



The Person & the Work of the

Holy Spirit

*7. The Role of the Holy Spirit
in the Church - 4*

▶ **This is the age of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Member of the Godhead with operational responsibility in the earth in this age. The presence, the power & the ministry of the Holy Spirit is as necessary today as it was in the first Church.

▶ **The Holy Spirit is the Advocate for Christ**

He is responsible to communicate both the word & the will of Christ to the people of God & to the Church of the Living God.

▶ **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth**

He leads us into ALL truth & He reveals to us the things to come.



You cannot fit the role of the Holy Spirit into a framework that is unbiblical, that doesn't align with what God's Word says about the Church, and expect to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit or expect to see the Holy Spirit at work as promised in God's Word.



Misunderstanding the Church leads to weak disciples, fractured communities, and a compromised witness.

Joseph Mattera

It is not churches filled with people that will change the world but people filled with the Holy Spirit.

Anon.

Nothing short of an outpouring of God's Spirit will revitalize and empower an impotent and anemic church to display once again His glory to a lost world.

Del Fehsenfeld Jr.

24. And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.
25. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.
26. "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,
27. and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;
28. just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:24-28

Our Lord meets this crisis by showing the disciples the difference between that which is esteemed great in the Gentile world system, and the standard of greatness in the spiritual kingdom which He was inaugurating. It was pomp and circumstance, privilege and power, position and authority in the Gentile world, which was esteemed great, and the greatness of the individual came from his place in the system. But **in the kingdom of God, the greatness of the individual comes from the lowly place he takes as a servant of all.**

Kenneth Wuest

Servanthood denotes one whose activities are directed toward serving others rather than toward furthering his own interests. It views the aspiring man in relation to his helpfulness toward others. Greatness in the kingdom is attained by the measure of beneficent services voluntarily rendered.

D. Edmond Hiebert

If we aim at greatness at all, it must be by being great in service, becoming the minister or servant of our brethren.

The world's way of greatness is like a pyramid. The prestige and power of the great person is built on the many subordinate persons beneath him. But in the kingdom, the pyramid is inverted. As the great commentator R. C. H. Lenski has observed, **God's "great men are not sitting on top of lesser men, but bearing lesser men on their backs."** Unfortunately, however, there are still many people in the church who, like James and John, continually seek recognition, prestige, and power by manipulating and controlling others to their own selfish advantage. A tragic number of Christian leaders and celebrities have gained great followings by appealing to people's emotions and worldly appetites. But that is not to be so among Christ's disciples today any more than among the Twelve.

John MacArthur

THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD

Title
Position
Authority
Recognition
Personal Rewards



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Equip & mature the saints, make disciples

Servanthood (not Rulership)

Responsibility (not Authority)

Ministry (not Positions)

Function (not Titles)

28. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, **so that we may present every man complete in Christ.**
29. **For this purpose also I labour,** striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Colossians 1:28-29

My children, with whom I am again
in labour until Christ is formed in you.

Galatians 4:19

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy;
for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to
Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

2Corinthians 11:2

21st CENTURY CHURCH

HIERARCHICAL LEADERSHIP

Title
Position
Authority
Recognition
Personal Rewards

Senior Pastor
Pastoral Staff
Elders
Deacons
Congregation

An emphasis on positional power is one of the primary areas of abuse in the evangelical church.

Jim Van Yperen

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

Congregation
Elders / Deacons
Pastor

The freedom we have in Christ has nothing to do with the will of the people. The pillar of democracy, the rule of the people, is something our Lord never commends. What the church believes, teaches, and confesses is not dependent on how the majority votes. How individual Christians feel about a particular doctrine is insignificant. There is Truth, that which the church proclaims, and there is untruth: no matter what the majority decrees.

Graeme Glover

The church's confessions are not up for debate or change, nor, in my opinion, is her worship. When the church gives everyone the right to determine its doctrine, we cease to be church. Voting on what the church should proclaim takes God out of the equation, and once we do this, we are left with nothing. Democracy may be the best form of government for our nation, but this is most definitely not the case for the church.

Graeme Glover

Democracy can't bear the test of a careful study of Scripture. It is a system which stands in opposition to God's design regarding church leadership and church function. As such, it is a concept that can be gently laid aside by the believer who is willing to test everything by the Word and to adjust his or her life accordingly.

Steve Savage



*"All those in favour,
raise your hand."*

one .. two .. three .. four

The reason that voting is absent in Scripture may well be that voting itself is in conflict with the God-given structure for the church. Hebrews 13:17 commands, **“Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”** A vote that would remove decision-making responsibility from qualified leaders is in direct opposition to the command of this text.

Steve Savage



NEW CENTURY CHURCH

NO LEADERSHIP

1. Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
2. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
3. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
4. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:1-4

THE CHURCH JESUS SAID THAT HE WOULD BUILD



**PNEUMACRATIC
LEADERSHIP**

Jesus models a life guided by the Spirit (pneuma) where we are invited into fellowship with a triune God, the God of community; the God who leads inter-dependently. Perhaps we have forgotten what it means to name God as Father, Son and Spirit: three distinct Persons; yet One God; interdependent and never in competition; each submitting and deferring to the other.

Jim Van Yperen

- ▶ Jesus' leadership style is simple yet radical. He says: "Follow Me."
- ▶ Paul & Peter echo this by saying: "Follow me as I follow Jesus Christ."
- ▶ **The destination is not success, but the cross!**

Whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me...

If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matthew 10:38; 16:34

2. Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
3. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
4. do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:2-4

5. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
6. who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7. but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
8. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

But may it never be that I would boast,
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus
Christ, through which the world has
been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

In the face of the cross, all talk of authority and power and success and church attendance and control becomes mute, and so obviously not the point. Hands with nails driven through make no grasp for power. The leadership that Jesus invites us to is radically cruciformed, a life shaped by the Cross where power is turned against itself through submission.

Jim Van Yperen

PNEUMACRATIC LEADERSHIP



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Elders / Deacons .. Congregation

- **SERVANTHOOD • INTER-DEPENDENCE**
 - **MUTUAL SUBMISSION**

JESUS, THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE
(Ephesians 2:20)

13. For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely.
14. They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, 'Peace, peace,' but there is no peace.

Jeremiah 6:13-14

16. Thus says the Lord, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'
17. And I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'"

Jeremiah 6:16-17

If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference.

If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.

A.W. Tozer

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's table land;
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Tho' some may dwell where these abound,
My pray'r, my aim is higher ground.

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found,
Lord, lead me on to higher ground.