

1. In the Book of Common Prayer, there are certain responses which have often been sung. One of the responses is Priest: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

That poses an awkward question: - **If God took away His Holy Spirit, would we notice?**

2. "Spiritual" language is prevalent today, even in business circles. However Christian experience of the Holy Spirit can be somewhat shallow and elusive

3. Galatians 5:25 **"Let us keep in step with the Spirit"** is a good summary of the Holy Spirit in Galatians.

4. The work of the Holy Spirit is all-embracing

In the book of Galatians we read of the work of the Holy Spirit...

➤ **At the Beginning of our Christian journey**

"Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?" (Gal 3:1)

➤ **As we continue**

"After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" (Gal 3:3)

➤ **And at its end**

"The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life" (Gal 6:8)

"The Spirit is the key to everything: conversion, ethics, community life, miracles, revelation, eschatology. Without the Holy Spirit there simply is no genuinely Christian life." (Gordon Fee)

5. The work of the Holy Spirit is all-terrain (special title for cyclists in Dorking!)

There are times when the Christian journey is like being on a ridge walk – one side you fall off into legalism – the other side into licence. The Christians in Galatia were so easily falling into the valley of legalism. Perhaps nowadays, Christians have the temptation to fall into the valley of licence.

We often use the phrase "so and so is easily swayed by ..." Would it not be great to have someone say of us "they are easily swayed by the Holy Spirit!" "A profound awareness that we are always face to face with God; that as we move through life the presence of His Spirit is the most real and powerful factor in our daily environment; that underneath the momentary static of events, conflicts, problems and even excursions into sin, He is always there..." (Richard Lovelace))

6. The work of the Holy Spirit is all-important – in making us more like Jesus. Our life can be likened to a business whose old buildings are gradually being demolished and the bits used in a new and wonderful building. The Father has a master plan to transform our lives. The Holy Spirit, the clerk of works executes the plan on a day to day basis. It may involve frequent disruption of our routine, but the overall effect is to make us more like Jesus

7. Let's keep in step with the Spirit ...

.. make a deliberate effort at the outset of every day to recognise the person of the Holy Spirit.....

.... continue to walk throughout the day in a relationship of communication and communion with the Holy Spirit

.... acknowledge the Holy Spirit as the illuminator of truth and of the glory of Christ....

..... look to the Holy Spirit as our teacher, guide, sanctifier, giver of assurance, helper in prayer, and as the one who directs and empowers our witness....