

7. I believe in the Holy Spirit: the Renovator

St George's Battery Point, 20 November 2022

Bible readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Romans 5:1-5, John 14:15-21

Rev Andrew Lake

The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives is mostly invisible and often quite uncomfortable. God the Holy Spirit's purpose is nothing less than to transform us into the character of Jesus. We are the house and the Spirit is the renovator. After the Spirit takes possession of us, he gradually cleans out our sinful habits and attitudes and replaces them with healthy, life-giving habits and attitudes. It's a lifelong process. However, like a former owner, who at the same time is a nosy neighbour, the "flesh" aka sinful human nature keeps poking his nose in and trying to sabotage the Spirit's good work. In Galatians 5: 16-18 Paul describes this conflict and encourages us to cooperate with the Spirit and reject the sabotage attempts of the flesh.