

Getting a Remodel

May 4, 2025

Move over. A new person is moving in, and He is going to do a complete makeover in every room in this house. All you need to do is stay out of His way and let Him do His work. Think of it as your new car with autopilot, just sit back and enjoy the ride.

We often talk about remodels and renovations; the terms are often used interchangeably, but there are differences. Renovation does not consist of adding rooms or changing much of the structure; it is more focused on updating or redoing things back to their original state, much like a believer who has surrendered wanting to return to a time before Satan deceived Eve. For many, a renovation may be all that is needed. Still, for others, a complete remodel is necessary, such as knocking down locked doors, opening boarded-up windows, removing old memories of guilt, clearing away the old and making room for the new. There is only one who has the master plan, who gives the gifts, and who counsels, to do so, and that would be the Holy Spirit.

When we do a remodel, we always look ahead at the task and make a plan. We first remove everything from that area in order to get a vision of where we are going. We will often place tape on the floors and walls representing appliances or furniture to better see what it may look like when we begin moving things back in. In life, this resembles the work of the Holy Spirit within the believer. We must relinquish the controls and let the Holy Spirit become the pilot or director of everything in our lives. I say pilot because I have seen tattoos and stickers that say Jesus is my copilot; this is a wrong conception.

Whether it's either type, remodel, or renovation, we always have plans; it isn't any different when the Holy Spirit moves in. **Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** Today, as I look back over my life and the years I spent running in circles, and then consider all God has done in me since I surrendered to the work of the Holy Spirit inside of me, I can now understand His plans for my life, and how much better are His ways than mine.

Deuteronomy 32:4: He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

James in the New Testament warns of making plans while not considering the Father's will. **James 4:13-15 "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make a profit.' You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that.'"** This passage emphasizes the uncertainty of life and the necessity of submitting one's plans to the will of God. **Luke 14:28: "Suppose one of you wants to**

build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? This goes beyond adding up the cost for a building, which has already been paid for; it goes right to the heart of the sinful nature we are born into, of which the only power we have to accept God's invitation comes from the Holy Spirit. We are unable to enter into God's realm as long as we live by our own understanding. There is a certain amount of intuitive knowledge we are given when born that has a history of man honoring a higher being than himself; for Christians, this is the Godhead in all its fullness.

Paul makes this case in Romans chapter one, **"Romans 1:18-21: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

These verses demonstrate to us that rejecting the invitation to salvation requires silencing the word within yourself; your heart refuses to see the good, because the world offers you rapid pleasure, but as soon as it comes, it leaves, and you are seeking more to catch that feeling once again. Joy outside of the Holy Spirit is not true everlasting joy, **"Acts 13:52: and the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."**

Acts 1:3: Until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles.

Through whom did He give the commands? The Holy Spirit, for He has the power and strength we find only in Him, and much of the work we see in certain individuals is not man's own achievement but rather through the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16: "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. What is implied here concerning the Holy Spirit? It identifies the interaction between man and the Holy Spirit. The word helper, which, if you notice, has a bit more involvement in all people's lives, not just Jesus', but all of humanity. Those we read of in Romans chapter one are said to have known God but worshipped not; they actively chose to refuse the work of the Holy Spirit, and the price for this is eternal damnation.

How important is the Holy Spirit? **Luke 1:35: And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.** Where would our world be if we removed the Holy Spirit from all we know? Would Mary have

given birth to the Christ Child? Sometimes we overlook certain important passages because they may not catch our attention until we put them in their most powerful context. As I study, I often ask what would happen if this verse were not in the Bible? What if we took one of the members out of the Godhead?

Andrew Murray: "As it was through the Spirit that God wrought that perfect work in Christ by which fallen human nature, as He had taken it upon Himself, was redeemed and raised up and glorified, so nothing can make us partakers of that redeeming and quickening power but that same Spirit, truly living and working in our souls and bodies, in the same manner as it did in the humanity of Christ."

Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is announced to His disciples, as it is the Holy Spirit that the Scripture here identifies as the one who will be giving the disciples their commands.

David Guzik makes a good observation of this, "Significantly, Jesus did this through the Holy Spirit. This was the resurrected, glorified Lord Jesus Christ, risen with all authority and sovereignty. Yet He still chose to not rely on His own resources (as it were), but relied on the power and the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit."

Gotquestions.org, The Holy Spirit is the executor who applies the work of Christ to our hearts and lives.

The use of the Holy Spirit's indwelling is a shift from what was and what has now come. As Jesus was Immanuel, He could not be in all places at all times, as can the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God the Father and God the Son.

We have a responsibility, even though we may not feel the calling, which means that we intentionally shun the calling that saves. As we mature in our relationship with God, we look around at those who struggle and spiral out of control until they hit rock bottom. As I have said numerous times, the place of complete brokenness is different for everyone. Some may still have financial issues, sickness, or family problems, but real and life-changing brokenness is when one finally realizes their need for God to lead them, for the work of the Holy Spirit to take control. It may be losing a house, a divorce, a death in the family, whatever it may be, it is a place where all hope seems diminished, and the world is closing in on them. For others, it may be a drug, alcohol, or abuse that they cannot rid themselves of from their lives. I have known people who have addressed their brokenness and have changed, but without the Holy Spirit, they have

¹ Murray, Andrew. *Holiest of All: A Commentary on the Book of Hebrews* (p. 573). Whitaker House. Kindle Edition.

yet to recognize the power that brought them through their wicked journey, and they remain on shaky ground and unsaved.

John 15:26: “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

2 Peter 1:21: For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

“We saw how the Holy Spirit watches over the way into the Holiest and how He, as the Eternal Spirit, enabled Christ, in opening the way, to offer Himself without spot unto God; it is He whose mighty energy pervades this way and inspires it with divine life. As we are made partakers of Christ and as we come to God through Him, His life, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, takes possession of us; and, in His strength, we follow in the footsteps of Christ Jesus. The way into the Holiest is the living way of perfect conformity to Jesus, wrought in us by His Spirit.”²

Hebrews 9:14: How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Here again, we find the Holy Spirit at work, ushering in and directing the commands of all who receive Him.

Jesus responds to the claims made against Him by the Pharisees when performing miracles. **Matthew 12:28: “But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”** **Matthew 12:32: “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”**

We find our relationship with the Holy Spirit is different from that of the Father and Son. Why? As we have been reading about the work of the Holy Spirit, we see the Spirit much more active in our lives.

William MacDonald on the four communities that received the Holy Spirit.

Peter assured them that if they repented and were baptized, they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. To insist that this order applies to us today is to misunderstand God’s administrative dealings in the early days of the church.

“As H. P. Barker has so ably pointed out in *The Vicar of Christ*, there are four communities of believers in the Book of Acts, and the order of events in connection with the reception of the Holy Spirit is different in each case. Here in Acts 2:38 we read about Jewish Christians. For them, the order was:

1. Repentance.

² Murray, Andrew. *Holiest of All: A Commentary on the Book of Hebrews* (p. 391). Whitaker House. Kindle Edition.

2. Water baptism.
3. Reception of the Holy Spirit.

The conversion of Samaritans is recorded in Acts 8:14–17. There we read that the following events occurred:

1. They believed.
2. They were baptized in water.
3. The apostles prayed for them.
4. The apostles laid their hands on them.
5. They received the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 10:44–48 the conversion of Gentiles is in view. Notice the order here:

1. Faith.
2. Reception of the Holy Spirit.
3. Water baptism.

A final community of believers is made up of disciples of John the Baptist, Acts 19:1–7:

1. They believed.
2. They were re-baptized.
3. The Apostle Paul laid his hands on them.
4. They received the Holy Spirit.

Does this mean there were four ways of salvation in the Book of Acts? Of course not. Salvation was, is, and always will be on the basis of faith in the Lord. But during the transition period recorded in Acts, God chose to vary the events connected with the reception of the Holy Spirit for reasons which He knew but did not choose to reveal to us.³

I pray that everyone here today ponders the work of the Holy Spirit and all He has accomplished in your life so far. This is our ongoing testimony, that we share with one another of the changed heart, that in difficult circumstances we can rely on the Spirit to

³ MacDonald, William. *Believer's Bible Commentary: Second Edition* (p. 2956). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

guide us. If the Spirit truly lives in us, I think we may be a bit more cautious in those things we say and do. We haven't even begun to explore the gifts of the Spirit.