

The Role of the Holy Spirit

Week 3 of a 15 week series on the Holy Spirit.

Purpose of the Holy Spirit Series:

- To better understand and acknowledge the person and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- To become more dependent on the Holy Spirit in our lives
- To be more attuned and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- To experience more of His presence in our lives
- And as a result of the above, that we will bear more fruit of the Spirit; begin to see Jesus more clearly; and begin to see the Father more glorified in our lives than ever before

Today we will be examining **THE ROLE** of the Holy Spirit—what He does.

Our text today is John 14:12-18...

John 14:12-18 (CSB)

“Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

Last week Zak spoke about the PERSON of the Holy Spirit.

- He taught that God is ONE God, but He expresses Himself as THREE distinct “individuals”

God is a TRIUNE God—Father, Son Spirit.

The individual members of the Trinity have separate rolls, but they also overlap.

Today we are looking specifically at the roll of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in the World.

The Role of the Holy Spirit

1. **Function: How Does the Spirit Work?**
2. **Objective: What are the Spirit's goals?**
3. **Motivation: Why Does the Spirit Do What He Does?**

The Bible lists many, many things—DOZENS of things—that the Holy Spirit does.

But we can put this huge list into just two general things:

What is the Spirit's Role?

- He manifests the presence of the living God.
- He applies the work of God to everything He encounters.

The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, and He is working in tandem with the Father and with Jesus. **And everything He does brings us closer to God and makes God more obvious.**

First, we see the Spirit **MANIFESTING** the presence of God in the account of Creation:

Genesis 1:1-2 (CSB)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

What is the Spirit doing there?

The Holy Spirit was there at creation MANIFESTING THE PRESENCE OF GOD upon this new work.

We see the Spirit manifesting the presence of God in salvation as well.

This is a work of God to re-create fallen men and women into His image.

We will see the Spirit manifest God's presence in the "renewal of all things"...

- The Spirit will be amongst the Church whispering and calling us to "COME TO ME"

The Trinity—Father, Son and Spirit—are JOYFULLY working together in all things as ONE.

The Spirit's work in this is to:

- Manifest the presence of God.
- Apply the work of God to God's people.

The Holy Spirit works both ON us and IN us.

- ON us by manifesting God's presence to us.
- IN us by empowering us to follow Jesus and become more like Jesus.

1. FUNCTION: How does the Spirit work?

How does the Holy Spirit work ON a person?

- We see this every time a person is saved and repents and becomes a new person.
- We see this throughout the Bible as people repent of their sin and turn toward God.

This is a supernatural work of God!

The Holy Spirit works to change the hearts of people to follow God.

- This is not simply a point of decision for a person when they stand up at an altar call.
- This is not just raising a hand or praying a prayer or coming to church.

The role of the Holy Spirit ON a person is a work that CHANGES that person.

- Spiritual blindness is SUPERNATURALLY healed and the person KNOWS God.
- Spiritually dead lives are given LIFE and COME ALIVE.

It is the role of the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into spiritually dead people.

I was once dead, but today I am alive!

This work of regeneration is the the Holy Spirit moving upon me and bringing me to life.

I am SO THANKFUL for this work of the Holy Spirit in my life... but He doesn't stop there.

- The Holy Spirit doesn't just work ON me—He wants to roll up His sleeves and get dirty.
- The Holy Spirit wants to dig in and do deeper and deeper works in us.

The Apostles describe this deeper work as a work "within" or as an "indwelling".

- **The Spirit doesn't simply want to move on you, He wants to invade.**

The Apostle Paul describes this invasion of the Spirit in this way:

Romans 8:11 (CSB)

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

Sometimes I wonder why God even bothers with me.

- Why does God bother dealing with people that are SO selfish and SO difficult?
- Why does God have such a passionate interest in me?
- Does saving us and walking with us REALLY stir God's heart with affection? REALLY??
- **What is in it for God?—What do you think God's mission statement is?**

Some people might answer that God's plan is to save sinners.

- Yes, God does this, but this isn't the end goal...

If saving sinners is God's mission statement, then what do we do with Genesis 1 & 2?

- We see God pursuing relationship with SINLESS PEOPLE.

God has a deeper plan than to just fix broken people.

- **You are NOT a broken object for God to fix, you are a child for Him to love!**

- YES, God has demonstrated His love for us by sending His son Jesus to die for our salvation...
- YES, God has moved and acted in ways to save us and restore us...

But this isn't the end goal—this is a step on the path to God's goal.

- Ephesians 3:11 Paul references an “eternal purpose” that God has.

God's “big plan” is like a tapestry—it is only discernible when all the details are seen together.

We glimpse God's eternal plan as we study themes that are woven throughout the Bible.

What is this eternal plan? What is God's Mission Statement?—TO INDWELL!

From beginning to end, the Bible shows us that God desires to DWELL—INDWELL.

- In Genesis we see God dwell in a garden
- From there God creates humanity to indwell
- At the end of Genesis we see God MOVE IN and DWELL WITH Abraham's family.
- As this family grows into the nation of Israel, God then dwells in a special way with a nation.
- He dwells with this nation through judges
- He dwells with this nation through kings.
- He dwells with them through priests.
- Later they build a portable tabernacle to take with them and God dwells there.
- Then they settle in a land and build a temple and God dwells there.
- In the New Testament we see a COMPLETE shift as God steps onto earth as Jesus.

John 1:14 (CSB)

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- In Colossians, Paul said that God was well-pleased to dwell in Jesus in bodily form.
- Jesus dies as a sacrifice on a cross and rises from the dead into heaven and God does something RADICAL...
- God establishes an organic collection of people—the Church—for His Spirit to now dwell.

God's eternal plan and purpose is to dwell in and among His people—the Church.

God desires to indwell us.

- We are God's masterpiece—His joyful pursuit.
- You are the object of God's affections and passions.

God is THRILLED to share Himself by indwelling people!

This is what the Apostle Paul is talking about in Ephesians 1:

Ephesians 1:22-23 (CSB)

And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Ephesians 2:21-22 (CSB)

In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

You exist so that God can dwell in you and with you, and you in Him.

The function of the Holy Spirit is to cultivate this dwelling-place for God.

- The Spirit leads people to Jesus where we find salvation and Hope.
- The Spirit convicts us of sin and of Jesus' incredible offer of salvation.
- The Spirit leads us into truth and gives us power to walk in this salvation.
- The Spirit remains in us as our counselor and constant companion.
- The Spirit empowers us to walk in power and strength as children of God.

2. Objective: What are the Spirit's goals?

Spirit has 3 objectives as He works in us—Nothing is arbitrary—He does all things for these reasons:

The Holy Spirit's 3 Goals:

- **Objective #1: To Exalt Jesus**
- **Objective #2: To Set People Apart for God and His Purposes**
- **Objective #3: To Engage Us in Mission**

Objective #1 – To Exalt Jesus

- Everything the Holy Spirit does is for the exaltation of Jesus Christ.
- To exalt and lift up and display magnify and boast about the person and work of Jesus.

John 16:13-14 (CSB)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

The Spirit is all about glorifying JESUS.

- Notice the Spirit is not all about glorifying himself.
- If the Spirit is all about the person and work of Jesus, and if we are a people who walk by the Spirit, then we ought to be a people who are all about the person and work of Jesus.

So, if we have a theology or a manner of living or a doctrine that makes a lot of the Holy Spirit...then this Holy Spirit obsession should lead us to more of Jesus in our lives.

- If we are obsessed with the Holy Spirit but are NOT focusing more and more of our life and worship and our vocabulary on Jesus, then we have taken a wrong turn somewhere.

There is no place in scripture where the Spirit makes much of Himself—AND HE COULD!

- He was present at creation
- He is the one bringing dead people to life, spiritually.
- He is the one who brings Jesus to life at the resurrection.
- He is the one who inspired men to write scripture.

The Holy Spirit is a BIG DEAL, yet he never boasts about Himself.

- **WHY?—The Holy Spirit is all about the person and work of Jesus**

So much so that Jesus says this about the Spirit in Acts 1:

Acts 1:8 (CSB)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

What happens when the Spirit comes upon a person?

- The power of the Holy Spirit manifests itself in a person through **BOASTING IN JESUS**.

When the Holy Spirit is at work in and among people, Jesus gets more and more recognition.

- When the Holy Spirit is moving at a church, Jesus is being put on full display as lord and king.
- When a church is rightly aligned with the Holy Spirit, they will also be rightly aligned with the person and work of Jesus.

This plays out in scripture too—Holy Spirit inspired scripture—Jesus is the uncontested hero!

- The whole book written by the Holy Spirit is about Jesus!

Remember the disciples dismay following Jesus' crucifixion...walking along...

Luke 24: 25-27 (CSB)

He said to them, "How foolish and slow you are to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

Jesus walked these men through the entire OT to show them that Jesus was the messiah.

- Every page tells the story!

The Holy Spirit inspired a book that obsessively details the Lordship and Kingship of Jesus.

How can we know when the Spirit is leading and reigning? Jesus and ONLY Jesus is exalted!

Everything the Spirit does brings glory to Jesus.

Paul was inspired by the Spirit to explain it this way:

Ephesians 3: 16-17 (CSB)

I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Again we see the Spirit's emphasis on Jesus' glory in all He does.

"I do not honestly believe that a new Spirit-centeredness is what our churches need. I do believe, however, that the Spirit's sign, desire, and work is that we be overcome again, thrilled

again, excited, impressed and gripped again by the wonder, the majesty, the earthiness, and the relevance of Jesus and His Word to our world.” – Fredrick Dale Bruner

The Holy Spirit delights to put Jesus on a pedestal.

- As we grow to walk in the Spirit more, we too will delight more and more in putting Jesus on a pedestal.

The Spirit doesn't JUST give us more of Jesus, the 2nd thing the Spirit does is...

Objective #2: To Set People Apart for God and His Purposes

The Spirit unites us to Jesus Christ and teaches us to enjoy Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 (CSB)

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

There is a very real sense that Jesus is unified with us & we're identified with Him by the Spirit.

This does 2 things in us

1. This breaks the power that sin had over us in our old life.
2. This causes us to ENJOY JESUS.

The Spirit both takes the power of sin away and then fills that empty spot with a love for Jesus

This is exactly what happened in my life.

- I did not choose to follow Jesus because someone told me how bad sin was...
- I knew sin was bad!
- I tried to change, but I'd give up one sin and find myself in another...
- Sin was an idol with REAL POWER over me!

**The only way this idol of sin was conquered was when a greater authority usurped it's authority.

The Holy Spirit did this in me—He gave me eyes and a heart to see and worship Jesus!

This is what the Apostle Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 3:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (CSB)

We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to:

- Unveil our faces.
- Look upon Jesus
- To be transformed

But the Holy Spirit doesn't just get rid of your desire to sin—He replaces it with a desire for God's holiness!

- So, if you have the Holy Spirit you will notice a love for Jesus and a love for holiness in you.

The Spirit will exalt Christ in you.

The Spirit will give you a desire to pursue God and the things of God

Objective #3: To Engage Us in Mission

It would be easy for us in the US to be self-focused as we pursue the Spirit.

- We exalt Christ and we focus on growing and growing...

Mission keeps us from being too inward-focused.

- The Spirit fills us up with Jesus and His joy and then causes us to EXPLODE into the world.

This is what we see in the book of Acts.

NOT “The Acts of the Apostles” – It SHOULD be “The Acts of The Holy Spirit”

- Acts records the mission of God’s Spirit to invade the entire world as never seen before.

Jesus explains this missional drive in Acts 1:

Acts 1:8 (CSB)

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Jesus is now explaining to them HOW they are to go...

- They are to go IN POWER
- They are to go WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THEM
- They are to go TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Jesus had already told them WHERE to go in Matthew 28—“all the nations”

- Not political nations.
- This refers to all peoples—or all people groups.

There are still nearly 7,000 unreached people groups.

This refers to people who have never heard about Jesus at all.

These 7,000 people groups make up 40% of the world’s population.

- That is nearly 3 billion people!

These are people who will live and die without ever hearing about Jesus in their entire people group.

- **Hence Paul’s words in Romans 10—“How will they hear if people are not sent?”**

It must be a goal of ours as we study and give ourselves to more of the Holy Spirit in our life and Church:

- That many among us would be filled with the Spirit and GO to the nations.
- I hope some of you will be sent.
- Many have been sent and others are preparing to go.
- I’m praying for MORE to go.

The older I get the more I like my living room.

- If I’m not very careful it can be hard to get me OUT of my livingroom!

We must be very careful to not let our roots go down too deeply into comfort and financial security or we may never GO when called.

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

This is a good reason for us to seek the Holy Spirit this summer:

- So we can WAKE UP from the sleepy comfort and the secondary pursuits of our culture.

Perhaps some of you will go to the nations, but we are all called to live on mission where we are right now!

It is easy to get hung up on “Missions” as only being a radical overseas thing...

Listen to Paul LIBERATE us to serve on-mission right now:

1 Corinthians 7:20 (CSB) Let each of you remain in the situation in which he was called.

This means that God has sent you to the place where you are right now to walk in the Spirit RIGHT NOW.

You live, work, go to school, shop, hang out right where God is leading you to EXALT JESUS!

Some of us are discouraged by the “ordinary” things we spend our lives doing...

- Working a job, Being a mom or dad, Affording a home

It's easy to become frustrated & feel stuck in an “ordinary” life wishing for the extraordinary.

- Don't obsess on the extraordinary things you wish you were doing...
- Get caught up in the extraordinary work of the Spirit on the very ordinary life you lead right now.

What is extraordinary is where God calls you—regardless of how ordinary that may seem.

“Whatever you are, be a good one.”—Abraham Lincoln

Perhaps God is calling you to be normal so that He can work supernaturally through you.

- We hear many people read radical passages relating to Christians living missionary...
- Let's look at a lesser-read passage relating to mission:

1 Thessalonians 4:10b-12 (CSB)

But we encourage you, brothers and sisters, to do this even more, to seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, so that you may behave properly in the presence of outsiders and not be dependent on anyone.

That's a call to mission for the ordinary!

The Holy Spirit wants to glorify Jesus through ORDINARY people too!

Lead a quiet life. Mind your own business. Work hard. Grow in holiness. Don't live in debt.

- Simple wisdom that the Holy Spirit will bless and use supernaturally!

It is the Holy Spirit who manifests the presence of the living God.

He applies the work of God to everything He encounters.

- We don't rely on our ability to communicate perfectly or even well.
- We don't rely on our theology or doctrine being 100% perfect in all things.

Listen, you may live an ordinary life, perhaps...

...but God will use your life to show Himself EXTRAORDINARILY to the world in which you live.

“The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important.”—Martin Luther King, Jr.

A “quality” life is a life lived in submission to the will and work of God.

- Right now the Holy Spirit is at work!
- He is convicting the world of sin and is working to convince the world of the magnificence of Jesus.

This means the Holy Spirit is at work in your friends right now.

- Your neighbors, co-workers, employees, fellow students...
- The Holy Spirit is at work in your family RIGHT NOW.

Our invitation to submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in us and around us is simply an invitation for us to participate in what the Holy Spirit is ALREADY DOING in the world around us.

- Right where you are—submit your life to Jesus.
- Right where you are—join the Holy Spirit as He reaches the people around you.
- **He's at work RIGHT NOW... at your job...at your home...in your school...**

Each of us is given the opportunity to respond and participate in the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in the world.

- Some of us will GO to partner in that work.
- Some of us will STAY and partner in that work.
- **The right question for us today is not “Where is God calling me to go?”**
- **The right question is, “Am I willing to submit my life to the work of the Spirit RIGHT NOW?”**

The Holy Spirit is AT WORK—God is ON MISSION!

So WHY does the Holy Spirit do what He does??...

3. Motivation: Why Does the Spirit Do What He Does?

The desire behind God’s mission and the work of the Spirit is simple:

God desires to share Himself.

- He created the world so He could dwell upon it.
- He created people so He could share His joy with us.
- When humanity rejected God, He won them back.
- He has brought His people together and He has poured Himself out on them.
- There is coming a day when God will bring all things together in subjection to Jesus.

Our response to this simple desire is powerful:

“The Father so enjoyed loving the Son that He wanted His love to be in others... the Son went to the cross because He so loved the Father and wanted that love to be shared and enjoyed. The Spirit catches us up to share their pleasure, and it is that delight in them that fuels us to want to make them known.” — Michael Reeves

Can you see what is going on?

As the Holy Spirit tries to give us a greater view of Jesus, he:

- Grows within us the desire for intimacy with God
- He grows within us the desire for holiness
- He grows within us the desire to share God’s love for us with others

The the work of the Holy Spirit is to give us a taste of the love that the Father, Son and Spirit share with one another.

- The Holy Spirit gives us a taste of the approval, satisfaction, trust, acceptance, joy and SHEER PLEASURE that God has with His own son!

The Spirit is pulling us in to experience the intimacy and love and joy that He Himself has experienced for all of eternity!

- The Spirit causes us to feel the “divine dance” between Father, Son & Spirit.
- The Spirit invites us to get caught up in the RADICAL love that He has known through eternity.

In Romans, Paul says the Holy Spirit is a gift to God’s people.

- Indeed, The Holy Spirit is an unexplainably extravagant gift.
- And what He does is vital and crucial to how we live and function and for anything to go right.
- And that we are in serious error if we neglect or ignore Him or do anything apart from Him!

We cannot do anything worthwhile apart from the Spirit.

Yes, we could get by and spin our wheels in religion or routine or intellectual teaching as a church...

- But, we cannot participate in the plans or purposes of God apart from His Spirit.
- We cannot glorify Christ and bear true spiritual fruit apart from the Holy Spirit.
- We cannot find rest or joy or satisfaction in our identity apart from the Spirit.

And we will NEVER see a move of God like we see in the early Church if we are not IN the Spirit!

We need the Holy Spirit to come upon and work within us so we can join Him in:

- exalting Jesus, pursuing holiness & receiving God's call and power for mission

In short, it is the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to enjoy intimacy with Jesus and help us share His love with others.

The Holy Spirit is at work all around you—desiring to work ON you and IN you!

- Let's cry out to God to pour His Spirit out upon us and to indwell us...
- Let's ask God to lead us into the insane love that the Father shares with the Son and the Spirit!

—PRAYER—

Father, pour out your Spirit upon us—your Church—today!!

Spirit, unveil our faces and help us to see Jesus.

Help us to step into the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

- As we experience and walk in this love, let our identities be wholly found in Christ!
- As our identity shifts, Spirit, shift our desires to be in line with your desires!
- As our desires shift, Holy Spirit, SEND US OUT to bear witness to this incredible Love!

We are desperate for you, Holy Spirit.

- Give us a willingness to respond to your work my life.
- EMPOWER our lives so we BOLDLY live for Jesus RIGHT HERE—RIGHT NOW.