



Sound Doctrine: Applying Core Beliefs to Everyday Life

Pneumatology: When the Spirit Moves (Galatians 3:2-3)

- Understanding and appropriating the ministry of the Holy Spirit is essential to experiencing and living the Christian life. Misunderstanding and misappropriating the ministry of the Holy Spirit is tragic and seriously detrimental to living and experiencing the Christian life the way God ordained it.
- In fact, you could biblically say the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the key to everything ultimate and important in your life (knowing and growing your faith, the meaning and purpose of life, all relationships, trials, temptations and suffering, work, finances, mental and emotional health, etc.)
- Jesus said “...it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you...” (John 16:7). Among many reasons it is advantageous to have a right relationship with the Holy Spirit, Paul notes two in Galatians 3:2-3: He starts our Christian life and keeps it going.
- You can summarize the teaching about the Holy Spirit in one abbreviation or acronym: He is our **C.E.O.**. He is our Chief executive officer and Chief enabling officer.

① The Holy Spirit is our Chief executive

- C.E.O.’s have the authority and power to make things happen and that is exactly what the Holy Spirit does. There are a total of 324 references to the Holy in the Bible (79 in the Old Testament and 245 in the New Testament)
- **How do we know He is our Chief executive?**
 - He is a real Person and not a ghost or impersonal force. He manifests personal characteristics (an intellect, emotion, and will), has personal names (the Helper), has personal pronouns used about Him (“*He*” – Jn 16:17-18), identified with the Father and Son.
 - He is revealed as truly God. He is revealed as the third member of the Godhead (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14), the words of Yahweh in the Old Testament are attributed to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (Ps. 95:8-11/Heb. 3:7-11), He is called God (Acts 5:3-5), Lord (2 Cor. 3:18), the Spirit of God (Mt. 3:16), the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19). The unforgiveable sin is “*against the Holy Spirit*” (Mk 3:29) is called blasphemy which can only happen to God. He manifests God-like attributes like omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10-11);,omnipresence (Ps. 139:7-10), omnipotence (Lk 1:35), eternity (Heb 9:14), and co-Creator (Gen 1:2) to highlight a few.
- **What does the Holy Spirit do in His executive role?**
 - He inspired the Scriptures (2 Pt 1:21) as “*the Spirit of truth*” (Jn 14:17) for us
 - He illuminates the Person of Jesus Christ (Jn 15:26)
 - He initiates our new life (Titus 3:5), producing our rebirth (Jn 3:5), and resurrecting our dead hearts (Eph. 2:5)
 - He immerses and incorporates us into the body of Christ, the church (1 Cor 12:13) at the moment of belief (Jn 7:37-39; Acts 11:17) which gives us a new identity in Christ (Rm 6:1-5) and a new unity (“*one body*” – 1 Cor. 12:13)

- He indwells us (Rm. 8:9) personally (Jn 14:16-17; Rm 8:16), permanently (by sealing us and His pledge-Eph 1:13), and powerfully (Eph. 3:16)
- He instructs us with divine truth (1 Cor. 2:10-16) and acts as our resident Bible teacher, truth reminder, and personal illuminator (Jn. 16:13). We are given the “*anointing*” (1 Jn. 2:20, 27)
- He influences our sanctification (setting apart from sin by spiritual growth). He sets us apart positionally (1 Cor. 6:11) and progressively (Gal. 3:2-3)
- He incentivizes us through eight commands that call us to cooperate with Him: don’t grieve Him (Eph. 4:30-32); quench Him (1 Thess. 5:19); pray in the Spirit (Jude 20; Eph. 6:18); be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18); walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16); take up the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17); use your ministry gifts of the Spirit (1 Pt 4:10-11; 1 Cor. 12:7); be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3)

② The Holy Spirit is our Chief enabler

- There are at least 39 ministries identified that the Holy Spirit performs as executive and enabler. As believers, we cannot please God or truly bless others without the divine enabling or empowering of the Holy Spirit in and through our lives.
- **He enables believers to witness courageously** (Acts 1:8), directing our opportunities by filling us (Acts 4:31), speaking through us (Mt. 10:20), teaching us what to say when we need it (Lk 12:12), giving us courage and confidence (Acts 4:31; 14:3)
- **He enables us to worship correctly** (Phil. 3:3). As adopted sons and daughters we cry out Abba Father (an intimate calling-Rm 8:14-16) and He guides our access to God (Eph. 2:18; Jude 20; Rm 8:26-27)
- **He enables us to work competently** (1 Cor. 12:7) as we are supernaturally equipped with grace gifts to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12) and serve one another (1 Pt. 4:10)
- **He enables us to win confidently** against sin and Satan (Rom. 8:2). He convicts us (1 Jn 3:20), motivates us to fight the good fight (1 Tim. 6:12), frees us to kill the deeds of the body (Rm 8:12-14), glorify God in our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and assist us as our “*Helper*” (Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
- **He enables us to walk consistently** (Gal. 5:16) following His lead (Rm. 8:14), being obedient, resilient, harmonious, and fruitful (Gal. 5:16-26)