



The Spirit and I

The Holy Spirit is the most underappreciated and often most understood person of the Trinity. Yet He is extremely involved in both creation and the day-to-day life of the believer. The Holy Spirit is the person of the trinity who indwells us, empowers us, and is directly involved in redeeming us.

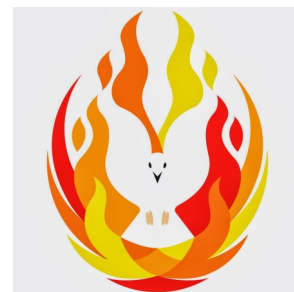
To invoke the power of the Holy Spirit, a believer must understand the relationship that exists between the Spirit and the self. We are commanded to *walk by the Spirit* (Gal 5.16), *put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit* (1 Cor 12.3), to *worship by the Spirit* (Phil 3.3).

Here is where the will of man meets the sovereignty of God; that we are responsible for the choices we make but also completely dependant on God to bring those choices to life by the Spirit. Previously our choices brought death, even our good deeds were as filthy rags before God, yet now as we live in the Spirit, our deeds are sanctified to God, made holy by the Spirit.

The Spirit of God is not some force outside of ourselves that we manipulate, bend to our will, or even have any control over. Instead the Spirit is the one who bends us to the will of God. We are to

be *filled by the Spirit* (Eph 5.18), *renewed* (Ti 3.5), *taught* (Jude 1.20), *sealed* (Eph 1.13), *empowered* (Acts 1.8), and so much more. In these cases, the Spirit does not perform the will of man, but the will of God through man, His agents.

When we say that we must rely on God, that He will empower us, and meet our needs, that He will guide us *Cont on next page*—>



Holy Spirit—Prayer Focus, May 20th

Please visit www.persecution.com for more info from Voice of the Martyrs

We pray for the Spirit to work in our lives. That we would humble ourselves to the will of God and allow the Spirit to direct our steps instead of our own desires.

We pray for the Spirit to continue to work in the world in mighty ways. To

help convict peoples hearts of their sin in order to bring them into the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord.

That we would not grieve the Spirit by quieting the truth He reveals in our lives, but instead read the Word of God with diligence and con-

viction that our hearts may be changed.

That the Spirit would continue to move within our congregation and bring to life the works that we perform in the name of God.

VBS Meeting Notes

- Chose the theme "Cowabunga Farm"
- Assigning job positions
- Seeking more volunteers in any capacity. decorating, crafts, & general help; please see Lynn Duffey

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER; MAY 5TH @ 7PM

"In Jesus name..." More than just punctuating the closing of a prayer or informing us when the Amen is coming up, why do we pray "in Jesus name?" Let it not be a magical incantation nor a repetitive intonation that we utter with no heart. It is a recognition of our position: we come humbly before God, not in our own name nor by our own power, but in the name and authority, in the accomplishments and power of Jesus Christ. The authority of Christ is the authority given to him who humbled himself to such a great extent, even death on a cross, that he was raised up to the highest of places, to sit at the right hand of God and intercede on behalf of the saints. So let us pray, for this nation, in Jesus' name.



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*To know Him
and to make Him known*

**Don't forget to visit us on the web @
www.firstbaptisttuion.org**

Women's Bible Study

The Gospel of John is not only the first book we suggest to people who are trying to read the Bible for the first time, it is also the first book that Greek learners will be directed to translate. It contains the simplest language structures and uses many of the same words in different contexts. This simple language enables John to fill his Gospel with deep meaning and word-play. The Women's Bible Study is now in the book of John, studying the 7 signs that Jesus performs in the entire book. Do not miss out on this powerful book as the women study the 7 signs of Christ in the Gospel of John

GOD B'WYE KEVIN AND MARGIE

Goodbye is a strange phrase that we speak multiple times day. What are we trying to say? "It's good that you're leaving?" or "I hope this goes good with you while you are gone?" Words change with time and usage, they are manipulated by use or misuses. Awful used to mean "worthy of awe" instead of today's meaning of unpleasant or horrible. Goodbye formed over time as a simplified version of "God be with ye". Written in short-hand as "God b'wye" or as we read it today "goodbye". We do not enjoy the idea in itself of Kevin and Margie leaving us, but we know that they go to fulfill the call of God on their lives. They go to work on the mission field of Ecuador where the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. They go with God and so we send them off not with a goodbye, see you later, hope everything works out. But we send them off with "May God be with you". May he guard you and watch over you. May He be your shield and fortress. As you minister to others, may God minister to you. As you serve God, may the Servant minister to your needs. May you go with God and may God be with you.

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by
whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

~Ephesians 4.30

The Spirit and I (cont.)

in His will; this is all the work of the Holy Spirit, and the responsibility of man is to yield.

The ministry of Jesus Christ was accomplished by His obedience to God the Father and His dependency on God the Spirit. Yielding himself to God.

How do we depend on the Spirit? We do so by trusting in the words of Jesus, trusting the Father to provide His Spirit, and trusting in the Spirit for direction. Dependency not in our own faculties (what I see, what I hear, what I understand), but depending on God to reveal the truth. The Spirit is not one to be directed, but to be depended upon.

We depend on the Spirit when we follow God's word, even when our own spirit is unwilling., we follow We depend on the Spirit when we yield to the Spirit.



When we talk about dependency on God, we are speaking also of dependency on the Holy Spirit. He is the one who redeems us, He is the one who indwells us, He is the one who inspires us. It is the Spirit of God who is directly involved in the life of the believer in his normal life activities. It is the Spirit of God that interprets for us the Word of God and interprets our prayers to God.

Let us put to death the deeds of the body, let us not get drunk on wine and the desires of the flesh. Instead let us be filled with the Spirit of God. Let us humble ourselves in obedience to the Father.

IHS, Pastor Anthony Rodriguez