

The Holy Spirit Is Indispensible

Christianity is Trinitarian, “*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost*” is sung in almost every church every Sunday.

Whether the singer realises it or not they are acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is God with an equal claim to be worshipped along with the Father and Son.

Yet after this claim is sung at or near the beginning of the worship service, little or nothing is heard of the Holy Spirit again until the benediction.

Why?

Throughout the history of the church and its creeds the Holy Spirit is dismissed with a few words.

It seems strange that so much is made of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament and so little in Christian writings supposed to be based upon the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned at the very beginning of the Christian Bible and in the last chapter of its last book, as well as hundreds of times in between.

Within the Christian Bible the Holy Spirit is necessary.

According to the scriptures everything God does in creation, both physical and spiritual, and redemption of all humanity, is done by God through the Holy Spirit.

In the life of Jesus Christ our Saviour, the Son of Man, the Holy Spirit was constantly at work.

Luke 1:35 [NIV] “*The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’*”

The Holy Spirit was the giver of physical life to our Saviour.

Although Jesus Christ was God [**John 1:1**] He did not start His ministry until He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. [**John 1:29-34; Acts 10:38**]

Jesus specifically forbade His disciples from trying to do anything in their own strength. [**Luke 24:29**]

The book with the title, ‘*The Acts of the Apostles*’ in the Christian Bible should really be, ‘*The Acts of the Holy Spirit.*’

The only power God recognises in His church is the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] “*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*”

Jesus is continuing His work on earth through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. [**John 16:13**]

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the Church. [**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**]

The Holy Spirit develops Godly character in every Christian. [**Galatians 5:22-23**]

The Holy Spirit brings the words of Jesus Christ to remembrance. [**John 14:26**]

The Holy Spirit puts words into our mouths when we are put on trial by human courts. [**Luke 12:11-12**]

The Holy Spirit assists us in our prayers. [**Romans 8:26**]

The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and will do the same for us to receive eternal life. [**Romans 8:11**]

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus the Son of Man to live a sin-free life. [**Hebrews 9:14**]

The Holy Spirit brings unity in the church. [**Ephesians 4:2-4**]

The Holy Spirit reveals spiritual truths. [**1 Corinthians 2:9-14**]

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, points us to true righteousness and reminds us of our future judgement. [**John 16:8**]

As a result of all the above, what should be our response?

Galatians 5:25 [NIV] *“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

Live by and keep following the lead of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [NIV] *“Do not put out the spirit’s fire.”*

Don’t put out the burning desires that the Holy Spirit will ignite within us to fulfil God’s purpose for our lives.

Ephesians 4:30-32 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

Avoid grieving the Holy Spirit by replacing our degenerate human nature with Godlike kindness, compassion and mercy.

Only what is done in us and through us by the Holy Spirit will abide eventually, all else is wood, hay and straw. [**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**]