

**Title** The Work of the Holy Spirit  
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While you were coming in, it was like an army coming in. Wanting to get instruction in our head, because we're in a battle together. This morning, I want to get out of the way so that God can minister to us. I don't want to stand in the way, but I want to share what God has laid on my heart and allow Him to speak. I feel humbled to stand in front of a group like this, but we're in the work of the Lord together. I am blessed by that. Turn to John 16:7-15. I would like to scratch the surface of what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives and in me. The person that studies the most gets the most out of it; I've needed it the most, and I've been deeply challenged by preparing for this. I want to pass on a few of the things the Word of God would teach us about what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives [reads verses].

We have come from different backgrounds. We have a shed business, and a prayer has been that God would daily open doors, bringing into our lives people to minister to. I don't want to just have a business to make money; there's more in this life than that. As we meet with people and talk with them, we have opportunity to sow the seed and share. That is the primary goal of the business. As we meet with people, they come from different religious backgrounds. I have noticed recently that whatever we have been taught for many years hangs onto us. I'm not anti-Mennonite. My point is simply, when I come into the Word, I want it to speak to me. While talking to a man from another background, he said, "I've never seen that in the Word of God, never been taught that." What I called basic truth, he had never seen that. Can the background we come from be a hindrance? It can be, but does not have to be. When I come to the Word of God, I want to see what Jesus is telling us, not just me. Whatever He hears, that will He speak. He's the channel. A little red light goes on and says, what about Balaam. The spirit spoke to him, and Balaam made some wrong choices. What was going on underneath? Do you want to know the will of the Father, or do I want to know what God's will is, so I can pick and choose what I want to do. God is not offering us a buffet so we can pick and choose what we want and still get to heaven.

Turn to John 10, "My sheep know..." [reads verses]. I get the picture of a big father and son. And we have the biggest father ever! Our Father is not limited, and there is no one greater than our Father. When I am sitting in our Father's lap, and He has His arm around me, I'm safe. He says, my sheep hear my voice, know my voice, follow my voice, and I give them eternal life. No

man is going to pluck the son out of Dad's hand. My Father is greater than all. The Bible says that if a son asks for fish or bread, will the father give him a stone? No. Back to chapter 17. Two words in verse 11 and 15, and both words are *keep* [reads verses]. Let's look at some other verses highlighting the relationship between God and Christ as the basis of the Holy Spirit. 14:10-11 [reads verses]. Jesus says the Father dwells in Me and I the Father. Verse 16 [reads verse]. That's a promise; I will give Him, send Him. In this day and age we live in, we have many warrantees (sometimes lifetime)--building materials, you name it. This is a lifetime warranty, eternal lifetime warranty. Jesus lives forever. He said that He will send Him, the Comforter, the revealer of truth. Notice what else is happening: I see something else merging here, another concept in here. Let's read on. [Reads verses]... myself to Him. You see what's merging into having the Holy Spirit? Verse 21, he that hath my commandments and keepeth them. When I am following the Holy Spirit, He's walking with me, in me. He expects that we are going to keep His commandments. Those two familiar commandments are here.

The Holy Spirit can be treated in different ways. How can the Holy Spirit be treated? The Bible says Peter denied the Lord. And after he denied him, what did he do? He went out and wept bitterly. Peter did not go out and say, "Sorry, I kind of messed up, will you forgive me?" No, he wept bitterly, and he and the others likewise left Him. The basic story is that the disciples left and there was Jesus; they denied the Lord. In Acts 7:51, the Holy Spirit can be resisted. Hebrews 10:29, we can insult the Spirit of grace. In Acts 5:3, the Holy Spirit can be lied to. Acts 5:9, the Holy Spirit can be tempted. The Holy Spirit can be grieved, Ephesians 4:30 [reads verse]. The Holy Spirit can be quenched, 2 Thessalonians 5:19 [reads verses]. It can be railed upon, Luke 12:10. Can we have an honest moment? We're preachers and supposed to be open with each other. In your Christian walk, somewhere, have been tempted to think that you have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and might as well give up? Raise your hand (some did). I wrestled with that for years. Today, I know my Jesus lives, and I am one of His. Acts 1:8, the Holy Spirit gives us power. What's this power for, what's it all about? Why an outpouring of power? [Reads verses]. I was blessed as I sat there yesterday; the utter most part of the earth--Africa, Kenya, you name it--there is a witness going out across the globe. It's not about us, but Jesus, helping people find this great Savior, and they can experience this divine power in their life. These people received the power of the Holy Spirit. It's power is to be a witness. Turn to 2 Peter 1:1-3. After Peter left the garden and went out, reality was sinking in on Peter's mind: I have denied my Lord three times. I just got done telling him I would die for Him a few hours ago. Now Peter is a changed man. [Reads verses]. There's a power in the Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ, we can have that which goes beyond the power we often talk about. Farmers get excited about four-wheel drive; airplane pilots get excited about the thrust of takeoff, and on a spaceship--pull a few levers and you're off to the moon. This is talking about divine power, the kind that when God gets down on His hands and knees, puts dirt together--all of a sudden there's life in there, all kinds of things happening. That's divine power in action, right there. When He spoke at the Creation, there was a universe. There are all kinds of creatures He made. That's divine power--not this little horse power, spinning around in the mud! That's divine power; it has no limits, no measure, and He's saying that according to his divine power, He has given all things that pertain to life. I have no excuse: He's given everything we need. Sometimes, I look at my Christian life and wonder. Am I experiencing the life God wants me to experience? He is calling us to glory and virtue. What are the promises that are great and precious to you? When you get back tonight or tomorrow, make a list of the precious promises that motivate you. What has he given us? I put that out to you. Verse

eight: He talked about all the things that are happening to us [reads verses]. If the fruit tree does not bear fruit, cut it down and put it in the fire. Verse 10 [reads verse]. How can we keep from falling? He wants to present us faultless, until He opens that heavenly door and pulls you in and says, "You're safe." He's given us everything we need not to fall. I am saddened when I hear of people who turn from the faith and fall, to go after some other exciting thing.

When talking with someone who talks about themselves, you get tired of it. Here, he is not speaking about Himself. The Spirit is going to speak of Him.

Whatever He hears, He will speak of that--whatever the Father says.

Romans 8 [reads verses]: I get excited when I hear someone asking to go with you. I did that on conversion, asking the Holy Spirit to come with me. Do you have to ask Him to go with you every time? Not if He's still there. Turn to Matthew 12: a little illustration given here. Years ago, Roman Mullet brought this out--some of you knew Roman. Matthew 12:43-? [reads verses]. I would like to ask--when my house is swept and garnished and we have repented, it's ready for a new owner. Is there anything that keeps the Holy Spirit from filling the house? God wants us to offer the house to Him to take over? But there may be a closet door somewhere that has a little something tucked away that I hope no one knows about. I've been that way: I have my struggles. We can put a lot under the idea of a "struggle."

Sometime ago, we were doing a job for a man and plugged a cord into his garage. At the end of the garage, a picture was posted not fit to be seen. I knew my boys would go in there. When I went in I turned the other way (Most of you men have seen those in stores, stuff that's not fit). God's Spirit began to turn inside of me. This man had health problems, had gone to the doctor, and it did not work out to talk to him. This man claimed to be a Christian, seemed nice, open. I eventually got on the phone and called this man and expressed my concern. He said that his son gives him one of those calendars each year for Christmas. As I shared, he said, "I did not think about it that way. When I get off the phone, I'm going to stick it in the trashcan." I was blessed that man was easily entreated. He said, "Thank you for calling me. I see what you're talking about." Now, we do not get that kind of response always. Someone will stand in front of me and use God's name in vein, and I wonder if I can get the courage to talk to Him. He's my customer, maybe he'll leave! I want to allow God to work in my heart so that when the Spirit tells me to say something, I will say it. I've given my business to God, it is His. When Peter's heart is filled with the Holy Ghost, and Anaias came into Peter's presence, Peter did not turn to him and say, "We need to have a talk, as Satan as an inch of your heart." Look at the words he gave Anaias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? We read down to verse 9 and Peter says to his wife, "Why have you agreed together to tempt the spirit of the Lord?" You know the results. In chapter 4:12, we see that the message of salvation; there were 5,000 people that were filled with the Holy Ghost that Peter was preaching about.

Something else I'd like to speak on: turn in your Bible to Luke 2. Sometimes we have people in our churches (or ourselves) where submitting to the Word of God is a hindrance to get much done for God. I have news for you, from Luke 2. We know the story: when Jesus went with his parents down to the synagogue. They realized Jesus was not with them, and found Him. "Mom and Dad do not understand!" Do you think that's what Jesus thought? There is a place where we have slid from where others have questions and the questions affect us more than the answers do

them. Did Jesus go home and sit in the corner and say, “Mom and Dad say I can’t be in the synagogue and I cannot be effective at home”? But the Bible says he increased in wisdom, in favor with God and man--underneath the bondage of submission, if you will. He prospered in wisdom, in favor with God and man. Do you know what? God gave Him the parents that He was supposed to have, and God has given you and I the parents that we should have. I did not understand every thing Dad told me, but I had a decision to make. Submission does not kill anyone, it’s your choice. What do you want to do with that? Either growing in wisdom and favor with God and man? It’s a choice. When God says in His words, this is what I want you to do. If you are still under the law, what are you doing there? The Spirit sets you free; let it work in your heart. Romans 8 tells us that.

Ephesians 5 tells us we should be filled with the Spirit. When you take a shed out to someone in the afternoon and a man comes out with a little glass in his hand; he has stress and wants to finish the day relaxed. The Bible says we should not be filled with wine, but with the Spirit. Why compare drunkenness to filling with the Spirit? The two are so opposite. Do you have long days when you’re weary, get home and be tired? My family is not perfect, and we sometimes need to work through difficult things. I would rather have Jesus in that situation than be without God after a long day and face the reality at home of a messed up life, and a messed up family. On the one hand, you can have that mess up and try to squelch down the feeling of all those feelings, or you can come home and sing, “What a Friend I Have in Jesus” (recites first line). What happens when you carry it in prayer? (recites second line). When I’m filled with the Spirit, the Bible does not say we will be spectacular preachers or wonderful preachers, but we do have (in verse 19) a song of praise in our heart for the Lord. When we sit down and have family devotions, that song sometimes goes ringing through my mind. Take your problems to the Lord: that’s the work of the Holy Spirit. Stop wresting with these things and take them to the Lord. I have wondered already, what is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit. I was drawn to Matthew 23 ... and people want to walk into Heaven but the Lord stops them and says He does not know who they are. Somewhere along the line we get disconnected. Was that the Spirit’s fault they did not make it in? What is His responsibility? Do you have that new technology, you touch the little thing in your pocket and it does all kinds of things? Do you have one of those? Do you think the Holy Spirit wants to be like that in regards to sensitivity? He does not come with a sledge hammer and say I want you to get in. He wants us to respond; He comes to us in that still, small voice. We must quiet our hearts if we want to hear Him. He’s given us His Word and wants us to quiet our hearts. We can’t hear Him in all that noise and fuss.

Galatians 6 talks about an incredible thing. Most of us are getting ready to do it if you have not already: getting ready to sow, and then this fall, reap. Have you ever sown a seed of corruption that did not have a harvest with it? What we sow, we will reap. If I try to justify myself; if I sow a seed of corruption; it will have about a 1% increase. Is that how it works? Do I want to sow one seed of discord or--you name it. Do I want even a 30% increase on that seed? It sobers me to think that I am not without sowing seeds 24/7. When we are going throughout our day, we sow seeds ongoing. Our life is like an example: like a Bible. Words have tremendous power. I think about words of encouragement.

Proverbs 13:10: When we have men’s meeting or counsel meeting, or talk together, and sometimes we do not get along or agree. [Reads verse]. With the well-advised is wisdom. I will

plant that seed and let you chew it, but it comes into meetings and getting along. Why the dissension that we face among us? When the world looks in at the children of God, the Word can be blasphemed because of what they see going on with the people of God. Do you think the Holy Spirit has a work He wants to get accomplished in your life this next year? I want us to think about that. What do you think God wants to get done in my life this next year? What do you think he wants to get done with the laity? Too often I'm focused on what God wants to do in the laity. Do I see the need that I have; what God wants to get done in me? One solution, the mistake we make is, I put it under the clause of "I have a little fault here": instead of getting on my knees and repent, we say we need to do better.

In closing, giving ourselves to God without reservation. What we give, He takes, what He takes, He cleanses, what He cleanses He fills, and what He fills, He uses. Let's allow Jesus to fill every area, unreservedly. We are just open before our Lord Jesus Christ.