

Sunday 13 July 2025



SERMON TOPIC: Little Things
BIBLE TEXT: John 6:1-13
PREACHER: Herman Linde
ELDER ON DUTY: Kasha Schubert
OFFERINGS:
1st Collection: The work of the Church
2nd Collection: Kids Hope

How the Holy Spirit Empowers You to Live a Life of Purpose
Robert Hampshire ~ Christianity.com

In much of the Christian world (especially in certain denominations), the Holy Spirit does not get talked about, sung about, or prayed to nearly as much as the rest of the Trinity. For example, we talk a lot about Jesus's miraculous, virgin birth at Christmas and about Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection during the Easter holiday - and rightfully so. Those are critical parts of the Gospel or Good News of Jesus Christ. But there is another part of the Gospel that sometimes gets left out: the Ascension, which led to Jesus sending down the Holy Spirit to fill believers.

Maybe it is because there is no holiday associated with it, it is more abstract than we like to think, we are too confused to talk about it, or the topic even scares us, but the Holy Spirit rarely seems to make his way into Christian books, sermons, children's lessons, or even TV shows like God the Father and God the Son (Jesus) do.

Since we do not talk much about the Holy Spirit, so much about him remains a mystery. And then when we read passages such as the Great Commission passage in Acts 1:8 when Jesus told his followers that they will receive "power when the Holy Spirit has come upon [them]," we tend to not take the time to dig into who that Holy Spirit even is.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Thankfully, today we have a wealth of Scriptural truth to consider from the Old Testament and New Testament to answer this question. But simply put, the Holy Spirit is the third part of the Trinity. Where the Son is a physical or tangible expression of God, the Holy Spirit is a spiritual or metaphysical expression that can be felt and experienced by not seen. It is not exactly the same, but one way to understand this "one God but three parts" concept is to recognize that humans are also made up of three parts: a fleshly, tangible body (our biology), a soul or psyche (our thoughts and emotions), and a spirit (our eternal spirituality which is made alive by Christ).

To be clear, there is only one God. But God expresses himself simultaneously in these three (and only three) ways, and each way has a different function. And contrary to what some skeptics have suggested, Christians have believed this for a very long time, before modern denominations taught it and before any early councils met together to teach it. In fact, historians recently found some parchment that contains the oldest worship song with actual musical notes that has ever been found, which is being called "The First Hymn." One line in the song reads: "...as we sing our hymn to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Thankfully, we have all of the Bible to study and learn who the Holy Spirit is today (and hopefully we will). But the disciples only had at least some of the Old Testament at their disposal. So, another question that arises is:

Did the Disciples Know Who the Holy Spirit Was?

The answer is yes! Not only did Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit into his followers, but he also took the time to teach them about him before he left. One particular time was in John 16:7-15, where we read these words from Jesus:

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare

to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (ESV)

In this passage, Jesus teaches us four descriptions of the work of the Holy Spirit.

1. He Is the Helper

This is the same kind of "helper" that God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden. But where the first helper (Eve) led us astray into sin and death, this new helper (the Holy Spirit) always leads us correctly to obey the Father and into life.

How does he help us? In so many ways, but one way in particular is that the Holy Spirit gives "gifts" or talents to each and every believer for us to use to serve one another "for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, ESV). Paul also taught that some people will have gifts that will accompany a specific calling to lead the church to ministry and maturity. These are the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding, and teaching that he explains come from the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 4:7-16.

2. He Convicts the World of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment

The Spirit does the work of convicting us of sin because from birth we are lost in our sins and need God to convict us. He convicts us of what righteousness looks like because Jesus, our best example, is no longer on earth with us. He convicts us of judgment that is coming soon because our enemy, the "ruler of this world" blinds our eyes to it so we won't worry about it.

As David reflected in Psalm 16:11, the Holy Spirit makes known to us the "path of life" and in his presence there is "fullness of joy."

3. He Guides Us into All Truth

God has given us what we need to know in the Bible, which is the Word of God. But not only that, I am so thankful that when Jesus ascended back to the Father, he put within us the Great Instructor and Teacher: the Holy Spirit that confirms and illuminates what we read and teaches us new things that we haven't read yet. But to be clear, he does not speak on his "own authority" - meaning the Holy Spirit will never say something to you that contradicts what God has already said. We end up in error (and even with false religions) when we follow what we thought or felt that the Spirit said instead of making sure it lined up with the Bible.

But the Holy Spirit doesn't just want us to hold on to the truth he gives us. Jesus said that in the Acts 1:8 "Great Commission" passage that we are given "power" from the Spirit to be his "witnesses" everywhere we go.

4. He Glorifies the Son.

The work that the Holy Spirit does in the world and in the life of believers will never glorify or point people to an individual; it will always point people to the Son of God, who takes away the sins of the world. There are so many people who stand up in front of crowds or in front of cameras claiming to have this gift or that gift from God, who conveniently end up padding their pockets and putting their name in lights. God uses people - absolutely. But in the end, whether you use your gifts in front of people or behind the scenes, and where you are from or far away on a mission field - it is all for the glory of God.

Nothing good comes from you being lifted up. A quick look at human history shows that to be true. But as Jesus said in John 12:32 that when we lift him up, he will "draw all people" to himself.

I encourage you to join me in taking time to examine the Scriptures from the Old Testament to New Testament to find out as much as you can about the Holy Spirit. You'll still be left with a few mysteries for sure, but you'll also be better at listening to, relying on, and being empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in this world.

Our Giving, an Act of Worship

In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for Kids Hope.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

This week's **PRAYER POINTS**

Don't imagine that, if you had a great deal of time, you would spend more of it in prayer. Get rid of that idea; it is no hindrance to prayer to spend your time well. Teresa of Avila

Personal **PRAYER POINTS**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

Giving thanks to the Lord that no matter how dire our circumstances God's love for us never ceases and his mercies never fail.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:21-23 NRSV)

Give praise and thanks to our heavenly Father for his faithfulness to us which never fails even though our faithfulness to him may fail.

Congregational PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for Maralin and Steve Miller. They're still mourning the loss of their husband and father, John. Maralin suffers from MS and high blood pressure and Steve suffers from Parkinson's disease. Maralin asks us to pray that God will grant her peace as she has to juggle appointments for herself and Steve. Steve often struggles with controlling the symptoms of Parkinson's putting him at greater risk of falls. Give thanks and praise God that funding for Steve is now in place.

Please pray for those of us who have taken the opportunity to go away for awhile during these school holidays, pray that they will have a good time of relaxation and return home safely.

Please pray for those among us who are suffering from flus, colds, covid and other ills that are prevalent during the winter period.

Local & Global PRAYER POINTS

Continue to pray for our nation that the Lord will not deal with us as our sins deserve but in mercy cause many to turn back to him and be saved.

Please continue to pray for the situation in the war zones around the globe. Pray that there will be a genuine desire for peace among all sides of the conflicts.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters among refugees around the world.

Relatives of ethnic Rohingya Christian refugees cast into the sea by India's Navy have yet to hear from them nearly two months after the cast-offs swam ashore to their native Myanmar (Burma). "If someone could just tell us if they are alive or dead – this anxiety is killing us," Sadeq Shalom said in Delhi. Refugees from Myanmar themselves, the relatives of the cast-offs, have been hunted by Delhi police since Indian authorities deported 38 Rohingya, including 15 Christians, on May 6. The deported Rohingya who were abandoned in international waters had to swim to Myanmar – the country they had left to escape genocide in the first place. "Authorities gave neither them nor their families any prior notice or information," said Nasir David, whose elderly parents have been deported.

Shalom said the 15 deported Christians have families left behind in India. Police picked up and deported Shalom's older brother, John Anwar, on May 6. He was one of the 15 Christians, five women and 10 men, including three elderly persons, who naval personnel forced into the sea in the early hours of May 9. Anwar's wife, who had suffered a miscarriage in April, was also among the 15 Christians deported. "My sister-in-law was not only dealing with her emotional and mental health challenges but was also in the process of physically recovering from the miscarriage," said Shalom, adding that there was another deported woman who had undergone a miscarriage. David said authorities deported the elderly without their daily medicines and without money to purchase them. "My mother is a diabetic and my father is on blood pressure medication – both need their daily dosage of medicines."

Several of the cast-offs did not know how to swim, including David's parents, he said. Shalom told Morning Star News the ordeal began on February 26, when authorities called roughly 150 Christian Rohingya for their "biometrics," such as fingerprints and other physical measurements used for identification. Authorities then released them without incident, but on May 6, police informed them that a technical failure had occurred in the biometric processes of 15 people, and that they needed to redo them.

The next day, Shalom received a phone call from an unknown number, which turned out to be his brother, Anwar. He hastily informed Shalom that authorities were taking them to the airport to deport them to Myanmar. "It was a 17-second call that shook us completely," said Shalom. Three days later, on May 9, Shalom again heard from his brother at 5:30 a.m.; having swum ashore to Myanmar, he had borrowed a phone from a fisherman to call Shalom. "Anwar narrated the horrifying journey and the plight they all had to go through," said Shalom. "Hearing that, we were all completely shaken." The Indian military had transported the Rohingya via aircraft to Sri Vijaya Puram (also called Port Blair) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Once there, officials seized their U.N refugee documentation, money and belongings before placing them on Indian Navy ships, according to Anwar and media reports. Navy personnel bound their hands and covered their eyes with blindfolds, Anwar told his brother. "They were bound tight for about four hours, causing Anwar's wrists to bleed," Shalom said.

Anwar also told him how he was assaulted after naval personnel noticed a cross and Anwar's full name "John Anwar" written on his T-shirt. They asked him how many of them were Christian, and he revealed their number. The naval personnel accused them of being a part of the "Pahalgam terror attack" that took place in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, inexplicably labelling them "Pakistani." The naval crew then presented the group with two options: return to Myanmar or transfer to Indonesia. Fearing repatriation to Myanmar, the refugees selected Indonesia as their destination. After midnight on May 8, the naval personnel removed their restraints, distributed life jackets to them and told them to jump into the sea. "They were ordered to stay in the water and assured that someone would get there to rescue them," David said. After treading water for some time, no one arrived, so they decided to try to swim ashore. "Those who knew how to swim dragged those who could not swim," David said.

Upon reaching the shore, they saw some men and, "thinking they might get killed for trespassing international border, they quickly walked closer in a surrendering posture," David said. As the cast-offs drew closer, they realized those on shore were fishermen.

"It was a shock to all those who reached the shore that they were not in Indonesia but back in Myanmar," Shalom said. The account came in the first and the last call Shalom received from Anwar, who confirmed that they "landed alive in Myanmar." David said he also got to speak to his parents, but that was the last that he heard from them. "To this day, we do not know about their well-being, their safety or even if they are still alive," David said.

"We appeal to all the churches, Christian organizations and people of goodwill to stand with us in prayer, and extend all possible help – financial, speaking to embassies on our behalf and governments for our relocation," Shalom said. Despite despairing circumstances, David continues to keep his hope alive.

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Thursday the 17th of July at 7.30pm.



Have you joined our church over the last year?

We'd love to welcome you properly over a shared meal on 27 July after the service.

Our Newcomers Luncheon is a relaxed and friendly gathering designed to help you feel at home, meet others from the congregation, and learn a little more about who we are as a church. Whether you've joined over the last year, just started visiting, or have been coming for a few weeks, this is a great opportunity to connect.

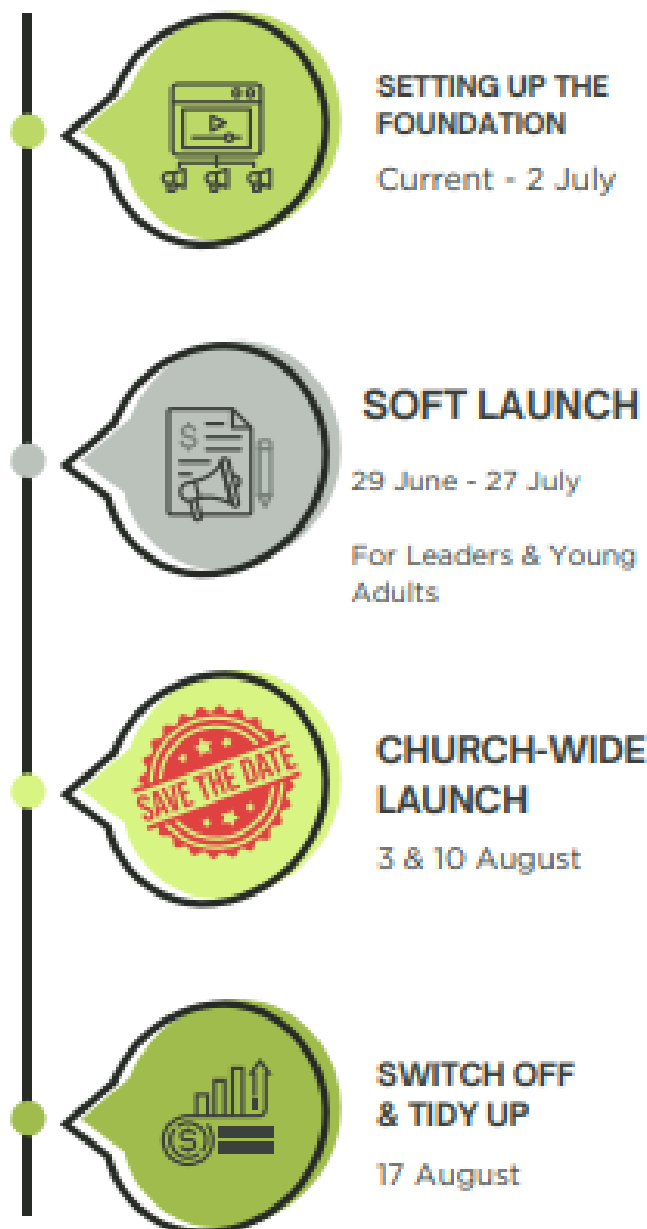
In case you haven't already, you'll have the chance to meet some of our leadership team, hear about our vision and ministries, and ask any questions you may have. Families are most welcome. We'd love to know if you're coming so we can cater well. Come and enjoy good food, warm company, and a chance to connect! We look forward to seeing you there!

Please let us know if you can come by emailing Jenna (jenna@wpcrc.org.au)

Timeline to **CHURCH CENTER ACTIVATION**



church center **MIGRATION**



Ways to serve at the **DINING ROOM MISSION**

I would love to hear from the next person/team who would like to cook for us in July .

Contact Joy van Veen for details.

Another way of supporting the Dining Room Mission is by supporting their food pantry. They would love donations of pantry staples such as... Cereal, long life milk or other beverages, tuna and other tinned goods, rice, pasta etc.

A little money to support the cooks or pantry is also gratefully accepted.

Upcoming events **OUR CHURCH CALENDER**

Thursday 17 July 19:30 Prayer meeting
Sunday 20 July 10:00 The Lord's Supper
Sunday 27 July 12:00 Newcomers Luncheon



Sermon NOTES

Bible passage: _____

Date: _____



Something
that shines
from the
passage



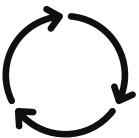
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

[illegible]

Helping HANDS

	13 July	20 July	27 July
Preacher	Herman Linde	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Jacob	Peter W
Prayer Leader	Kasha	Inge	Peter W
Music Leader	Mia	Inge	Inge
Children's Talk	Janette	Inge	Nicky
Bible Reader	Mila	Karien	Danika
Sound	Cassie	Nina	Nic
Visuals	Isaac	Isaac	Ene
Broadcasting	James	Christo	Pieter
Sunday School	No Sunday school	No sunday school	No Sunday School
Coffee	Du Toit Famiy	Jo & Dale Reed	Theron Family

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS



Isaac Organtzoglou 20 July
Lizemarie Szarek 22 July
Leana van Gent 28 July
Suzanne Theron 30 July
Lynette Dyer 31 July

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
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Church			
Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:			deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	0420 817 800	
Sound & Visuals:	Cassie Van Veen	0499 230 872	
Children's Talk:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Sunday School:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Youth Group:	Lauren Palmer	0488 453 834	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	0456 960 424	
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	0411 069 808	
Facilities & Maintenance:	Dale Reed	0412 216 300	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Outreach:	Lauren Palmer	0488 453 834	
Newsletter:	Leana Van Gent	0452 334 224	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au