



## WHY THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED

SERMON 2: BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DOES

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016  
Pastor Wayne George

Last week, we began our series on the Holy Spirit looking at some reasons as to why the Holy Spirit should not be ignored. If you were awake during that sermon, you'll remember we highlighted the fact that the Holy Spirit should not be ignored *because of who he is*.

Well this morning I'd like to continue along that train of thought as we consider together:

*The Holy Spirit should not be ignored because of what he does.*

Now there are heaps of things the Holy Spirit does in our lives (refer to last week's notes under "The Holy Spirit Does Personal Works" but let's look at a few briefly this morning.

### **I. HE LEADS US TO SALVATION** **(Read Romans 8:14-15)**

Martin Luther wrote:

*"I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith."*

Sunday after Sunday, as Christ is preached, as the Gospel of freedom is proclaimed from pulpits across our world - that is well and good, but that Word needs to be believed. That offer of forgiveness and freedom needs to be received. It needs to be applied to the sin-stained, guilt ridden heart and soul.

***This is the work of the Holy Spirit.*** You see, we can preach; you can witness to your unsaved friends/family – but persuasion and salvation belongs to the Holy Spirit.

Luther describes all that Christ has done for us as a treasure that lies in a heap. Before we can enjoy any of the treasures offered to us in Christ, the Holy Spirit needs to communicate and impress it upon our hearts. It is He that take the word, and applies the heart of and individual. He convicts us of our sinful state and our need for a Savior.

Read John 16:8

---

---

---

Read 1 Thessalonians

1:5

---

Before we come to Christ, the Bible says we are “dead in our trespasses and sin”, so we can do absolutely nothing to save ourselves. The Holy Spirit awakens in us an interest in spiritual things. He creates that desire in the things of God that perhaps was never there before. Suddenly, its as if the veil is lifted, and the eyes and the ears of the heart are opened afresh to the things of God. (Read **1 Corinthians 2:14**).

But that’s not where it stops. Because there’s a change in the heart, this overflows to ones actions, and desires. He continues that sanctifying work in our lives making us more and more like Jesus. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17)

But here Paul reminds his readers in Romans 8, that the Holy Spirit does not ***“make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.”***<sup>[a]</sup> ***And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”***

How many know this morning, friend that when the Holy Spirit regenerated you, when you were born again, when you came to faith – your status was changed!

<b>BEFORE</b>	<b>AFTER</b>
Dead in sin	Alive to Christ
Slaves to sin	Sons and daughters of the Most High God

The God of the Bible is not to be feared in the sense of terror, but instead, we are made part of His family. As such, we come to him as children to a loving Father, and call him “Abba” / Daddy! That change is brought about by the Holy Spirit!

Not only does the Holy Spirit LEAD us to salvation, he also

## **II. ASSURES US OF SALVATION**

Let me ask: **“How many of you feel saved 24/7?”** I know I don’t.

Anything – circumstances, challenges- can arise that cause us to just not to “feel” saved. Friends, your and my position as God’s children, is not based on feelings, which fluctuate. It is based upon the unfailing and unshakable promises of God given to us in our coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

***“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children”. (Romans 8:16)***

- He reminds us of what Christ has said and done.
- He reminds us of the promises of God which are yes and amen in Christ Jesus!
- He assures us, He comfort us, He keeps us.

What else does the Holy Spirit do?

### III. HE EMPOWERS US FOR SERVICE

**Read Acts 2:1-4**

At any other time before this, in the face of opposition, we'd find the disciples cowering in fear. Remember Peter: he was even scared of a young servant girl – and denied Jesus. Remember the occasions they would hide away behind locked doors in fear.

**What's different on this occasion?** There's opposition, there's ridicule, but instead of a denying Peter; instead of a fearful Peter, we find a Peter, not afraid to stand up with the Eleven, raise his voice and address the crowd, boldly proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ! **What happened?** Well, verse 4 happened! They were filled with the Holy Spirit! Read Acts 1:8

Peter preached that day with a new-found passion and power. In fact we are told that about 3000 believed and were baptised.

Friends, that is why the Holy Spirit should not be ignored. He empowers us for service. He gives us the boldness to live out our Christian witness fearlessly.

Without Him, sermons being preached from our pulpits will be nothing more than nice speeches. But because of Him, lives are still changed, chains of sin are still broken and sinners are still saved.

Long after we have sown the seed of the gospel in the lives of others, the Holy Spirit continues to speak and bring about growth.

*(Closing illustration of atheist air force trooper who in a life-threatening moment found himself calling upon the God of his mother!) I heard a story once that goes something like this....*

God Bless  
Pastor Wayne

+++++

*\*for a full manuscript of Pastor's sermon, please email him on [pastorwg@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwg@gmail.com)  
Also, unless otherwise stated, a recording Pastor's sermons can now be listened to online at [http://stjohnsbundy.org.au/?page\\_id=4511](http://stjohnsbundy.org.au/?page_id=4511)*