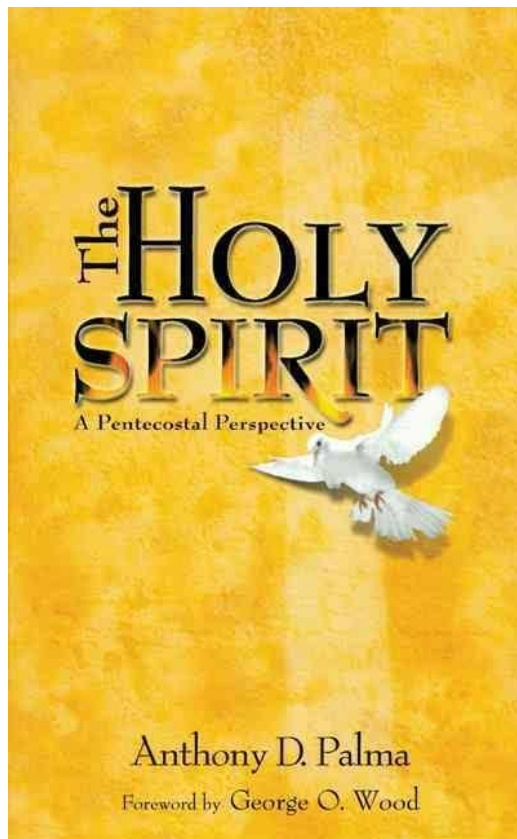


DR. ALVIN'S PUBLICATIONS

# HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS CHRISTIANS DAILY

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AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK BY  
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## PART I: INTRODUCTION

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- This article is an excerpt taken from the book *The Holy Spirit: A Pentecostal Perspective* by (Palma 2001)
- This article talks about how the Holy Spirit helps Christians in day-by-day living.
- He is:
  - The Christian's Teacher
  - The Christian's Guide
  - The Christian's Co-Intercessor
- It also talks about the Holy Spirit in the after-life.

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## PART II: THE CHRISTIAN'S TEACHER

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- Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them all things (John 14:26).
- Sometimes this is done through human instrumentality, since the Spirit has set pastors and teachers in the Church (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).
- But there is also the direct ministry of the Spirit as the divine Teacher.
- The Spirit will lead God's people into all truth (John 16:13).
- When the time comes for a critical decision to be made affecting doctrinal aspects of the work of God, the Spirit is there to instruct.
- To illustrate: The Early Church needed to make an important decision regarding the status of Gentiles in the Church (Acts 15).
- When the leaders of the church reached a decision, they were able to say, "All seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (v. 28).
- Jesus also told the disciples that the Spirit would show them things to come (John 16:13).
- The entire Book of Revelation is a testimony to this.
- In it the Spirit is called the Spirit of prophecy (19:10), and the book was written as a result of John's being "in the Spirit" (1:10).
- Paul also attributes knowledge of future events to the Spirit when he says, "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith" (1 Tim. 4:1).

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### PART III: THE CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE

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- Truly spiritual persons allow themselves to be guided by the Spirit at all times.
- “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).
- Like Jesus, believers may undergo times when the Spirit’s leading takes them into severe testing (Matt. 4:1).
- But when the Spirit so leads, we may rest assured He is also alongside us-as our Paraclete-so that we too may emerge “in the power of the Spirit” (Luke 4:14).
- The Spirit also guides God’s people as to places of service.
- On Paul's second missionary journey, he wanted to preach the gospel in the province of Asia, but he was “forbidden by the Holy Spirit” to do so (Acts 16:6, NASB); it was not yet the Lord’s will.
- (Later, he would be privileged to preach in that region [see Acts 19, especially VV. 8, 22].)
- Then Luke says that Paul and his party wished to go into Bithynia, “but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to” (16:7).
- Sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit was one of Paul’s marks as a mature Christian.
- The Spirit is present, as well, to direct Christians in what they will say in a delicate situation.
- Jesus taught His disciples not to worry beforehand what they would say when they were brought up before the authorities:
- “Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit” (Mark 13:11).
- This promise was fulfilled in Peter’s life when he and John were brought before the religious authorities.
- On that occasion Peter experienced a special infilling of the Spirit (Acts 4:8) which enabled him to speak boldly even though he and John were “unschooled, ordinary men”.

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#### PART IV: THE CHRISTIAN'S CO-INTERCESSOR

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- There are times when a Christian finds it difficult to articulate a special burden in prayer.
- "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Rom. 8:26).
- This is undoubtedly included in what the New Testament calls praying "in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18; Jude 20), and is very likely related to praying in tongues (1 Cor. 14:2, 14-15).

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## PART V: THE SPIRIT IN THE LIFE TO COME

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- Christians' present experience of the Holy Spirit is only a foretaste of the glory awaiting them when they finally enter the presence of the Lord.
- The Holy Spirit's indwelling of Christians is God's guarantee of the consummation of their redemption (Rom. 8:22-23; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).
- These passages contain several important points:
  1. The Spirit is the "earnest" of our spiritual inheritance (Eph. 1:14).
    - The Greek term refers to a "down payment" that is made on a purchase as a pledge by the buyer that payment will be made in full.
    - Paul also refers to this idea as "the first fruits of the Spirit" (Rom. 8:23).
  2. The same Spirit who raised the sinner from spiritual death to spiritual life will ultimately raise the mortal and corruptible body of the Christian so that it will be a "spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:44).
    - The Christian's body will be raised by the power of the Spirit.
    - "He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Rom. 8:11).
    - This is the meaning of the phrase "the redemption of our bodies" (v. 23).
  3. The Christian's resurrection body will be like that of the Lord's.
    - When the Lord shall appear, "we shall be like him" even though "what we will be has not yet been made known" (1 John 3:2).
    - The Lord himself "will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body" (Phil. 3:21).
    - At that time the redemption of Christians must be complete in all respects.
    - Not only their spiritual nature but also their physical nature will be transformed by the power of the Spirit.

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## REFERENCES

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Anthony D. Palma has had a long and distinguished career as an educator, especially as professor of New Testament, Greek, and theology. He has served on a number of Assemblies of God faculties, including that of its seminary. His degrees include an M.Div. from New York Theological Seminary and an S.T.M. and a Th.D. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

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