

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Your Life
John 16
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Throughout the upper room discourse (John 14-16), Jesus has repeatedly turned our attention to the promise of the Holy Spirit for our lives. This promise was crucial for the disciples, because they were terrified at the thought of Jesus leaving them. So Jesus gives them words of comfort and hope by teaching them that He would send them "another comforter-counselor-advocate", the Holy Spirit. We studied this theme several weeks ago in John 14 and have seen it again in chapter 15. Now in chapter 16 this awesome promise is repeated one more time (John 16:1-15). This intense focus on the promise of the Holy Spirit is a reminder to us of the crucial role the Holy Spirit plays in our Christian life and faith. But the Bible has so much to say about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that sometimes it seems hard to sort it all out. So I want to pass on to you a very simple and helpful way of thinking about the work of the Holy Spirit that has helped my understanding through the years. It goes like this:

There are three basic relationships each of us can have with the Holy Spirit: "with"; "in"; and "upon." When you think about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, think of these three words.

This simple way of thinking about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives comes from two primary verses. In John 14:17 Jesus teaches His disciples that the Holy Spirit is "with" them, but will be "in" them. So that verse has two of our key words. Then in Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes "upon" them – our third key word. Let's look prayerfully at each of these dimensions of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. Use the space below for notes. Listen for God to speak to your heart through His Word. Remember, *this promise is for you!*

The Holy Spirit "With" you

The Holy Spirit "In" you

The Holy Spirit "Upon" you