

THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” (Gal 6:1-2)

Certainly, the most important ministry of the Holy Spirit involves the eternal redemption of man. It is significant note however, that our eternal redemption could not have been accomplished if the Holy Spirit had not become involved with the earth. Spiritual people obviously must do what the Holy Spirit leads them to do. This includes restoring sinners and carrying each other’s burdens. Please prayerfully consider the role of the Holy Spirit on earth.

- In the beginning it was the Spirit that hovered over the earth like a mother hen protecting her young (Gen. 1:2). At that time, as you know, the earth was “formless and empty”.
- Men who worked on the earthly Tabernacle were filled with the Spirit of God (Ex. 31:3).
- Isaiah predicted that the Spirit of the Lord would come upon Jesus and among other things, He would provide wisdom, understanding, and justice for the poor (Is. 11:2 - 5).
- When Jesus began His earthly ministry the Spirit of God descended on Him in bodily form like a dove (Matt. 3:16; Mk. 1:10; Lk. 3:22; John 1:32). Because Jesus had the Holy Spirit, He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38).
- In the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus read from Is. 61: **“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)**
- When Matthew saw Jesus ministering to wounded people he remembered the prophecy of Is. 42:1 - 4. When the Spirit of God came on Jesus he would bind up and help people with bruised and broken lives. (Matt. 12:15 - 21).
- When Jesus returned to the Father in heaven, He did not leave us like orphans. He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of every believer (John 14:15 - 23). And Jesus specifically commanded His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received this promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4).
- The church, which is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16), did not begin until the Holy Spirit descended from heaven (Acts 2:1 - 4).
- The Gospel of Luke tells only what Jesus “began” to do on earth. The book of Acts tells what Jesus continued to do by means of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1 - 2).
- Jesus said that the ministry of the Spirit would be like “living water” flowing from the inward parts every believer (John 7:38 - 39). Today, the ministry of the Holy Spirit on earth continues as believers restore sinners and bear each other’s burdens
- Spiritual gifts are given for the common good of people on the earth (1 Cor. 12:7).
- The most important gift of the Spirit is love. It is the fruit of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:31 - 13:13; Gal. 5:22). Love is so important that Jesus said it was the defining attribute of all those who belong to Him (Jn. 13:35).
- The Holy Spirit wants us to excel in gifts that build up the church (1 Cor. 14:12). This is why the gift of prophecy is better than the gift of tongues. One builds up the individual, the other the church (1 Cor. 14:3).
- All 7 spiritual gifts mentioned in Rom. 12:5 - 8 involve ministering to our fellow men. The gifts are: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling, and showing mercy.
- If we are bitter and unkind to one another we grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30 - 32).
- It is the Spirit that enable us to have unfeigned love of the brethren (1 Pet. 1:22).
- Judgement Day will involve what we have done on earth. God will want to know if we have ministered to the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the naked, the sick, and the prisoners (Matt. 25:
- Examine yourself (2 Cor. 13:5). Are you spiritual or not?