

The Holy Spirit Helps By Trey Sullins

Try to picture the Holy Spirit. Try to imagine what He looks like. As humans we really don't understand very much about what it is like outside of our own physical existence. Because we can only directly perceive the physical world, we must rely on the word of God to understand these spiritual things. One thing is for certain, through the word of God we know that the Holy Spirit has been working since the beginning and continues His work today.

The Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament. In Genesis 1:2 the Bible says, "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." The reference here to the "Spirit of God" is likely a reference to the Holy Spirit. In this instance He was active in the creation of the world, plants, animals, and humans. The Holy Spirit also worked directly on humans much later in history. In 1 Samuel 16:13 after being anointed with oil the "Spirit of the Lord" (or "Jehovah" more accurately) came upon him from that day forward. With the Holy Spirit upon him David prophesied, obeyed God, and fought for great victories in battle. The Holy Spirit did thousands of years of work many other prophets, kings, and judges in the Old Testament.

The Holy Spirit worked in the New Testament. One of the first examples that we find is in Luke 1:41. Here the Bible reveals that Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting and when this happened the "babe leaped in her womb." Just after this the Bible says, "and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." In Luke 1:43 she asks, "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" This is information that she could have only known through the revelation of Holy Spirit. There are also many other examples of the Holy Spirit working miracles in the New Testament. Jesus spoke in John 20:22 for the apostles to receive the Holy Spirit. All throughout the gospel records and the book of Acts you find numerous examples of healings, teachings, prophesies and many other things. One of the most notable examples of this is in Acts 9:36-43. In this account a well-known woman, Dorcas, had died in Joppa. Peter went to Joppa to the body and said, "Tabitha, arise." After saying this she opened her eyes and sat up. The Holy Spirit was very active all throughout the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit gives us the Bible. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His apostles and through the apostles and the Holy Spirit's work we have the word of God recorded for us. 2 Peter 1:21 explains that "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." This means that the Holy Spirit was directly involved helping the apostles remember and record the will of God. 2 Timothy 3:16 shows us that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. The entirety of the written word on which we rely for salvation was delivered to us through the Holy Spirit. With this word we have the answers to every question of life (2 Peter 1:3).

The Holy Spirit is truly a mysterious person of the Godhead. Yet, through studying the scriptures we can still learn about His involvement throughout history. As God's people we must understand the Holy Spirit's work and how it affects us as Christians. The Holy Spirit was clearly active in the Old Testament and New Testament so we too much be active in obeying the words of God!