

Reflections: The Work of the Holy Spirit

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When Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, He promised the disciples that they would never be alone or without comfort. Jesus promised that he would send a comforter, helper or a guide that would lead them into all truths. This helper is none other than the Holy Spirit, which is another way God has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind. As we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, He will draw us closer to God or reveal the purpose of God in our life, if we allow him. In his lectures Dr. Wayne Grudem points out what he considers to be five distinctive works of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The five distinctive works include empower, purifies, reveals, unifies and give evidence of God's presence. For my reflections, I will focus on empower, purifies, and reveals.

One way the Holy Spirit empowers the believer is by new generation or a new life for the believer. When we give our life to Christ, God sees us as "new" creation. We are no longer bound by our sinful natures and God no longer counts our sins against us. The believer has the power through the Holy Spirit to live a life pleasing to God. This doesn't mean our life will all of a sudden become perfect, it simply means that as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us daily, we will become stronger and stronger spiritually no longer desiring to fulfill the lust of our flesh, but to please God instead.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, he will also purify us. Purify is a way to cleanse us or remove anything that is not like God. As we grow spiritually, we should desire to be more like God. The Holy Spirit will show us the areas or ways we need to change or clean up in our life. He purifies by gently convicting us, sanctifying us and then cleansing us. Once we are cleansed by the Holy Spirit, we should then produce fruits of the spirit including love, joy, peace, and patience just to name a few.

In addition to empowering and purifying the believer, the Holy Spirit also reveals, guide or direct the believer into all truths. These truths include truths about God such as His love, peace, joy and righteousness. It is through the Holy Spirit working in our life that God manifest Himself more and more. So as we are faced with life challenges and uncertainties we can still experience the peace of God or the joy of God by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us. When we are lead by the Holy Spirit, we can then see our situations the way God sees them. The Holy Spirit reveals the truths about our situations to us, through God's eyes.

Dr. Grudem also talks about the evidence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the evidence of speaking in tongues. While some believe that speaking in tongues ceased with the apostles, Dr. Grudem believes the evidence of speaking in tongues is for some and not everyone. I personally believe in Acts 2:38 and what happened on the day of Pentecost happens now when one is filled with the Holy Spirit. I believe that the evidence of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. I believe that speaking in tongues is our heavenly language that the Holy Spirit empowers us with that we use to communicate with God as we go to him in prayer.