

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
Valley Church, Cupertino, CA
April 6, 2010

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and that He possesses emotions (Ephesians 4:30), mind (Romans 8:27) and will (Acts 15:22-28). He is fully God (Acts 5:3-4) being eternal (Hebrews 9:14), omniscient (John 16:12-13), omnipotent (Genesis 1:2), and omnipresent (Psalms 139:7-10).

We believe that the Holy Spirit acted powerfully in the creation of the universe, living things, and human beings who were created in God's image (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; 33:4; Psalms 33:6; 104:30).

We believe that the Holy Spirit taught, inspired, and enlightened the prophets and the apostles in the writing of God's Word, the Bible (2 Samuel 23:2; Ezekiel 11:5; Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16; 28:25; 1 Peter 1:11, 20-21) and the disciples to teach and minister for Christ (Matthew 10:20; Luke 12:12; Mark 13:11).

We believe that the Holy Spirit was powerfully active in the life of Christ: His birth (Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35), His anointing for ministry (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22, 4:14, 18; John 1:32), and His resurrection from the dead (1 Peter 3:18). He also glorifies Christ by mediating Christ's presence to believers so that they may do the things that glorify Christ (John 16:14).

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world (individuals) of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 12:31; 15:27; 16:7-11; 17:20).

We believe the Holy Spirit is active in the regeneration of believers, baptizes them and indwells them fully at the moment of conversion (1 Corinthians 12:13; John 7:37-39; Romans 8:9) and are sealed and preserved by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). We believe that no additional experience or special gift is required to affirm this reality.

We believe the Holy Spirit sanctifies believers (Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11), comforts them by His presence in trials and weakness (Romans 8:26), and assures them of their salvation (Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:13-14).

We believe that filling with the Holy Spirit is commanded and when done gives believers access to the power of the Holy Spirit that indwells them (Ephesians 5:17-18) for service through the exercise of gifts and expression of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

We believe that the Holy Spirit supplies gifts to build up the body of Christ, the church (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). These gifts include prophesying (speaking forth the Word of God), serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, giving wisdom, providing knowledge, encouraging faith, healing, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, and doing miracles.

We believe that the personal gifts of miraculous healing, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues were clearly evident at Pentecost and with the early church for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the Word of God preached at that time (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:1-4)

We believe that the Holy Spirit, as is His sovereign right, may on occasion today empower believers to speak in another's language unknown to oneself to communicate the wonders of God (Acts 2:11), speak in a private prayer language as part of a personal meditation (1 Corinthians 14:2), and perform miraculous healing (Acts 9:40; 14:10; 16:18). We believe these actions of the Holy Spirit should not be considered a sign of conversion in themselves, an act of self-promotion, or a glorification of the gift.