

# EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR LIFE AND MISSION

BY TODD MORR



[WWW.MISSIONALMADESIMPLE.COM](http://WWW.MISSIONALMADESIMPLE.COM)

# EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR LIFE AND MISSION

## LEARNING TO LIVE IN A RHYTHM OF SPIRIT DEPENDENCE

What do we know to be true about the Holy Spirit and His relationship or role in the Trinity?  
What comes to mind?

In most evangelical churches, the Holy Spirit definitely seems like the “little brother” of the Trinity. Why is that?

What becomes true of people and churches, when this happens? (man-centered, proud, powerless, fruitless – lacking the fruit of the Spirit, sin, “flesh” problems, etc.)

Why do you think, when the Spirit plays such a prominent role in Jesus’ life and ministry and then in that of the early church in Acts, that many Christians and church leaders pay so little attention to the Holy Spirit? (discuss extremes – cessationist/charismatic; what has been the predominant evangelical perspective – traditional, conservative, cautious)

Here’s a quick study (discovery process) of what Jesus and Paul have to say about the role and work of the Spirit in our lives and ministries.

- JOHN 6:63
- JOHN 14:15-20
- JOHN 14:26
- JOHN 15:26
- JOHN 16:7-15
- JOHN 20:19-23
- ROMANS 8:5-17 (plus see Romans 5:5)
- 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-14
- GALATIANS 5:16-26

## WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THESE VERSES? WHAT OBSERVATIONS DO YOU HAVE?

- Things that the Holy Spirit does in us and for us: **helps, reminds, convicts, teaches, leads, counsels, reveals, proclaims (the truth about Jesus)**
- The Holy Spirit is also often referred to as the **Spirit of truth**. His desire is to lead us towards consistent **obedience** to the truth of the Bible and the example of Jesus.



## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS “BODY OF WORK” THAT WE SEE THE SPIRIT DOING ALL THE TIME?

- From what we’ve seen in these verses and from what we know of the Spirit’s work throughout Scripture, we can conclude that **the Spirit is the one that changes hearts and transforms lives.**
- It’s **the Spirit who is the primary discipler and equipper of people.** The disciples were called to “go and make disciples”, but not in their own power, only after they had received the Spirit (see Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:4-5).
- The work of discipleship is the Spirit’s work and must be done in submission to Him and in partnership with Him. We must move away from the belief and practice of man-centered discipleship – that we are the ones that control the growth and change in people’s lives.

## DO YOU THINK JESUS DID ANYTHING APART FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT? EXPLAIN.

- The Gospels tell us that Jesus was “full of the Spirit”, “walked in the power of the Spirit”, did miracles “by the power of the Spirit”. What are some examples?

## DO YOU THINK WE’RE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING APART FROM THE SPIRIT?

- See John 15:4-5 - We can do nothing (of kingdom value) apart from the Spirit! As Christians and as leaders, we must learn to live and lead and make disciples fully dependent on the Spirit, if not, we are living and leading in the flesh and by our own strength.

## HOW DO WE SEE THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS RELATING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT? WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES? WHAT ARE SOME CONCLUSIONS?

- In the book of Acts, again and again there are examples of the apostles and those in the church living life in partnership with the Holy Spirit. (More than 50x the Spirit is specifically mentioned – see Acts 15:28 - they refer to the Spirit, as if he was one of the elder team!)

## PAUL TELLS US IN HIS LETTERS TO CHURCHES:

- Walk in the Spirit
- Live by the Spirit
- Keep in step with the Spirit
- Be filled with the Spirit
- Live in accordance with the Spirit
- Let your mind be controlled by the Spirit



In light of everything we've read and seen so far, what thoughts, questions, or applications are coming to mind? What are the implications you're seeing in all of this for yourself and for your Missional Community or those you're discipling?

- The **primary calling** on the life of every follower of Jesus - every person in every church - is to help make disciples. The Holy Spirit is the **primary discipler** and equipper of people. So, for life and mission - to make disciples - we must live in total dependence on the Holy Spirit.

## WHAT WOULD OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THOSE IN OUR MISSIONAL COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE IF WE WERE IN A RHYTHM OF SPIRIT DEPENDENCE?

- Full of the fruit of the Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,...(Galatians 5)
- Clarity rather than confusion, doubt, fear, etc.
- Clear direction about our future and how we should be stewarding our lives -
  - where we should live and work
  - how we spend our time and money
  - how and with who we spend our time
- Lives oriented around the mission of Jesus and the mission of the Holy Spirit - **TO MAKE DISCIPLES**
- Boldness and effectiveness in demonstrating and proclaiming the gospel
- Our lives and the lives of those around us being transformed and becoming more like Jesus

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN PRACTICALLY IN OUR LIVES, OUR LEADERSHIP, OUR DISCIPLE-MAKING?

- **Throughout the day, in the moment, we need to be asking the Spirit for help, ideas, wisdom, discernment, words to speak, etc. - basically how to think, act, and speak ALL day.** That's the role the Holy Spirit is supposed to play and wants to play in our lives.
- We should be **ASKING** the Spirit for help with the details of our lives like:
  - People we're caring for and discipling
  - Leaders we're developing
  - Hard conversations we're having - that our words would be filled with truth and grace
  - People we're counseling
  - Non-Christians we're spending time with
  - Gospel conversations we're having
  - Decisions we're making
  - Things we're struggling with
  - How we're spending our time and money



## IN RHYTHM, THROUGHOUT THE DAY, WE NEED TO:

- **Ask** the Spirit for help
- **Listen** for the Spirit's direction
- **Obey** what the Spirit tells us to do

## LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT CAN HAPPEN THROUGH:

- Quiet
- People/community
- Scripture
- Circumstances

Obedying the Spirit will often involve us dying to self. He will call us to die...often! He will call us to go to hard places, uncomfortable places. He will call us to do hard things, sacrificial things. He will call us to love difficult people and people very different from us.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us! Let the "helper", who Jesus gave as a gift for this purpose, help us live every area of life with His power and for His purposes.

Holy Spirit help us to learn more and more to live in a rhythm of dependence upon you!

## ASKING. LISTENING. OBEYING.

