

**The Spirit of God**  
**Week 10**  
**The Main Duty of the Holy Spirit**

LBC 9/12/03

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.”

**John 16:12-14**

**Review:** Previous studies:

1. The names and titles of the Holy Spirit.
2. The personality of the Holy Spirit.
3. The sword of the Spirit.
4. The ministries of the Holy Spirit.
5. The Spirit's work in the new creation.
6. The sealing of the Holy Spirit.
7. The temple of the Holy Spirit.
8. The believer is not an orphan.

Tonight we will talk about the main duty of the Holy Spirit.

**Introduction:**

Much of the confusion concerning the Holy Spirit stems from the fact that His main duty is misunderstood:

- Why did the Lord send the Holy Spirit after the ascension of Christ?
- Why was it so vital that He be sent?
- Of all the many duties that the Holy Spirit performs, which is the main one?

It seems that every Christian group today has a different emphasis on the Holy Spirit:

- In many churches today, it seems that the main duty of the Holy Spirit is to bring excitement and emotion into the public services.
- In others, He seems to be busy focussing the attention of God's people upon Himself.
- Elsewhere, the Holy Spirit is presented as being consumed with the manifestation of spiritual gifts.
- In other churches, the Holy Spirit is portrayed as being primarily occupied with inspiring and preserving Scripture.
- Some Christian groups teach that the Holy Spirit was mainly given to aid us in soul winning.

Which of these views is correct? **None!**

In John chapter 16, the Lord Jesus gives us the main duty of the Holy Spirit in just four simple words:

**“He shall glorify me”**

In other words, **the main duty of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory and honour to Jesus Christ.**

**\*\* Let me teach you tonight about the main duty of the Holy Spirit:**

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1. **The Holy Spirit is not concerned with bringing glory to Himself.**

Far too many churches today are striving to focus our attention on the Holy Spirit Himself. However, the Spirit does not want our attention primarily focussed upon Him. The central focus of the New Testament is not the Father, nor is it the Spirit. The focus of the New Testament is the Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah.

**Colossians 1:18** “And he [*Jesus Christ*] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

**Philippians 2:9-11** “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

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## **2. The Holy Spirit is not “Doctor Feel Good”!**

- Is it wrong to have excitement in your Christian life? No – we have a lot to get excited about.
- Is it wrong to be emotional in your worship of God? No – we are to love God with all our heart.
- Is it wrong to experience joy, happiness and elation? No – we have much to be happy about.
- Is the Holy Spirit **primarily** concerned with making you and I **feel good**? **No**.

Now, it is true that the Holy Spirit brings joy, peace, and hope; joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit.

**Romans 15:13** “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

However, being joyful doesn't always mean **feeling** good. **Eg.** I had joy after my accident, but I felt lousy.

Too much of Christendom today is consumed with making us feel good about ourselves, about life, about others, etc. However, sometimes we need to feel “bad”! Tears are as needful as laughter.

**James 4:9, 10** “Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Was He Spirit-filled? Yes. Did He feel good? No!

The Holy Spirit is not some “feel-good” doctor whose main aim is to make us happy and excited.

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## **3. The Holy Spirit is not interested in glorifying men.**

Is it right to give honour and respect to faithful men of God? Yes.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13** “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

Is it right to glorify men? No.

**1 Corinthians 3:21** “Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;”

Let me explain the difference.

**ILLUSTRATION** – I treat Pastor Piper with respect and admiration. I thank him often for his love and faithfulness. I write him notes of encouragement, and I remind him that I owe him a great debt. I give him the esteem that he deserves. However, **I give God the honour and glory** for saving me and using me.

The Holy Spirit will use men and empower men, but He does not glorify and exalt men. For example, Paul never magnified himself, but he did magnify his office, and he always magnified Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Benny Hinn throwing around the “anointing” – the attention is placed too much on him.

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#### **4. The Holy Spirit is busy bringing glory to Jesus Christ.**

**THIS** is the main duty of the Holy Spirit – to bring glory, praise and honour to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
**How does the Holy Spirit bring glory to Christ?**

##### **A. By raising Jesus from the dead.**

**Romans 8:11** “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

Was not Christ glorified when He rose victoriously from the grave?

##### **B. By bringing sinners to salvation.**

Every sinner who gets saved becomes another mouth to shout and sing praise and glory to Jesus Christ. So, Who convicts men of their sin and brings them on their knees to Christ? The Holy Spirit.

**John 16:8-11** “And when he [*the Comforter*] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

If you want to bring glory and honour to Christ, be used of the Holy Spirit to bring sinners to Him!

**ILLUSTRATION** – Pentecost.

**Acts 2:1-4, 41, 46, 47** “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls...And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – My salvation. He used to **blaspheme** Christ, now I **praise** and **glorify** Him!

##### **C. By shedding light upon the Word of God.**

What is the Bible but 66 books that praise and honour Jesus Christ? Therefore, as the Holy Spirit illumines the Word and sheds light upon its truths, the more clearly I see Christ, and the more praise and glory Christ will receive.

**John 16:13** “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – I sometimes have private praise sessions in my devotions.

##### **D. By causing Christians to bear spiritual fruit.**

A changed life brings honour and glory to Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION** – The dramatic change of lifestyle in the lives of Sam and Alex has brought glory to Christ.

Who is it that changes the life of a believer?

**2 Corinthians 3:18** “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

**E. By helping Christians to pray according to God's will.**

When God answers prayer in the name of Jesus, Christ is glorified.

**John 14:13** “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

How do we know what to pray for? We depend upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Christ received glory when we received this building in answer to prayer.

**F. By enabling Christians to live right and do God's work.**

When the Holy Spirit enables us to walk right and do the work of God, Christ is glorified.

**2 Thessalonians 1:11, 12** “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – How could Bro. Hyles, a little country preacher, successfully pastor a church of 20,000 people. How could he send 1,000 preachers around the world? He did so by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit – and he **always** gave the glory and honour to Christ.

**G. By empowering those who preach the Word.**

When the man of God preaches the Word of God with the power of God, Christ receives glory.

**1 Peter 4:11** “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – Gary Dice at the GSA conference.

**ILLUSTRATION** – George Whitefield.

**H. By giving Christians the grace to suffer.**

When the Christian suffers gracefully and quietly, Christ is glorified and honoured. Who enables us to do so? One fruit of the Spirit is **longsuffering**.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Marlene Evans gave glory to Christ as she suffered in patience.

**1 Peter 4:14** “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”

**5. Walking in the Spirit, then, is all about glorifying Christ.**

- Walking in the Spirit is not about feeling good.
- “ “ “ “ “ “ “ exalting men.
- “ “ “ “ “ “ “ glorifying the Spirit.
- “ “ “ “ **IS** about pleasing, honouring and glorifying Christ.

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**Review / Discussion: What did Jesus say is the main duty of the Holy Spirit?**

**“He shall glorify me”**

**\*\* The main duty of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory and honour to Jesus Christ.**