



Biggest Part of You Is Something Missing In Your Life?

When I first came to Christ, I felt an overwhelming compulsion to go up to the front of the church and tell the pastor at the end of the service that I wanted God's salvation. I was not afraid to go in front of everyone and talk with him despite the fact that I was fairly shy and only ten. When I was baptized, my eyes filled with tears, and I wept. I felt the immensity of becoming Christian, of having salvation and it overwhelmed me. To this day, I do not believe this was just a psychological reaction to a big decision. The Holy Spirit came over me and I experienced the immensity of Him working in me. Not everyone has this happen, this powerful sense of God and the entrance into a new life. I did though and it was nothing like I had ever experienced before. I did not know it at the time, but I had come upon the Holy Spirit in a tangible way.

Many are frustrated by conversations about the Holy Spirit. They wonder why He is so quiet, so hidden. They have been disappointed by how their praying has gone and have grown apathetic about the possibility of having a real and meaningful relationship with the Holy Spirit. Honestly, many Christians have become indifferent to knowing God and being changed by Him. It does not excite them at all to think of having the Holy Spirit a part of them. Yet what is most important about the psychology of living within the Kingdom of God is having the Holy Spirit joined to you. He is who transforms you, who makes being born again actually that. He becomes a part of you and changes the way you think, decide and live. When you consider the thought of God close to you, you are talking about the Holy Spirit. When you are looking for guidance, encouragement, correction, and the nudge needed to make the right decision, it is the Holy Spirit who does that. In fact, the Holy Spirit truly is the biggest part of you, the driving force behind your new life with God.

What should you know about the Holy Spirit? First, it is the Holy Spirit who makes the good news of salvation comprehensible. **Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.** (1 Peter 1:10-12 NIV) The ancient prophets did not understand how the Gospel could work but they knew that what they had to say about it was for those who would. Even angels were confused by it. Yet we get the need to have our sins taken from us and to be remade by Christ dying on the cross because the Holy Spirit has explained it to us. The words are just gibberish to our minds until the Holy Spirit jumps in and makes everything clear.

In fact, it is not just that the Holy Spirit makes the salvation that comes through Christ understandable, He also empowers it, gives it life in us. One of the great expressions of having been brought into eternal life is that joy comes with it. That joy may last for a bit of time or maybe go on much longer. The joy of salvation though is brought to us by the Holy Spirit. **You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.** (1 Thessalonians 1:6 NIV) This joy clearly is not some human inspired happiness; not the reaction to getting a new car or romantic partner. It is not the joy you can just drum up because you think you should have it. It is supernatural joy, joy

that shows up because you are connected to the Holy Spirit, and it is due directly to gaining the salvation that comes from Christ. Joy is one of the great gifts of God, we all need more of it, and we can thank the Holy Spirit when we have it!

Actually, this matter of salvation is even more connected to the Holy Spirit than we think. **But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.** (Titus 3:4-7 NIV) Jesus takes our sin from us and the Holy Spirit remakes us. He is responsible for perfecting you so you are fit for the Kingdom of God. Without Him, you would be cooked. There would be no way you could make it as part of God's people. But you will be because of what the Holy Spirit is doing in you and will finish in time. The Holy Spirit is the architect and developer of the new you! You certainly are a work in progress but with the Holy Spirit in charge, you can count on one day being perfect in every way!

Pay careful attention to what the Apostle Paul says is what makes it all work for you. God's very own love, His capacity to love and His will to love are implanted in you by the Holy Spirit. **And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.** (Romans 5:5 NIV) There is so much this implies. You can if you choose, love enemies, forgive scoundrels and befriend the friendless. It is endless the possibilities when it comes to love because the Holy Spirit has all you need to be great at it. You do not have to hold grudges, be grumpy or offended. You can love unconditionally. All of those wonderful characteristics of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 are accessible to you with the Holy Spirit putting God's love into you. Listen to what the Apostle Paul says can be yours. **Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.** (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV) What a great way to live! And yet you can because the Holy Spirit makes it possible.

Something else to consider when it comes to what the Holy Spirit does for you. He guides you. Two specific examples are found in the book of Acts. We realize that when Paul went on his trips through Europe and Asia Minor as a missionary sharing the good news of the salvation of Christ, he did not just strategize with his friends and decide where to go. The Holy Spirit directed him. **Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.** (Acts 16:6 NIV) And later this same sort of guidance is provided. **When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** (Acts 16:7 NIV)

One of the problems we face is trying to figure out what is of God and what is not. Paul relied on the Holy Spirit to guide him in matters that were confusing. He trusted God to show him the way in the normal matters of life. **I speak the truth in Christ — I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit—** (Romans 9:1 NIV) It takes faith to become aware of the Holy Spirit guiding you on simple things like what phone service to use and how to help your friend with her depression but soon enough, as you rely on the Holy Spirit to point out to you what to do and how to react to what you face, you will find His wisdom a part of your thinking.

Be open to the Holy Spirit in you. Rather than just going on your own, doing what you feel like doing, pause and turn to the Holy Spirit to guide you, to help you. Next week we will look further into the work of the Holy Spirit in you, but for now, get close to the Holy Spirit as many times through the day as possible. Lean into Him. Ask Him to guide you. Pray for Him to help you forgive each and every sin committed against you. Call upon Him for power and inspiration. Trust Him to help you break bad habits and gain control over those behaviors that are bringing you down. Enjoy this life you have with God. Make the most of it!