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PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Bible reveals the Holy Spirit as a divine person, promised to believers as a personal possession. The third person of the one triune God regenerates sinners to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and indwells believers. His presence and power transform the believer's life, including these three ways:

1- The Holy Spirit CONVICTS guilty unbelieving sinners of your need for the Savior. - "Convict" sounds bad, but is actually a very good thing. We live in a world of spiritual darkness, blind to spiritual reality. The word convict relates to exposing something, the way light exposes what is hidden. The Holy Spirit is like a powerful searchlight which pierces the darkness to illuminate what lurks in the basement. He reveals the reality of your life - and how to fill the void.

In John 16:7-15 Jesus promised the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. First, He convicts you about your sin. He shows your unbelief and how you reject Christ. Second, the Holy Spirit convicts you about righteousness. He reveals how you are naturally not right with God, and are incapable of becoming right, no matter how hard you try. Only God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, is righteous.

Third, the Holy Spirit convicts of judgment. Not only are you guilty before God, with no hope of getting righteousness for yourself, but you will have to pay for your sins. The Holy Spirit convicted people through Peter's preaching in Acts 2 and 3. "*They were cut to the heart and said, 'what shall we do?'*" Peter replied, "*repent and believe.*" This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

2- The Holy Spirit CONVERTS spiritually dead sinners into new life in Jesus Christ. - When Satan "convicts" you about sin, he accuses you to despair, removing hope. But the Holy Spirit leads you to forgiveness in Jesus, restoring hope. In John 6 Jesus said, "*it is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail... This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father.*"

Titus 3 explains "*He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*" This is talking about Spirit baptism, which is pictured in water baptism. Water doesn't give you the Holy Spirit, Jesus does. He promised to baptize His disciples in the Holy Spirit, and this immersion of the Spirit happens to you when you are born again by the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 explains, "*for in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*" The baptism of the Holy Spirit happens to all believers the moment of re-birth, and brings you into union with Christ. As Romans 6 explains, water baptism pictures what really happens in Spirit baptism. You are immersed into union with Christ. You died with Him, were buried with Him, and are raised with Him - "*so that you can walk in newness of life.*" This is all the work of the Holy Spirit.

3- The Holy Spirit CONVEYS every aspect of salvation in Christ to believers in Him. - Salvation is the work of the triune God. The Father arranges it, the Son accomplishes it, and the Spirit applies it. The Holy Spirit convicts you of sin as He calls you to Christ. He converts you to faith as He regenerates you to spiritual life, to believe in Jesus. And He conveys all the blessings of salvation as you are born again.

These blessings include a long list of new realities. Indwelling, as God takes up residence in your being, in the person of the Holy Spirit. Justification, being declared righteous before God. Reconciliation, brought into right relationship with God. Adoption, becoming part of God's forever family. Sealing, the guarantee of salvation. Filling, to empower your new life in Christ, to bear witness of Him in your walk and especially your talk. Sanctification, being made holy more like Christ. Glorification, completing all this transformation.

Has all this happened to YOU? The Holy Spirit convicts you of your need to be saved. The Holy Spirit converts you to faith in Christ. And the Holy Spirit conveys all the blessings of being a new creation, in union with Christ. You can't do this. You can't earn this. You can only receive this. By the Spirit.

Jesus said, "*You must be born again.*" John 1:12 explains, "*To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born of God.*" Repent, turn from sin and self - and turn to the Savior. Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior - and believe, putting all your trust in Him. Then rely on the presence of the Holy Spirit - to live out His new life through yours.