

# Basic Christianity – Why Did God Send the Holy Spirit? | 7/3/16

- Introduction
  - We are going to answer the question “Why did God send the Holy Spirit?”
  - We that the Spirit is part of the Trinity, the Spirit is as much God as is Jesus Christ.
  - But what is His purpose?
  - We know that He is important because Jesus spoke of Him many times.
  - One of the last things that Jesus told the Disciples was to wait for the Holy Spirit to come to them in Jerusalem. There had to be a great purpose.
  - And this purpose was not just for the disciples but it is for all of humanity.
- The Holy Spirit came to bind us in a permanent relationship with God.
  - The Holy Spirit is proof that we are a Christian and binds us in a permanent relationship with God.
  - The Holy Spirit came the moment we had faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross.
    - Ephesians 1:13
      - “When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”
    - When we heard the Gospel message it cultivated saving faith within our hearts. The moment we truly believed (faith) is when God justified us and sent His Spirit to live within us.
  - The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our salvation, our inheritance.
    - Ephesians 1:14
      - “who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”
    - This guarantee is a promise from God that we will forever be in a relationship with God. He will never remove Himself from us.
    - This is an unbreakable infusion, God will not remove it because of our disobedience or when we turn our backs upon Him.
    - His Spirit will be with us every step of our lives until He carries us home to spend all eternity with Him away from the physical world of sin and death.
  - The Holy Spirit shows us that we are now children of God.
    - Romans 8:14-17
      - “All those led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children, and if children, also heirs-heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may all be glorified with Him.”
    - **The Spirit testifies that we are children of God who loves His children even more than any earthly father could.**
    - No matter our disobedience He will love us and care for us.
    - We will be glorified with Christ it is a promise that God can never break.
- The Holy Spirit is a witness to Jesus Christ and to God’s truths. He gives us undeniable proof of His presence.
  - There are many ways that Jesus Christ and the truth of Scriptures are made know to the world.
    - The witness of the Church is wonderful, it preaches and teaches the Gospel and proclaims its truth.
      - We have great and wonderful evidence as to the preservation of Scripture.
      - We have historical evidence to the existence of Jesus, He was not just a mythical figment of someone’s imagination.

- But of all the things that we rely upon, there is no greater proof than the witness given by the Holy Spirit.
  - John 15:26
    - “When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—**He will testify about Me.**”
- **This proof is so great that regardless of what the world may try to do or say to disprove Christianity, there is one thing that they can never take away.**
- **The absolute proof of Jesus Christ that lives within us in the witness of the Holy Spirit.**
  - To have the Spirit of God living you cannot be ignored.
  - God is present within the heart of the Christian and He speaks truth, He speaks wisdom and He speaks love.
  - His comforting presence is undeniable and the world can NEVER take that away from us.
- The light of God has shown on the glory of Jesus Christ that lives within us.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:6
    - “For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.”
  - The glory of Jesus Christ has been illuminated within us. No amount of darkness can ever remove Christ who lives within us.
- Because of this witness we are no longer capable of fully denying Jesus Christ
  - Once we have been sealed with the Spirit and the witness revealed, we are no longer capable of doubting the divinity or existence of Jesus Christ.
  - His presence is unmistakable and it cannot be removed, therefore we are not capable of denying His existence.
  - Christians can choose to live in defiance to God, they can turn away for a season and live in the flesh. But they cannot ever fully deny His presence.
- **How would you describe the presence of the Holy Spirit living within you?**
- **Has the Spirit shown you that you are a child of God and given you undeniable proof of His presence?**
- The Spirit came to remove our heart of stone.
  - Our hearts without Christ are made of stone. The Holy Spirit came to replace it with one that is infused with Christ.
    - Ezekiel 36:26
      - “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”
  - **What do you think of when you hear that someone has a “heart of stone”?**
  - Our heart of stone is not capable of showing true Godly love nor is it able to obey the commands of God.
    - It is filled with evil and it must be replaced.
    - To have a heart of stone is depicted in film and in reference to someone that doesn’t seem to be capable of showing love or compassion for others.
    - **But this is the heart that God says we have without the Holy Spirit.**
  - This new heart is the result of the Spirit of God, He has removed our heart of stone that was never capable of showing the love or obedience that God desires from us.
    - **This new heart that is intertwined with the Holy Spirit, it is capable of doing things we never could on our own.**
    - We can now show and express true Godly love, we have a true desire to be obedient to God and His commands.
    - We can now know what true love from God feels like.

- This new heart that has been infused with the Spirit, serves as the core for our new Christian life.
  - From the moment we are sealed with the Spirit we have a new heart that will be our foundation for our new Christian life.
  - We can now strive to live in obedience to God and to live the life He has called us to because of this new heart.
- **What are we now capable of with our new heart that we could never do before with our heart of stone?**
- The Spirit came to write God's laws on our hearts.
  - Under the old covenant the law of God was engraved on tables of stone and was placed in the Most Holy Place.
  - However, under the new covenant relationship that we have with Jesus Christ, this law of God is now written upon our hearts.
    - Hebrews 10:15-16
      - "The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. For after He says: This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws on their hearts and write them on their minds,"
  - Without the Holy Spirit our sinful nature reigns.
    - If we do not have Christ within us we cannot help but to let our selfish and sinful nature control us.
    - **We can "be a good person" but our hearts without Christ will never measure up.**
    - Our sinful desires will always reign supreme and it will leave us empty on the inside.
  - With the Holy Spirit God reigns.
    - **But to have the Spirit of God and to have His laws written on our hearts, now Christ reigns supreme.**
    - To know what is or is not pleasing to God is never a mystery to the Christian, because of His Spirit that lives within us.
      - His moral stands are forever embedded within our hearts.
      - **He tells us how we are to live our lives, what is good and pleasing and what isn't.**
    - No longer are we helplessly under the control of our sinful nature
      - Romans 8:5
        - "For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit."
      - **We will STRIVE to live a life that pleases God, instead of one that strives to live for our own selfishness because of His Spirit.**
    - We still have the sinful nature and there will be struggles, but if we walk in the Spirit we can overcome the desires of the sinful nature.
      - Galatians 5:16-17
        - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."
- The presence of our new heart will be obvious to others.
  - 2 Corinthians 3:1-3
    - "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, recognized and read by everyone. It is clear that you are Christ's letter, produced by us, not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God not on stone tables but on tables that are hearts of flesh."

- It will be obvious to the world that our heart of stone had been removed. That we now have a new heart that is full of Godly love.
    - We cannot help but to shine the light of God in our actions and speech because of the Spirit that now lives within us.
  - **If God's laws are written on our hearts and minds. Do we ever have a good excuse for our sin and disobedience?**
  - **Is our new heart visible to others? Are there times that we cast a shadow over this truth?**
- The Spirit came to teach us and to remind us of everything that God has told us.
  - The Holy Spirit that lives within us is the living Spirit of God and not a silent presence or simply a mark.
    - **The Holy Spirit is the living God within us and He speaks, He teaches, He comforts, He guides and He loves.**
  - The Spirit will actively speak, teach and remind us of God's truths.
    - John 14:25-26
      - "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—**will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.**"
    - John 16:13
      - "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come."
  - God does not expect that upon the moment we are saved, that we are able to live a perfect life.
    - He knows that we still have the sinful nature that we struggle with, but the Spirit is there to teach us so that we can grow.
    - **The spirit will be the voice when we have to choose between sinning against God and being obedient.**
    - We will know if our choices or actions will please or displease God because His spirit will remind us of God's teachings.
  - Our spiritual maturity and education does not end once we are saved, in fact it is only the beginning.
    - God will give us the desire to know more about Him and to study our Bible.
    - As the Christian reads the Scriptures God speaks and teaches us.
      - **This is why as Christians the Scriptures "speak" to us when we read and apply its truths. When we really open our hearts and minds to understand His word.**
- God is always there with us in everything that we do.