

The Activity of the Holy Spirit

Another characteristic of the early church was the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit. A careful study of the Acts brings to our attention the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Not only did the Lord give the Church a Book, He also gave them the Holy Spirit to guide, corporately and privately. One of the truths that we need to relearn today is that the Holy Spirit is coequal, coeternal, and coexistent with the Father and the Son. May God help us all to understand this great truth and grant us the undying desire to give this Blessed Person His rightful place in our midst.

The apostles put great faith in the Holy Spirit. When the early missionaries left those little house churches behind them, they did so confidently, knowing that the Holy Spirit would lead them, empower and equip them.

They believed that He would raise up spiritual gifts for their growth ([Eph 4:11](#)).

Each believer was taught that he had a function to fulfill in the body ([1 Cor 12:12](#)).

Each believer was taught that he was the temple of the Holy Spirit ([1 Cor 6:19](#)).

They taught that there was no such division as clerisy and laity ([Gal 3:28](#)).

Most of the meetings were informal; they were unstructured for the most part. In mixed meetings, where brethren and sisters were present, the men took leadership ([1 Cor 14:34](#)). Some led in a hymn, some in teaching, some in prayer or worship, some in exhortation. In this God-appointed way, spiritual gifts began to develop.

In time, some would emerge as teachers, and would be recognized as such; through them. God spoke to the local church.

Others, by the Spirit, were gifted in the Gospel and became evangelists. Some were given shepherds' hearts by the Spirit; these became pastors in the Scriptural sense. The Holy Spirit was in complete control! Do you wonder at the progress of these local churches? We would enjoy the same spiritual prosperity today if we crucified the flesh and gave the Holy Spirit His rightful place in our gatherings.