

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

February 26, 2023

# The Holy Spirit Convicts and Converts Sinners

- ◎ Every conversion to Christ has been a result of the operation of the Holy Spirit upon the sinner's heart.
  - But how? By what means?
  - How does the Holy Spirit exercise His influence upon the heart?
  - Does He operate directly or indirectly?

## ◉ Calvinistic Theology:

- "In conversion and sanctification there is an influence of the Spirit in addition to that of the Word, and distinct from it - an influence, without which the arguments and motives of the gospel would never convert and sanctify one of Adam's ruined race." . . . "Why, then, it will be asked, is it necessary that there should be an influence of the Spirit, in addition to that of the Word, and distinct from it? The necessity arises simply from the depravity of the human heart," . . . "men are sinful deeply depraved. Hence, the necessity of a special divine influence, in addition to, and distinct from, the word" (N.L. Rice, Campbell-Rice Debate, pp. 628, 630).

## ◉ This Calvinistic theology is flawed in several points.

## ◉ Necessity is the mother of invention.

- "Necessity, created by the false theory of hereditary total depravity, gave birth to the equally false concept of the direct, immediate operation of the Holy Spirit on the sinner's heart in conviction and conversion. Neither is true, hence they fall together." (James W. Adams, The Holy Spirit in Conviction and Conversion)

# The Holy Spirit Convicts and Converts Sinners

- ⦿ 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
- ⦿ Salvation through: “sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth”
- ⦿ The Holy Spirit revealed and confirmed all truth
  - John 16:7-13
- ⦿ The Spirit provided the gospel, by which men have faith and by which he is sanctified or saved
  - Romans 10:17
  - John 17:17

## ⦿ A man, an axe, and a tree

- The axe is the instrument used by the man to chop down the tree



## ⦿ The Holy Spirit, the Word, and the sinner

- The gospel is the instrument used by the Holy Spirit to convict and to convert the sinner
- ⦿ The word of God is the Spirit's instrument
  - Ephesians 6:17



# The Holy Spirit convicts and converts sinners through the call of the gospel

- ⦿ Convict = reprove and convince
- ⦿ The Holy Spirit does this by the power of truth
  - John 16:7-14
  - Acts 2:37
  - Acts 24:24-25
- ⦿ When the confirmed gospel is preached today, men are convicted by the word of the Spirit

# The Holy Spirit convicts and converts sinners through the call of the gospel

- ◎ Convert = turn men from sin to God
  - Matthew 18:13
  - Acts 3:19
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
  - James 5:19-20
- ◎ Men are converted or born again by the word of the Spirit
  - John 3:3-5
  - Ephesians 5:26
  - James 1:17-18
  - 1 Peter 1:22-25

# The Holy Spirit convicts and converts sinners through the call of the gospel

- ◎ Sinners are saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit when they obey the gospel of God's grace
  - Titus 3:3-7
  - Titus 2:11-12
- ◎ The gospel itself – preached, believed, and obeyed – is God's power to save
  - Romans 1:16



## Examples of the Holy Spirit's operation in conviction and conversion

### ◎ Acts 2

- The Holy Spirit convicted and converted Jewish sinners through inspired, confirmed truth – through the gospel
- The baptism of the apostles with the Holy Spirit revealed and confirmed the truth.
  - No other baptism of Jews with the Holy Spirit ever occurred.
- A gospel sermon was preached – words were given by the Spirit to save sinners (vss. 4, 11, 22, 40, 41)
- Jews were convicted and converted by the words of a confirmed revelation – by the power of the gospel (vss. 37-41)
  - “Now when they heard this”
- No mysterious or miraculous power was exerted upon the sinner. The Spirit worked on the sinner through the words of truth.

## Examples of the Holy Spirit's operation in conviction and conversion

### ◎ Acts 3

- Peter preached – vs.12ff
  - Convicted men of murder – vss. 13-15
  - Urged them to repent and turn – vs. 19
  - Told of forgiveness in Christ – vs. 26
- Result:
  - “Many of them which *heard the word* believed” – (4:4)

## Examples of the Holy Spirit's operation in conviction and conversion

### ⦿ Acts 7

- Stephen preached
- But the audience resisted the Holy Spirit who was trying to convict and convert them (vs.51)
- How did they resist the Holy Spirit?
  - By refusing the word

## Examples of the Holy Spirit's operation in conviction and conversion

### ⦿ Acts 8 – the Samaritans

- “But when they believed Philip as he preached...”

### ⦿ Acts 8 – the Ethiopian

- Philip “opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him”

### ⦿ Act 9 – Saul

- “Arise, and go into the city, and it will be told what you must do”

### ⦿ Acts 10,11 – Cornelius & his household

- “Peter, who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved”

### ⦿ Acts 16 – Lydia

- “Spoke to the women...”; “...Lydia heard us”

## Examples of the Holy Spirit's operation in conviction and conversion

### ⦿ Acts 16 – the keeper of the prison

- “Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house”

### ⦿ Acts 18 – the Corinthians

- “And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized”

### ⦿ Acts 17 – the Bereans

- “...received the word with all readiness”

### ⦿ Acts 19 – the Ephesians

- “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” (Ephesians 1:13)

# The Working of the Holy Spirit through the Agency of the Word

The Holy Spirit	The Work or action	The Word – the instrument
John 16:8	Convicts the world	John 16:13, 14; Acts 2:14...37; Titus 1:9
John 3:5,8	Begets	1 Peter 1:23
John 6:63	Quickens – gives life	Psalms 119:50, 93
1 Corinthians 6:11	Cleanses by washing	Ephesians 5:26
1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13	Sanctifies	John 17:17
Titus 3:5	Saves	James 1:21
Acts 7:51-53	Is resisted	2 Timothy 3:8
Revelation 22:17	Calls	2 Thessalonians 2:14
Acts 9:31	Comforts	1 Thessalonians 4:18
Romans 15:13	Gives hope	Romans 15:4; Colossians 1:5; Titus 1:2-3
Hebrews 3:7-11	Warns, Urges	Hebrews 4:7; Psalm 95:7ff
Romans 8:14	Leads	Psalms 119:105
1 Corinthians 6:11	Justifies	Galatians 2:16
Galatians 5:22-23	Produces fruit	Colossians 1:5-6
Ephesians 3:16	Strengthens	Acts 20:32
Ephesians 5:18-19	Dwells in	Colossians 3:16