

6.7.2026 Participation with the Holy Spirit

The New Testament reveals the Holy Spirit's work across multiple dimensions—from the foundational event at Pentecost through the ongoing transformation of believers and the church's mission.

The Spirit's Arrival and Empowerment

At Pentecost, the Spirit arrived with visible signs—a sound like a rushing wind and divided tongues like fire—filling all present and enabling them to speak in other languages

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:1–4, ESV)**

This wasn't merely a private experience; the Spirit equipped believers with power to witness about Christ from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth

“But 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, ESV)**

When the early church faced opposition, they prayed and were filled with the Spirit again, speaking God's word with boldness

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” **(Acts 4:31, ESV)**

The Spirit's Role in Salvation and Identity

The Spirit's work extends into the deepest dimensions of Christian existence. Believers receive the Spirit as a gift through repentance and baptism in Christ's name

“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **(Acts 2:38, ESV)**

The Spirit leads God's children, replacing fear with adoption into God's family, and testifies alongside believers' spirits that they belong to God

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”
(Romans 8:14–16, ESV)

The Spirit seals believers as God's possession, serving as a guarantee of their future inheritance

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” **(Ephesians 1:13–14, ESV)**

The Spirit's Ongoing Ministry

The Spirit teaches believers all things and brings Christ's words to remembrance

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” **(John 14:26, ESV)**

“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: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” **(John 16:7–15, ESV)**

The Spirit strengthens believers in weakness, interceding for them with groanings too deep for words when they don't know how to pray

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” **(Romans 8:26–27, ESV)**

The Spirit distributes various gifts—wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues—to each believer individually as the Spirit determines

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” **(1 Corinthians 12:4–11, ESV)**

The Spirit's Transformative Power

The fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—demonstrates the Spirit's character-forming work

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

(Galatians 5:22–23, ESV)

). Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom, and believers are transformed into Christ's image from glory to glory

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

(2 Corinthians 3:17–18, ESV)

The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead gives life to believers' mortal bodies

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

(Romans 8:9–11, ESV)

The Spirit's Direction of the Church

The Spirit directs missionary work, calling out workers and sending them on gospel missions

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” **(Acts 13:2–4, ESV)**

The Spirit falls on both Jewish and Gentile believers, demonstrating that salvation extends to all people

“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,” **(Acts 10:44–46, ESV)**

Application

Are You a good Teammate?

Have a conversation with your cornerman about these past three weeks. Now that you know you're empowered by God's Holy Spirit to be transformed to look more like Jesus. Have you spent time in your walk with God listening and being moved by the Holy Spirit? Amen.