

The Primary Ministry of the Holy Spirit

by Zac Poonen

The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit is to help us overcome our self-centredness and put to death the deeds of the flesh, leading us to a life of humility and a deeper relationship with God.

Scripture: Romans 8:13, Galatians 5:17

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Sanctification"

Description

Zac Poonen preaches on the primary ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives, emphasizing that His main role is to help us overcome our self-centredness by putting to death the deeds of the flesh. This battle between our self-life and the Holy Spirit is ongoing, with the Spirit leading us to crucify our self-centred desires, a crucial mark of being children of God. God's love is extended to all, regardless of their self-centredness, but true transformation comes when we humbly respond to His love and allow Him to deliver us from our self-focus.

Transcript

The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to help us overcome our self-centredness. The Bible says, "We naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite to the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces (our self-life and the Holy Spirit) are constantly fighting each other to win control over us" (Gal. 5:17-LB). In these days, particularly, when many Christians are confused about the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it is good for us to bear in mind that His chief ministry is to help us put to death the deeds of the flesh (the self-life). He does many other things in and through us. Let us not despise any of them. But this is His primary ministry - to put the self- life to death - and if we are not allowing Him to carry out this in our lives, then all our other experiences are valueless.

The Bible says, "If you live after the flesh, you will die, but if you through the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body , you will live - for as many as are led by the Spirit (in this way) are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:13,14). Verse 14 is often quoted out of context and made to refer to the Spirit's guidance in relation to where we are to go or what we are to do. But it is really connected with the previous verse and refers to the Holy Spirit leading us to put to death our self-centred desires. The verse also teaches that this is the identifying mark of the sons of God.

In the parable in Luke 15, we notice that the father's love was the same for both his sons. He did not love the elder son any less than the younger. He came out of his house for both his children. When his younger

son came home, he went out of the house to welcome him, and when his elder son refused to come into the house, he went out to invite him in too. In fact he even tells him, "Son, you are ever with me and all that I have is yours." Do you see the largeness of God's heart even towards self-centred individuals? He loves us and wants to give us all that He has. But He has to deliver us from our self-centredness first.

God does not love the harlot more than the self-righteous Pharisee. He loves both equally and He gave His Son to die for both. But the response in the hearts of the two may be different; and that is what makes the difference ultimately in the Father's house. The younger son who was once away from the father's house is now sitting at the table enjoying his father's riches. The elder son who had been inside all along is now outside. Truly, as the Lord said, many who are first now will be last in eternity, and many who are last here will be first there. It is only as we are willing to humble ourselves and acknowledge our corruption and respond wholeheartedly to the Father's love, that we shall be able to feast with Him at His table.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/the-primary-ministry-of-the-holy-spirit/>

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