



## The Greatest Powers of the Holy Spirit

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When many of us think of the Holy Spirit we think of supernatural gifts to heal the sick or understand mysteries known only to God. There is a temptation to think that the main function of the Holy Spirit is to give gifts to people that will make them more powerful.

In fact, the Holy Spirit transforms those who believe in Jesus from those who are alienated from God into adopted sons and daughters of God. He grants power and ability to believers not to bring more glory to them, but to bring more glory to God. Granting power to believers gives them a sense of humility because they recognize that the power at work in their service of God comes from God and not from themselves. Any gifts or abilities the believer has come from God, not their personal efforts.

Let's take a look at what the Bible says about the gifts that the Holy Spirit grants to people.

### Power to Create Orderliness from Chaos, Including Believer's Lives

Your car breaks down. You can't find the right tool to fix it. You used to have it, but you just can't find it now. You can't fix what is broken. This is the feeling of chaos.

The Holy Spirit transforms chaos into order - [Genesis 1:2](#) "2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**"

Jesus commanded His disciples to tell others throughout the world that He would grant them the gift of new life - [Matthew 28:18-20](#) “18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

Salvation would be made available throughout the entire world ([Isaiah 49:6](#) “he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my **salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**””

Jesus commanded His disciples to tell others throughout the world that a new created order was coming for those who believe in Him. [Matthew 28:18-20](#) “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

A new created order is coming. Where chaos once reigned, order will prevail. [Revelation 21:1-4](#) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.””

## Power to Transform Dead into Living, Including Believers

Starter fluid gets an engine running.

If you are weary God has a gift of new life, if you will receive it. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of life.

God granted the gift of life to Adam before He was alive. [Genesis 2:7](#) “then the Lord **God** formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living creature.”

God enabled Ezekiel to prophesy that new life would come to God’s people - [Ezekiel 37:5](#) “5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, **I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.**” [Ezekiel 37:9](#) “9 Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; **prophesy**, son of man, and **say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.**””

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit gives the gift of life - [John 6:63](#) “63 It is **the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

Paul taught that believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. As a result, the glory of Jesus shines in them. [2 Corinthians 4:6-7](#)

Jesus breathed on His disciples, to give them the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit. [John 20:22](#) “And when he had said this, **he breathed on them** and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**”

# The Holy Spirit Allows God to Dwell with His Chosen People - now

This time we will begin in the middle of the story, the here and now. The Holy Spirit is building believers into God's dwelling. [Ephesians 2:22](#) "22 In him you also are **being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**"

After they had sinned, Adam and Eve recognized the sound of God's footsteps in the Garden of Eden. This shows that they had regular fellowship with God before this time, and so, they recognized the sound of God's footsteps. God has had a desire to dwell with His people since the very beginning. [Genesis 3:8](#) "8 And **they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden."

Paul says that believers, who have the indwelling Holy Spirit, have the glory of Jesus shines in them ([2 Corinthians 4:6-7](#) "For God, who said, "**Let light shine out of darkness,**" has **shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But **we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us**").

When Jesus appears again God will dwell with His people once again. [Revelation 21:1-4](#) "1 Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.** 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

## Our Response

God wants to work out His will through the lives of believers. That's how He delights in doing things, making us a part of the process not as mere passengers riding on a train to heaven. - [Philippians 2:12-13](#) "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**, for it is **God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**"

God created Adam and Eve in order to have fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden. But when they sinned, God drove them out of the Garden.

God wanted to dwell among His people, and so He had them make a tabernacle, where He could dwell among His people.

The Holy Spirit dwells, not merely within our community, or camp, as God dwelled among the ancient Israelites, in their camp. He dwells within our hearts ([2 Corinthians 4:6-7](#)).

The time will come when God will dwell with His people in His fullness ([Revelation 21:1-4](#)). In the meantime, the Holy Spirit dwells within believers ([Ephesians 2:22](#)). The presence of God's Holy Spirit within every believer makes them able to cope with the evil of this time, and to faithfully endure until the fullness of God's presence becomes a reality in the heaven and earth that are coming.

God allows His chosen to learn to turn to Him for guidance. While He determines every detail of their lives, they learn to choose what is right. He determines their character. He determines the specific events that will take place. But believers learn obedience and faithfulness by making the right choices.

Even though God is sovereign, His people are capable of growth. They are not puppets who do only what the puppeteer directs them to do. God doesn't want to turn people into puppets. His goal for believers is for them to want to obey, serve and love Him; and to do it all with a deep sense of joy. This joy includes a deep sense of fulfillment. [Philippians 2:12-13](#) “12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

In our culture we celebrate great accomplishments. Christians need to look at life differently than most people in our culture. Christians should give God glory for all their accomplishments, claiming all the credit belongs to God. The believer's goal is not personal accomplishment. The believer's greatest joy is glorifying God ([Philippians 4:4-7](#)).

Could it be that God allows evil to persist so that His people will learn to reject it, and turn away from it? Does the Bible teach that? Is that what the Holy Spirit is teaching us?

Learn to reject evil and strive to say and do only what is right.

#### **Philippians 4:4-7**

**Rejoice** in the **Lord** always; again I will say, **rejoice**. Let your **reasonableness** be **known** to **everyone**. The **Lord** is at **hand**; do not be **anxious** about **anything**, but in **everything** by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests** be **made known** to God. And the **peace** of God, which **surpasses** all **understanding**, will **guard** your **hearts** and your **minds** in **Christ Jesus**.

([ESV](#))

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