

The Holy Spirit: Roles and Attributes

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“The Holy Spirit illuminates the minds of people, makes us yearn for God, and takes spiritual truth and makes it understandable to us.” –Billy Graham

The Holy Spirit may be described as third person within the Trinity of God (Metzger & Coogan, 2001). When Jesus left this world, He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to live inside them and it was envisioned that his presence would be magnified in this world through Christians (Christian University GlobalNet, 2018). This paper discusses some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit taken from a Scripture basis. After reviewing the attributes, we move to a discussion on the roles of the Spirit. The roles and attributes are further defined to show the meaning and impact on our lives specifically looking at the Spiritual Gifts to Believers.

Introduction to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit may be described as third person within the Trinity of God (Metzger & Coogan, 2001). When Jesus left this world, He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to live inside them and it was envisioned that his presence would be magnified in this world through Christians (Christian University GlobalNet, 2018). The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, which the Father sent to teach all things and remind us of everything (John 14:26).

The first encounter with the Holy Spirit is when He convicts us of our sin. He reveals the judgement that is coming to those who die without a Savior (John 16:8-11). As our sins are forgiven we receive the gift of Salvation from the Holy Spirit

which regenerates our dead inner human spirit (John 3:1-16; Acts 2:38).

The second work of the Holy Spirit is in baptism of a believer (Acts 2:1-4). This act of baptism is a gift of empowerment to help us live a holy life. The model of Jesus is taken into account to allow us to emulate his behavior. This gift allows us to witness to others of the goodness of Jesus Christ.

We are encouraged to ask the Holy Spirit to fill us up on a regular basis. When you feel depleted or need strength, ask Him to replenish you (Ephesians 5:18). God through the Holy Spirit wants to build up a relationship with us (Beaudine, 2016). This relationship allows God to guide us, have an intimate relationship, speak to God regularly, fellowship, understand the changes needed and bring our supplication to God.

Cunnington describes Jonathan Edwards' proposition on the Holy Spirit describing Him as the excellency of the Deity with the Father's honor being that he is "the author of perfect and infinite wisdom and The Son's honor is that he is that perfect and divine wisdom (Cunnington, Volume 39 - Issue 2). Edwards then goes on to ask the question why it was not the Holy Spirit which was sent. To that question, Edwards replies that the Holy Spirit is love, but the Son is the object of the Father's love. It is agreed that the one who is sent to be the Mediator of a covenant would be one whom the Father especially loved, and Edwards tries to prove that the Son is uniquely the object of the Father's love.

This paper discusses some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit taken from a Scripture basis in the section "What are the Holy Spirit Attributes?". After reviewing the attributes, we move to a discussion on the roles of the Spirit. The roles and attributes are further defined to show the meaning and impact on our lives specifically looking at the Spiritual Gifts to Believers.

What are the Holy Spirit Attributes?

An attribute is a quality or feature regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something. In this case we are looking to describe the Holy Spirit's attributes and this is shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** The Scripture also describes the relevant scripture associated Rust (2018) and Ryrie (1997).

Attribute	Scripture
The Holy Spirit is your Helper and Guide.	"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you," John 16:7.
The Holy Spirit sanctifies you.	"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God," 1 Corinthians 6:11.
He makes you more like Christ.	"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit," 2 Corinthians 3:18.
He helps you to do the Father's will.	"Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot,'" Acts 8:29.
The Holy Spirit gifts you for ministry	"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have," 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.
He imparts love.	"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts

	through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us,” Romans 5:3-5.
He gives hope.	“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope,” Romans 15:13.
The Holy Spirit teaches and gives insight.	“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you,” John 14:26.
He guides your prayers.	“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words,” Romans 8:26.
He uses you for evangelism.	“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth,” Acts 1:8.
He convicts or convinces	“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement” John 16:7-8
He restrains	“And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” Genesis 6:3
He send forth into Christian service	“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus” Acts 13:4

Roles of the Spirit

A role is the function assumed or part played by a person or thing in a particular situation and in this section the role of the Holy Spirit is discussed. The purpose of The Holy Spirit has been debated for many years and while the Bible clearly states that He is the Advocate, it needs to be established what is the advocate. The Holy Spirit is seen to be distant and impersonal when compared to the Father and the Son in the Holy Trinity (Ferguson, 1997).

The Holy Spirit in the model of the Trinity has been a source discussion with two models being proposed: 1. The Trinity as crossing a distance and 2. The Trinity as a community to join (McFarland, Fergusson, & Kilby , 2011). In the first model, God the Father remains in heaven and Christ crosses the infinite

distance from heaven to earth to give his life. This argument leads to view of The Holy Spirit in a more superfluous being in within The Trinity. In the second model, The Holy Spirit is portrayed as joining a community or a dance and interactive. In Romans (Rom. 8:16–17), the Spirit relates Christians to the Father, identifies them with His Son, and incorporates them into its own community. Therefore, the Spirit creates a community for Christians to join and partake. In this thinking humanity become guests at the Trinitarian feast that Christians see prefigured in the hospitality of Abraham (Gen. 18:1-8), Jesus' last supper (Matt. 26:20-9) and the wedding of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9).

An advocate is a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. In Senz (2018) the Holy Spirit is an advocate who is making intercession on our behalf based on the attacked by the Devil. This is shown in the Book of Job when the Devil comes before God and God makes arguments for Job. In this setting the Devil is seen more like a prosecutor in a court of law whilst God is a defense advocate.

In Ferguson (1997) the Holy Spirit is described as a Governing presence, imparting wisdom to persons like Joseph and Daniel were these men in whom 'the spirit' of another world was seen to dwell (Gn. 41:38; Dn. 4:8-9; 5:11-14). This is also shown in the book of Moses was endowed with the divine Spirit to Enable him to govern. The Spirit is the power of God working in man on special occasions for particular gifts (Wood, 1909) as shown in Joseph's and Daniel's respective cases.

The Spirit is associated with working miracles especially in the Old Testament (Ex. 8:19) and is the divine witness-bearer to the redemptive activity of God (Is. 63:11-12). The Spirit leads and guides the people into the benediction of covenant fulfilment. The Spirit is also the executive of the Exodus-redemption wrought by the God the Savior.

In Green (1985) the Spirit of Jesus has a Spirit of sonship, servanthood, witness. The Holy Spirit brings us assurance that we are indeed the children of God, there is an enduring suffering joyfulness and lastly Jesus' Spirit is the same as the Holy Spirit which bears witness to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit (Ryrie, 1997) has personalities intellect, emotions, and will. The intellect is demonstrated in by the Holy Spirit being the all knowing (1 Cor. 2:10-11 and Romans 8:27) God. The emotion of the Spirit is shown by His ability to feel aggrieved by the sinful nature of humans. The will is shown by the in His ability to direct the activities of God's servants such as leading Paul at Mysia and Troas or forbidding Paul to preach in Asia. In Pinnock (2009) the Spirit is described as One who bonds the loving fellowship that God is and creates access to the Father through the Son (Eph 2:18). The Spirit brings the love of God to all creatures on the Earth.

Walvoord (1991) describes the Holy Spirit being on the same terms as the Father and the Son. In Mat 28:19, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all on the same level, even having the same name in and 2 Cor 13:14. The Spirit rests upon and radiates from the body of the Son. The rest is a place in which the Spirit is to be found and the radiation is a constant going out, in illumination, expansion, dilation, witness and celebration.

Torrey (1897) speaks about the Holy Spirit and baptism which persons could receive or not. This is evident from Paul's questions to the "Did ye receive the Holy Ghost when ye believed?" Act 19:2. Paul was expecting an answer which points to the fact that in receiving the baptism is a choice and experience. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a work of the Spirit which is separate from His regenerating work which is shown in Acts 1:5.

Hubbard (2020) postulates the following that Holiness cannot be found apart from the Spirit's means of grace and hence we

must be diligent in the use of them. The Holiness cannot be found in the means of grace themselves; we must be desperate for the Spirit to work through them.

Newspring Church (2021) speaks about Holy Spirit who provides Christians with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Spirit is described in this text as a person, who is a gift to all, he is ever present, does spectacular things and it not an extra or optional. The Holy Spirit is necessary as He is a supernatural power, that brings life and healing to what was nothing previously and an overall perfect state.

The presence of the Load is found in his people, most prominent when the Spirit who dwells among us (Bruno, 2020) and this is shown in Zep 3:17. The Spirit not only led the displaces into all truth, rejoicing over the people of God, with singing. He therefore, dwells within us.

In Jones (2019) describes the relationship of the Holy to Christ in two ways. The first way is to protect the integrity of Christ's two natures which are divine and human. Secondly to act as a mediator by which miracles could be performed. The Holy Spirit is the immediate author of the Christ's graces.

What does this mean for us?

Jones (2019) describes three meaning of us namely the Spirit's ministry makes us come from Christ, secondly we will be made more Christ and lastly the Spirit glorifies Christ.

The Holy Spirit allows us to create a type of prayer which can only be described as praying in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit is experiencing the Spirit of life bringing prayer to life (Meyer, 2018). When we pray in this form we realize that we are in God's presence speaking to God. The Spirit illuminates your mind, moves your heart, and grants a freedom of utterance and liberty of expression. The Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us according to the will of God. In a guide to

praying in the Spirit there are three characteristics namely: admitting our inability, enjoying the creation of a living communion with God, and pleading the promises of boldness and assurance.

Noyes (2019) describes the Holy Spirit has the following:

- a helper who teaches us,
- Convicts the World of Sin,
- Dwells in Believers and Fills Them, Source of Revelation, Wisdom, and Power
- Guides to All Truth, Including Knowledge of What Is to Come
- Spiritual Gifts to Believers
- Is a Seal in the Lives of Believers
- Helps in a Christian's Weakness and Intercedes for Them
- Makes Believers New and Gives Them Eternal Life
- Sanctifies and Enables Believers to Bear Good Fruit in Their Lives
- Spiritual Gifts to Believers

The Catholic Church recognizes seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (ThoughtCo, 2019) which includes:

Wisdom – this is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit. This wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving the creation for the sake of God.

Understanding – this allows us to grasp the essence of the faith, we are able to gain a certitude about our beliefs that moves beyond faith.

Counsel – this is the perfection of the cardinal virtue of prudence. We are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition. Counsel in practice builds on both wisdom, which allows us to judge the things of the world in light of our final

end and understanding. This helps us to penetrate to the very core of the mysteries of our faith. With this gift of counsel, the Holy Spirit speaks to the heart and in an instant enlightens a person what to do. Hardon (1997) describes three definitions of prudence:

According to St. Augustine, “Prudence is a knowledge of what is to be sought and avoided.” Notice the gift of counsel not only enlightens us on what we should do and how we should do it. It also tells us what we are to avoid and how we are to avoid what would be contrary to the will of God.

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, “Prudence is the application of right reason to moral practice.” Our mind has been darkened by sin. The gift of counsel provides the light we need to think clearly. But more than that; our reason has been elevated by faith. We now know from God’s revelation truths that were not even conceivable before they were revealed. The gift of counsel directs us to put our faith into practice, beyond anything imaginable by the unbelieving human mind.

According to St. Ambrose, “No man is prudent who is ignorant of God.” This means that we are only as prudent as we are united with God, I do not hesitate to say, in constant prayer. Never act on mere impulse. Pray, if only for a moment, before and while you are doing anything which involves your mind.

We gain fortitude when we are able to overcome our fear and are willing to take risk as a follower of Jesus Christ. We also gain knowledge – with the gift of knowledge, we understand the meaning of God. This gives us the Christian perspective knowledge and allows us to see the circumstances of our life as God sees them (ThoughtCo., 2020). The exercise of knowledge, we can ascertain God’s purpose in our lives and His reason for placing us in our particular circumstances. This knowledge is described as “the science of the saints” because it enables those who have the gift to discern easily and effectively between the impulses of temptation of the inspirations of grace. Knowledge

allows us to make decision on good and evil and take actions accordingly. Piety (Reverence), with this gift of reverence, we have a deep sense of respect for God and the church. The Fear of the Lord, with the gift of fear of the Lord we are aware of the glory and majesty of God. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 1:7) because it puts our mindset in its correct location.

The Powerful Work of the Spirit who came at Pentecost are established in Storms (2021). First, the Holy Spirit fills and empowers God's people to boldly proclaim the truth of the gospel. Second, the empowering indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit was essential for God's people to carry out the wide varieties of ministry for which they were responsible. Thirdly, the ability to perform signs and wonders and miracles is explicitly said to be the work of the Holy Spirit in and through God's people. Fourth, it is the Holy Spirit who speaks to God's people and provides guidance to them regarding where, when, and to whom ministry should be extended. Fifth, it was by means of the power of the Holy Spirit that God's people would prophesy and speak in tongues.

Graham (2000) speaks about the believer's responsibility to submit to the Holy Spirit. Our choice seriously impacts our spiritual growth and our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit can be: Lied to and tested (Acts 5:3-4, 9) Resisted (Acts 7:51) Grieved (Ephesians 4:30) Blasphemed (shown contempt) (Matthew 12:31). We are baptized through the Holy Spirit when we become believers. We then have the opportunity and responsibility to be filled with the Holy Spirit, yielding daily to His control. The filling of the Holy Spirit shows itself by the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

Richert (2019) the fruit of the Holy Spirit are the actions that the virtues produce from the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are therefore prompted by the Holy Spirit, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we bear fruit in the form of moral action. These fruits of the Holy Spirit include charity (or love), joy, peace,

patience, benignity (or kindness), goodness, longanimity (or long-suffering), mildness (or gentleness), faith, modesty, continency (or self-control) and chastity.

Berg (2021) purposes five key roles that the Holy Spirit plays in our lives including: 1. He guides us into Jesus' truth, He directs your steps, He give us spiritual gifts, He empowers you to proclaim, He guarantees our hope to heaven. Jesus describes the importance of the Holy Spirit as the truth in John 16:13-14. The Spirit directs our steps as shown in Romans 8:9,11 as He is the conduit of life from God into our heart. The Spirit gives us Spiritual gifts as shown in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. It is through these gifts of the Spirit that we function best as the Church. He empowers us to proclaim giving us a new boldness. He also guarantees our inheritance in heaven.

Conclusion

In this paper we discussed the Holy Spirit and looked at the attributes from a biblical perspective. The attributes include Helper and Guide, sanctifies you, you more like Christ, helps you to do the Father's will, gifts you for ministry, imparts love, gives hope, teaches and gives insight, guides our prayers, uses us for evangelism, convicts, restrains and send forth into Christian service.

The Holy Spirit roles are important to describe how He is portrayed to us namely He is an Advocate. Secondly he is described as a Governing presence in which He could show wisdom to persons. Thirdly, the Spirit is shown to have sonship, servanthood, witness. Next, the Spirit is able to show personalities intellect, emotions, and will as well as Holiness.

With the roles and attributes, we next discussed how the meaning and impact on our lives specifically looking at the Spiritual Gifts to Believers. This includes, receiving the gifts of the spirit, and having the Spirit work in our lives.

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