that comes from a nap, or a good night's sleep, although that is nice. Think of the most peaceful situation you can think of – that doesn't even compare to the kind of peace the Holy Spirit gives us. Jesus told his disciples about this peace the Holy Spirit would give in John 14:27...

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:27)

I'm not sure what the disciples would've done to find peace, but Jesus was telling them that the kind of peace the Spirit would bring is unlike anything they could find anywhere else. The disciples didn't know what to expect when Jesus would be gone. Jesus was trying to comfort them and tell them they didn't need to be afraid because they'd have the Holy Spirit.

Because we have an advocate, the Holy Spirit, comes alongside us, guiding us and giving us what we need, we can live without fear too. 2 Timothy 1:7 says:

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, **love**, and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

Easier said than done, I know. But God gives us the Holy Spirit so we can have power, love, and self-discipline to not worry, to not be afraid, and to not give in to what we know is wrong. The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us to be entirely devoted to Him so we can see and love all others the way God does. So let's do it.

Prayer

Benediction:

Paul's letter to the Colossians can be our prayer too.

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father.... (Colossians 1:9b-12)

God bless you as you go today and please let me know if you are interested in being part of the Upward Soccer BBQ today. May the Holy Spirit guide you and give you what you need so that in your words and actions, you can glorify Jesus every day.