

LESSON 6

THE WORK OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT
AND HIS ROLE IN
PRAYER.

Objectives

At the end of this lesson you should be able to:

- 1 Understand that the Holy Spirit comes from God to establish the Kingdom of heaven on earth.
(Model Prayer, Matthew 6:9)
- 2 Show an appreciation for the Holy Spirit as a testament of God's indwelling with believers.
- 3 Discuss, with Scriptural evidence, the Holy Spirit as 'God's Helper', performing multiple tasks, including guiding us on what to pray.

The work of the Holy Spirit can be grouped into two broad categories:

1 Establishing the Kingdom of heaven

- i. indwelling believers – Romans 8:9 - 11
- ii. divesting gifts – John 20:22; I Cor. 12:8 - 10
- iii. teaching the wisdom of God - I Cor. 2:12 - 14
- iv. leading and enlightening (including guiding our prayers or praying on our behalf) Romans 8:26

2. Opposing the Kingdom of hell

- i. exerting power over devils and destroying enemies of heaven (Matt. 12:24, 27, 28)
- ii. overthrowing the will of the flesh (Matt. 12:29)
- iii. protecting the temple from invasion (Matt. 12:43 - 44)

Abraham Kuyper, Dutch theologian, and editor of the weekly religious publication, *The Herald*, dedicated 100 short entries to the work of the Holy Spirit between 1837 – 1920. These were compiled into 3 volumes. While Volume One covers the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, Volumes Two and Three deal with the work of the Holy Spirit in the individual. The final section in Volume iii focuses on prayer. A key passage in this section is

Romans 8:26 - 28:

For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the

Spirit himself intercedes for us... And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Paul, the writer of the quoted scripture, believes the presence of the Holy Spirit is integral to our identity with Christ: You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (Romans 8:9)

Let us take a closer look at some of the ways in which the
Holy Spirit helps us in prayer.

1. He affirms or reminds us of our Christ-identity,
making The Call:

Our Father who art in heaven... transcendental
yet quite intimate/personal.

Matthew 6:9

- 2 He directs our petition from self-centeredness to
Christ-centeredness.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
(Matthew 6:10) or those who live in
accordance with the Spirit have their minds set
on what the Spirit desires.

(Romans 8:5)

3 When we become weak and lose focus because of the weight of our circumstance, He intercedes for us. The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans (Romans 8:26)

4 His knowledge of the Father and Us make shame in our prayer pointless and honesty pertinent to the exchange. Since He has knowledge of the nature, direction, plans and passions of the Father, we await the downloads. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:27)

5 When we pray and do not get the answers we seek nor can tell when these answers will come, the Spirit maintains for some and renews in others, our confidence in God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28



End of Unit Activity

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