

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Part I)

God dwells in us. We are the temple—the dwelling place—of God in this world. This is an amazing truth which, because we so poorly understand it and its implications, constrains the real power we have to do God’s work in our world. Among Jesus’ very last words to us on earth were these from Acts 1: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...” Because of recent theological differences within the church about the Holy Spirit and His work and role, we can become fearful about appropriating His power in our lives. We need to understand the Holy Spirit Biblically and live in and do God’s work through His power.

BRBC Doctrinal Statement on The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is God, a person of the Trinity fully possessing all the attributes of God. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living for service. Every believer is baptized with, sealed by, filled with, and given gifts by the Holy Spirit at salvation, although we may quench the Holy Spirit by disobedience subsequent to salvation. The Holy Spirit continues to fill us in relation to our obedience to God, empowers us towards wise living, gives us the ability to understand God’s Word, serves as a constant reminder that we are the children of God, prays for us in our weakness, and gives us guidance to live in holiness. We believe that speaking in tongues is not now nor ever was the common or necessary sign of the baptism or of the filling of the Holy Spirit. No supposed gift of the Holy Spirit enables man to receive revelations which supersede or equal the written Word of God, although we do believe that the Holy Spirit enables believers to discover God’s individual will and direction for each person’s life.

- I. The Holy Spirit’s deity
 - a. He has intelligence (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)
 - b. He has feeling (Ephesians 4:30)
 - c. He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)
 - d. His deity acknowledged on the same level as Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- II. His Ministry to Jesus Christ
 - a. He overshadowed Jesus’ conception (Matthew 1:20)
 - b. He anointed Jesus (Lk 4:18; Jn 1:31)
 - c. He sealed Him (Jn 6:27)
 - d. He led Him (Luke 4:1)
 - e. He empowered Him (Mt 12:28)
 - f. He resurrected Him (1 Peter 3:18; Rom 6:10)

What We Believe

- III. His Ministry to Humanity
 - a. In Our Justification
 1. He convicted us regarding sin (John 16:7-11)
 2. He regenerated us (Titus 3:5)
 3. He adopted us (Romans 8:14-15)
 4. He baptized us (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 5. He indwelt us (1 Corinthians 3:16)
 6. He has sealed us (Eph. 1:13; 2 Cor. 1:21-22)
 - b. In Our Sanctification
 - c. Through the Church