



2025-2026

ACBC Theology Exam - Questions #21 & 22

#21. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life describing the importance of this role in the counseling process.

The role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life and the importance in counseling:

- John 16:8-11
- John 14:16-17
- Romans 8:11-17
- Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit in counseling: It would be impossible to overstate the Spirit's role, and the need we have for the Spirit's power for any heart transformation in the counselee. Counseling is the Spirit's work in the heart of the counselee. For the unbeliever it is conviction of sin unto repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. For the believer it is conviction of sin unto repentance and obedience because of their position in Christ.

Theologian Michael Bird introduces his chapter on the Holy Spirit with these introductory comments:

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is called pneumatology, and it describes the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is an important part of the promise of the gospel and empowers the effusion of the gospel from our churches. The Holy Spirit is a personal being, not an impersonal force. Among his chief works are applying the work of Christ to the believer, regenerating and baptizing the believer, and inspiring Scripture.

Without the Holy Spirit, God is distant, Christ is in the past, the Gospel is a dead letter, the Church is simply an organization, authority is domination, mission is propaganda, worship is the summoning of spirits, and Christian action is the morality of slaves.¹

¹ Bird, Evangelical Theology, 666.

- **Regeneration**
Titus 3:5
- **Intercession**
Romans 8:26
- **Sanctification**
II Thessalonians 2:13
- **Helping saints**
John 14:16

#22. Provide your understanding of how the Holy Spirit guides Christians today.

How I Believe the Holy Spirit guides Christians today:

- **Teaching**
Ephesians 1:17-18
- **Empowering**
Romans 12:1-2
- **Gifting**
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- **Glorifying**
John 15:26
John 16:14

The Holy Spirit performs works that are similar to the works of the Father and the Son. These works confirm the divine personhood of the Holy Spirit.

- I. The Spirit teaches.
- II. The Spirit testifies.
- III. The Spirit guides.
- IV. The Spirit convicts.
- V. The Spirit regenerates.
- VI. The Spirit intercedes.
- VII. The Spirit commands.
- VIII. Illumination:

- 1. Definition

- Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit clarifying revelation (Scripture) for the faith and practice of the church (and of individual believers within it).

- 2. Distinctions

- Illumination is not revelation, although forms of Gnosticism, rationalism, mysticism, and some modern reformulations of revelation tend to blur the distinction.

- Illumination is not interpretation. It does not replace the need to understand the text of Scripture according to normal hermeneutical methods. Nor does this doctrine deny the ability of anyone to accurately interpret the meaning of the text apart from the Holy Spirit.