

What is the Work of the Holy Spirit?

The evidence of the world of the Holy Spirit goes all the way back to the time of creation when the Spirit of God moved upon the waters of the Earth, back to when it was a place of judgment for the fallen angels, Genesis 1:2. God was preparing to enter this place of isolation, so the Spirit prepared the way, which preceded the proclamation to bring forth light. The light is the representation of God's presence over the grounds of judgment. This is a pattern that the Holy Spirit was to repeat many times – bringing life to the people that are dead in their sins and facing God's judgment.

We also see the work of the Holy Spirit, in the pillar of fire and the cloud, which led the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. The Holy Spirit would bring divine revelation through the use of the Urim and Thummim, Exodus 28:30, when the high priest came before God to determine His will for the people. We see the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the prophets as they ministered the word and will of God to the people. Perhaps the greatest of these was John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. Then there was the anointing of Jesus, where the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove, Luke 3:21, 22.

The Holy Spirit was an essential part of the ministry of Jesus. This was why it was so important that the apostles be anointed and prepared by the Holy Spirit for the mission of taking the Good News to the world. We see this anointing in Acts 2:1-4 NLT: *On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit being a Comforter or Counselor for the believers. Jesus knew that His time for teaching was drawing to a close, so He would send the Holy Spirit to continue the mission of teaching the believers of the truth, John 16:13 NLT: *When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.* The Jewish people had come to rely on the wisdom of the sages to teach them of the ways of God but their wisdom was limited by human weaknesses. The Holy Spirit on the other hand is not limited in understanding the wisdom of God. We need to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the fullness of the revelation of the Father.

The essential element of our walk before God and for our ministry to others is love. We are commanded to love God, to love our neighbor, and to even love our enemies. The type of love that we are referring to is a divine type of love that comes from the Holy Spirit, Romans 5:5 NLT: *And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.* We know that love is important for the apostle John relates our obligation to love in 1 John 3:14-16 NLT: *If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.*