

We at CCC embrace BOTH of these vital aspects of our faith and life.

- God has given us His trustworthy authoritative Word to reveal His truth and purposes, AND the same Holy Spirit who inspired the biblical authors as they wrote is still at work, enlightening the scriptures to us - opening our minds, hearts, and lives to living out God's Word.
- The Holy Spirit never speaks or leads in ways that are contrary to God's Word.

We at CCC have a rich diversity of backgrounds and perspectives around these polar ideas.

- We celebrate this and all the ways we stretch each other and learn from each other to embrace the FULLNESS of Holy Spirit in our life as a church.

Holy Spirit is not a symbol or abstract idea, but a PERSON. One of the dynamic *persons* of our mysterious, majestic God Community of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Work of The Holy Spirit:

1. Presence – He is the presence of God ever around us; the presence of Jesus ever *within* us

- Genesis 1:2 – from the beginning, “the Spirit of God” (Ruah) has been *present* “hovering over” creation.
- John 14:16-18 – Jesus assured his disciples he would “not leave them as orphans, but would come to them through “the Counselor (Holy Spirit) who will be with you forever... for He will be in you.”

2. Purity – He transforms us from the inside out to be Holy people.

- John 16:7-11 – He first convicts the world of sin and calls us to righteousness (and repentance).
- Galatians 5:22-25 - He then cultivates in us the character of Jesus – the “fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
 - This is a *lifetime* work, for our flesh resists this transformation of Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-18) while we eagerly await our *glorification* when Jesus comes again to bring the Kingdom in all its fullness!

3. Power – He gives us power to live out a surrendered, holy life.

- Acts 1:8 – Holy Spirit **empowers us** (not just for our sakes) so we will be His witnesses in/to the world.
- I Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13 - God, through Holy Spirit, gives us powerful gifts that enable us to see, serve, and minister among each other and in the world (where we bear witness to Jesus).
- There are dozens of spiritual gifts identified in the following verses:
 - I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28
 - Romans 12:6-8
 - Ephesians 4:11-13

4. Passion - for those in the world who do not know Him “... for I desire to bring them in also” – John 10:16

- Acts 1:8 – Holy Spirit empowers us to **be witnesses** in the world
- I Corinthians 13:1-3 – reminds us that all the powerful gifts and spectacular actions are meaningless if they are not fueled by love (God's passion) for others. Holy Spirit grows in us such love and passion.
- Acts 28:30-31 – gives testimony to passion
 - Paul, under Roman captivity, continually proclaimed the Kingdom and shared about Jesus with

HOW do we “live by the Spirit?”

- Ephesians 5:18 – gives insight. Paul is comparing “being filled with the Spirit” to “being drunk with wine.”
 - They are similar in that they both involve *coming under the influence*. Being filled with the Spirit means surrendering control of our lives to Holy Spirit (coming under His influence).
 - They are different in their impact . . . drunkenness leads to “debauchery”; Holy Spirit leads to holiness and life!
 - The Greek word here is best translated – “KEEP being filled.” It is a continuous action. Being filled with The Holy Spirit is not a “one and done” encounter; it does not just happen on Sundays at worship; it is an ongoing, life posture of surrender and openness to Him.

The “House Analogy”

Picture a house in three sections –

- **Front section:** with a door (our connection) to the physical/natural world (nature, stuff, finances, work, play, etc.)
 - This section is **our body**.
- **Back section: Our spirit** with doorway (connection) to the spiritual/supernatural realm (God, power, miracles, truth, etc.).
 - This is where Holy Spirit enters our lives when we believe and are “born again”, BUT He does not want to stay here.
- The **Middle Sections: Our soul: mind, will, emotions**
- He wants to reign in ALL our house, in the wholeness of our lives.
 - Only then can he transform us into the fulness of Jesus and give us His “abundant” and “extraordinary life”.
- Our bent is to welcome Holy Spirit into our spirit (back section) or maybe give him access to a room or two, but we don’t want to give him reign in our whole house. We’d like to keep a room, closet or two, for our own wants and control.