



The Lost Foundations – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

This foundation has been the most challenging to write. The Holy Spirit is, after all, one of the Persons of the Godhead. It is with trepidation that I even suggest knowing Him enough to describe His person and work to others.

However, I am encouraged that – in spite of my limitations – the Holy Spirit has something to share about Himself that many have not heard, or properly considered. He is fully capable of speaking for Himself.

My desire is to represent Him, and His work in our lives, in an honoring and loving way. I hope and pray that this foundation will draw others into a new and personally deeper relationship with Him (that has been my experience).

For those of you that have personally known the Holy Spirit for the entirety of your Christian life, consider yourself blessed. My hope is that the following will remind and encourage you in that relationship. Perhaps there will be something here that is new, or something you have forgotten.

Though the denomination I grew up in was founded by John Wesley – a staunch enthusiast of the Holy Spirit’s work and power – I was not formally introduced to Him until many years after my salvation journey began. That does not mean He was not there – and working. I just didn’t know it at the time.

As best as I can remember, the Holy Spirit was presented and discussed as “Jesus in you” – not as a separate person of the Triune Godhead. The “Holy Ghost” was mentioned each week in our recitation of the Apostle’s Creed; but we never really talked about Him – and particularly not as a personal being. Ironically, we did not understand what we professed to believe.

I have since discovered that this is true of other denominations. Some of the largest have avoided the Third Person of the Trinity. Consequently, many followers of Jesus have grown up subconsciously thinking of the Holy Spirit as a force of God that was used, by God, to accomplish His purposes.

The personal and corporate impact of this misunderstanding is undeniable. Failure to understand the Holy Spirit as a personal being inhibits the development of our relationship with Him; and skews our understanding of the Godhead’s methods and manifestations.

For example, the Holy Spirit has been identified in Scripture as Teacher, Comforter and Transformer. Could it be that our lack of understanding has led many Christians and congregations to pursue the world’s resources for help in these areas? Perhaps this is why we put human teachers, counselors and leaders – both in and outside of the church – on such high pedestals.

For whatever the reasons (and they may be numerous), many in the church have lost the foundational truth of the Holy Spirit’s person and His work in our lives. As you will find in this lesson, there is much that we are missing. Our lack weakens the whole body – so share what you learn here. He promises to help you.

There is still hope. In my life, the Holy Spirit used one of my sisters and Billy Graham to introduce Himself to me. I found myself convicted and remorseful for considering Him as something less than an equal Person of the Godhead. I asked for His forgiveness and help in relating to Him appropriately. He has been a faithful teacher, comforter and transformer, ever since.

Before we move on, I would like to acknowledge the help of a dear friend, Phil Powell. Phil grew up in a church that recognized and submitted to the Holy Spirit as a divine Person of the Trinity. Much of what follows is drawn from his understanding and experience.

Together, we confess our limitations; and encourage you to recognize that we are simple instruments of the Holy Spirit's teaching. We suggest you consider this as a primer; hoping you will be encouraged to pursue an ever deepening relationship with the Him. We pray that you will be greatly blessed in hearing His voice.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is a person. He is never referred to as "it". Therefore, we must endeavor to understand the nature of His personality – as we would with the Father and the Son.

As you work your way through the following list, take time to consider each of His characteristics. You may want to acknowledge each one with Him personally (e.g., "Holy Spirit, I acknowledge that you speak to me. I am listening.")

1. He speaks:

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Acts 13:2

2. He testifies:

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26

3. He leads:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Romans 8:14

4. He forbids (does not permit):

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. Acts 16:6-7

5. He guides, speaks and prophesizes:

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. John 16:13

6. He appoints:

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28

7. He intercedes:

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26

8. He can be grieved:

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

9. He can be insulted:

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:29

10. He can be blasphemed:

Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Matthew 12:31

The Holy Spirit relates to us as individuals and in community. He is with us in all settings and situations. We should honor and fear Him as we do the Father and Son; for He is divine in His personality.

1. He is eternal:

...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14

2. He is all-powerful:

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Luke 1:35

3. He is omnipresent:

*Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence? Psalm 139:7*

4. He is all-knowing:

Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 1Corinthians 2:11

5. He shares the name of God and Lord:

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Acts 5:3-4

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2Corinthians 3:17

Finally, we know from Scripture that the Holy Spirit is distinct in His personality. Here are a couple of Scriptural references to this important truth:

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 1Corinthians 12:4-6

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26

His Many Titles

Most in the body of Christ recognize at least a few of the titles given to the Holy Spirit – even those individuals that have failed to understand His personhood. Helper, Teacher and Comforter are perhaps the most common and cherished.

When considering these titles, we must keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is perfect and holy. The best earthly examples of helper, teacher, and counselor meagerly point towards the Holy Spirit's divine desire and power towards us.

The Holy Spirit has become especially important to me in a couple of particular areas of my life. The following titles may be new to you – even strange – but they describe Who He has been to me.

Revealer of Mystery:

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1Corinthians 2:9-12

Later in his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul encourages them (and us) to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God (vv. 4:1-2). We should be exceedingly grateful to Him for revealing the mysteries we are blessed to steward.

Voice of Prophecy:

...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Peter 1:21

All prophecy comes by way of the Holy Spirit, moving on the hearts of men and women. This includes the Old and New Testament prophets; and the prophets that Jesus has given as gifts to the Church (Ephesians 4:11).

Our Transformer:

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2Corinthians 3:18

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2

This is my favorite. As our transformer, the Holy Spirit is responsible for the renewing of our minds. As such, He is the agent of repentance (a change of mind leading to the repurposing of the heart; and the subsequent change of behavior). This makes sense in light of Jesus' promise about Him:

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:8-11

As this passages attests, the Holy Spirit plays a major role in our redemption and spiritual growth. He is, arguably, the more active person of the Godhead in the application of God's grace for our salvation, sanctification and transformation. In fact, another of His titles is the Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29; above).

His Role in Our Being Made

We cannot appropriate or even understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our *doing* until we understand and submit to the role of the Holy Spirit in our *being*. This has been the most amazing discovery for me, in my research for this lesson. I have come to understand that His work "through me" is directly dependent on – and proportional to – His work "in making me".

Most of the Holy Spirit's titles are given to describe His role in our being made. In John Chapter 14, Jesus describes much of the role of the promised Holy Spirit.

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:15-17, 25-26

Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “another Helper” because He would take the place of Jesus who had been with them: To comfort them in trials, teach them the truth, and show them the Way. Additionally, the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and tells us what is to come (John 16:13-14). This is Jesus’ promise for all who would continue His work here on the Earth (John 20:21).

The difference in this relationship, compared to the Old Covenant, is eternally significant. Under the Old Covenant, the ears of the people were closed to the voice of God. Therefore, it was necessary for God to speak through human prophets.

Under the New Covenant, His Spirit has been sent to indwell us (Ezekiel 36:27) – that we would have the opportunity to hear from Him with our own spiritual ears.

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. 1John 2:27

The Holy Spirit also teaches us through each other; as we reckon ourselves instruments of His righteousness, in community. Being taught by the Holy Spirit through another person is a witness to His indwelling – evidence of our unity through Him.

The Holy Spirit’s role in this matter of unity is an interesting one. Jesus’ prayer for our unity (John 17:23), is being answered through the Holy Spirit’s work.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 1Corinthians 12:13

The Holy Spirit was promised – first by God (Ezekiel 36:27), and then by Jesus (John 16:5-13) – to teach, comfort, help and transform us into the new creation:

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:9-11

Do you see it? “He... will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit”! Now consider this: It is through the person of the Holy Spirit that the life of God is given to the born again followers of Jesus Christ. He – the Holy Spirit – is that life in you!!

Furthermore, those who “...live by the Spirit... will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (Galatians 5:16). They will, instead, live and walk in the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (vv. 22, 25).

In his classic, The Holy Spirit, Billy Graham speaks of the Third Person of the Trinity as God’s answer to mankind’s cry for this goodness:

God does not want us to come to Christ by faith, and then lead a life of defeat, discouragement, and dissension. Rather, He wants to “fulfill every desire for *goodness* and the work of faith with

power; in order that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you” (2Thessalonians 1:11-12). *To the great gift of forgiveness God adds also the great gift of the Holy Spirit.* He is the source of power who meets our need to escape from the miserable weakness that grips us. He gives us the power to be good. (pg. 11)

Indeed, the Holy Spirit is our intimate companion in our following after Jesus Christ. He is responsible for more than most in the Body of Christ realize. Continuing on in Romans 8, we discover the Holy Spirit is also the agent of death to our flesh.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Romans 8:12-14

It is through the Holy Spirit that life is given to our mortal bodies whereby we have an obligation, not to live according to the sinful nature, but to put to death the deeds of the body...”by the Spirit” – the agent of that death.

The Holy Spirit initially leads us by His conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11; above); but His work does not stop there. He is also the agent of God’s reign over us.

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3

Paul’s statement here is very sobering and exposes our impotence to achieve anything apart from Him – including our ongoing salvation.

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit... Titus 3:4-5

Once again, we discover the Holy Spirit’s work in the appropriation of God’s grace for the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2; above), leading to repentance; whereby we “let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:5-6

The Holy Spirit is the agent of our continually being renewed. Those who live according to the Spirit, set their minds on the things of the Spirit; and, by the Spirit, find the life and peace of God.

Lastly, in this matter of the Holy Spirit’s role in our being made, we are comforted in knowing that the Holy Spirit is God’s seal of ownership (Ephesians 1:13); the pledge of our inheritance (v. 14); and the witness of Christ’s atonement for us (Hebrews 10:15-17) – that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16).

The Scriptures speak loudly regarding the truth of the Holy Spirit’s work in our being made. Is it possible we have taken His work for granted? Have we failed to grasp the significance of the Biblical facts related to the Third Person of the Trinity; that He is waiting for our submission to His personal and divine work in our being made?

His Role in Our Doing

Now that we know the Holy Spirit’s role in our being made, let us not deny so a great a salvation. Let us go on to the good works He intends to do through us.

Power to Comprehend God's Will

...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19

This is absolutely incredible! The power of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to grasp the width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love; and to be filled with all the fullness of God. Think about that for a minute. Only the Spirit knows the things of God – including the vastness of His love. It is His desire to reveal these mysteries to us.

As we have already discovered, the Holy Spirit knows and reveals the will of God. This is a critical advantage in our doing His will; and much is dependent on it.

...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy... Colossians 1:9-11

We are filled with the knowledge of God's will by the Holy Spirit. Knowing His will is the key to a worthy and fruitful walk that pleases our Lord. This is the desire and power of the Holy Spirit!

Lastly, the Holy Spirit is the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God (Ephesians 1:17); enlightening the eyes of our understanding...

...that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places... Ephesians 1:18-19

The Holy Spirit desires, and has the power: To reveal the very heart of God for our calling; to encourage us regarding our importance to Him in that calling; and to enable us in our appropriation of the exceeding greatness of His power for the accomplishment of that calling. This is all found in the intimate relationship He offers!

Power to Pray God's Will

Did you know that it is possible to get a positive answer to every request we make of God? No, I am not talking about "naming it, and claiming it". Praying the will of God, revealed by the Holy Spirit, is available to every child of God.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1John 5:14

There are two important points to make here: First, we saw earlier that only the Spirit of God knows the will of God. His desire is that we would only pray in accordance with God's will. As we are sensitive to hear His direction in our prayers, we can know – and have faith – in the petitions that we have asked of Him. This is the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Praying in this way requires a great deal of surrender, sacrifice, perseverance and practice. Were this the only way to pray with power, many would give up before their prayers became effectual. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit is aware of our weaknesses, and has made provision for them.

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

This leads us to another important role of the Holy Spirit, that of interceding for us, or praying on our behalf, when we don't know what we ought to pray. He does this according to God's will, "with groanings which cannot be uttered".

Many in the charismatic circles of the body of Christ believe these groanings to be a form of the Holy Spirit's gift of speaking in tongues. Personally, I believe this is true; and have what many call a "prayer language". I believe it is the Holy Spirit praying, for me, requests that cannot be expressed in words (i.e., uttered).

Additionally, these groanings can be understood to be the intercession of the Holy Spirit, offered up to God in the spirit realm – in response to our inability to comprehend the will of God for a particular situation or person. Notice that, in both cases, this is always in accordance with God's will.

As we become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice, we will better comprehend God's will for our prayers; and be able to join the Holy Spirit in praying as we ought. This should be the desire and pursuit of every child of God. In the meantime (and forevermore), the Holy Spirit is willing and able to be our Helper in prayer.

Power to be Witnesses of Jesus Christ

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

In receiving the Holy Spirit we simultaneously receive His power or strength. We receive His power for His purposes: To be His witnesses in all the Earth. The meaning of the Greek word is closer to what we know as "martyrs" – those who suffer and sacrifice for the kingdom of God.

This seems to imply more than just people who tell other people about Christ. It includes the laying down of one's very life, for the purposes of Christ, in our witness.

A Voice of the Martyrs field agent, recently reporting on the atrocities against Christians in the Middle East, was asked how our brothers and sisters in Christ were able to stand strong in their faith. He responded that the Holy Spirit "rose up" in them as the persecutions increased, giving them the strength to persevere. The Holy Spirit empowers us to victoriously face the most severe trial and tribulation.

Power for Ministry

Both the fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the ministry of God, through His people, to the church and the world. Much has been written about both; from many different perspectives, and with many different opinions. I do not intend to add much more of that here – just a few general comments about two related passages.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1Corinthians 12:7-11

The important point here is to understand God gives these spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit for the working of His will – for the profit of all. The manifestation of the Spirit's power accomplishes the work of God, in and through man, while revealing Himself and His kingdom to the world and all of creation. This is

perhaps most visible through the working of His gifts as He uses the natural (i.e., a person) through which to perform the supernatural.

My position on the availability of the Holy Spirit's gifts has changed over the years. Currently, I am of the mind and heart that the Holy Spirit might give any of the gifts – even more than one – to any of God's children, at any time. My sister has encouraged me in this regard; that our focus should be on our availability to be used, rather than on exercising any particular gift.

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is to be ever present, in its fullness, in every person submitted to the Holy Spirit's work.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

It has been my conviction for some time now that the Holy Spirit brings all of His fruit with Him, when He goes to dwell in someone.

For example, if the Holy Spirit indwells you, it is not necessary to pray for more patience. A more profitable prayer would be for the Holy Spirit to put to death the deed of the flesh called impatience. The same can be said for love and its opposing judgmental spirit.

It is interesting that we have come back around to the work of the Holy Spirit in our being made. Indeed, the work of the Holy Spirit in our doing is not possible without His work in our being. The doing of the Holy Spirit supernaturally flows out of the person that is being made – like rivers of living water. I like that.

Conclusion

The work which the Holy Spirit has been charged, by our Father, to do on our behalf are pretty straight forward. However, for Him to be released to do these things requires our recognition of our oneness with Him and our absolute surrender to Christ's reign over us (also, through His Spirit).

Anything we hold back from His reign is enmity with God; making us the servant of our own sinful nature – and He has no obligation to encourage or empower someone else's servant.

It is noteworthy that after three and a half years of constant teaching and illustration of the truth by the very Word of God Himself, the disciples were totally unprepared to live for Christ or stand up and express their faith openly. The absolute best teaching in the world was inadequate for holy living. They all abandoned or denied Him.

Having been "taught" the role of the Holy Spirit was not enough. All of that changed on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to remain and they were filled with Him. It is no different for us. If being taught the truth is enough, why do the lives of so many Christians reflect so little of His work and bear so little of His fruit?

Indeed, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and submitted to His work, before He can fulfill His role in and through us.

Working it Out

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

For the redeemed and regenerated children of God, the Holy Spirit has been poured out abundantly. Our responsibility is to simply receive the One Who has been promised – as He has been promised.

The grace of God is received into our lives by faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. I am confident that the Holy Spirit has had much to say to you about Himself in this lesson.

If you will choose to believe what you have heard, and choose to work out that belief under His guidance, He will make you and use you. Just choose. It really is that simple.

I will never forget the day I asked the Holy Spirit to forgive me for thinking of, and treating, Him as a thing of God. The revelation of His Personhood was both surprising and transformative. This was the first step in my appropriation of the promises of God, regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. It may be the same for you.

Remember, the Holy Spirit speaks; and He enjoys speaking with the children of God. Ask Him to speak to you. Ask Him to testify to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to teach you something... AND THEN LISTEN!!

Recommended Reading

I highly recommend the following books. Both can be found at one of the many online distributors.

The Holy Spirit; Billy Graham

William Law; The Power of the Spirit

The Word and Power Church; Doug Bannister

God used an audio version of Billy Graham's book to reveal the personhood of the Holy Spirit to me, and my father. It was a special blessing to be a part of that introduction.

William Law's classic – written in the 1700s – dramatically impacted the ministries of men we now call "fathers of the faith" (e.g., Andrew Murray). The Doug Bannister book is particularly encouraging and helpful for the leaders of congregations that have not understood or experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in community. I know you will be blessed by all three books.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Humbly yours and forever His,

Rob