

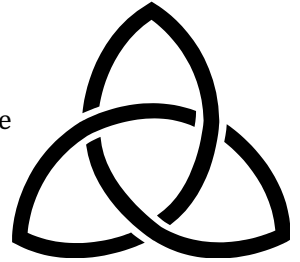
International Conversation Café

Community Group: The Holy Spirit and the Believer

The Holy Spirit Lives in Every Believer: Ephesians 1:13-14

You also became believers in Christ. That happened when you heard the message of truth. It was the good news about how you could be saved. When you believed, he marked you with a seal. The seal is the Holy Spirit that he promised.

The Spirit marks us as God's own. We can now be sure that someday we will receive all that God has promised. That will happen after God sets all of his people completely free. All of those things will bring praise to his glory.



*When does God give a person the Holy Spirit?
What is the significance of the Holy Spirit in us?*

The Holy Spirit helps believers in four specific ways.

1. The Holy Spirit reminds us of the words of Jesus.

- a. He influences our thinking and helps us to express God's word to others.
Acts 4:7-9
- b. He wants us to listen to him as we would listen to a human counselor. We do this by reading the Bible, prayer, and being aware of his presence.

John 14: 25,26

Reading the gospels gives us the information the Holy Spirit can use to remind us of Jesus' words.

Tell about a time when you remembered the words of Jesus.

2. The Holy Spirit helps us serve God.

- a. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to serve God, Philippians 3:3
- b. The Holy Spirit sends people in ministry, Acts 13:1-3

In what ways would you like to serve God?

Tell about a time God gave you strength to serve when you thought you could not?

3. The Holy Spirit influences our attitudes toward God and others.

- a. Romans 15:13 "May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope."

Paul prayed that the Holy Spirit would fill people with hope. What role do you think prayer has in our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

- b. Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.”

Restate these verses in your own words.

What do these verses teach about God and people?

4. The Holy Spirit helps us in temptation.

- a. Temptation is when we are drawn to love other things more than God. This could be when we place other things or our own self-importance in a place of greater importance than God. Temptation also involves seeking our own way in disregard for others and how we affect them. When we act on temptation, we sin. James 1:14
- b. What to do when experiencing temptation?
 - i. Realize because of the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit can give you the strength to do what is right. Romans 8:12-13
 - ii. Pray and ask God’s help; Matthew 6:9-13, Hebrews 4:14-16
 - iii. Realize that temptation can lead to your personal growth. James 1: 2-5

Can you give an example of how the Holy Spirit helped you overcome temptation?

You Can Resist the Holy Spirit

Remember that just as in human relationships, our choices, words, and attitudes also have an effect on the Holy Spirit. We can resist him and his thoughts. When we disappoint him because of the way we ignore him, give our highest priority to other things, and treat others badly, he feels sad. Our relationship with him is restored when we apologize and ask his help to follow Jesus. Ephesians 4:30, I John 1:9, I Thess. 5:18

Final Thoughts

1. *Name the four ways the Holy Spirit helps believers. How will this information help you in your life?*
2. *What questions would you like to ask?*
3. *What steps will you take to enjoy the Holy Spirit’s role in your life?*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Corinthians 13:14

