

THE HOLY SPIRIT

March 12, 2023

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- ◎ The Holy Spirit is God
 - Acts 5:3, 4
- ◎ The Holy Spirit performs the work of divine power – creation, miracles, revelation, regeneration
- ◎ The Holy Spirit is one of the beings of the Godhead. He is not the Father, and He is not the Son.

The Holy Spirit's activities are seen in the Old Testament

- ◎ Active in creation
 - Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Job 33:4, 26:13
- ◎ Revealed the words of God
 - Nehemiah 9:20, 30
- ◎ Foretold of redemption
 - Isaiah 11:1-3; Hebrews 9:8-14

The Holy Spirit in relation to Jesus

- ⦿ Jesus conceived of the Holy Spirit
- ⦿ The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism, identifying Him as the Messiah
- ⦿ Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit
- ⦿ Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and had the Holy Spirit without measure
- ⦿ Jesus performed miracles by the Holy Spirit
- ⦿ Jesus was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit
- ⦿ Jesus' resurrection and ascension to be King was a fulfilment of the promise of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in relation to the apostles

- ◎ Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles
- ◎ The Holy Spirit would do these things for the apostles:
 - Give them words to speak
 - Teach them all things
 - Bring to their remembrance all things Jesus has said to them
 - Bear witness of Christ
 - Guide them into all truth
 - Tell them of things to come
 - Convict the world of sin, righteous, and judgment to come – through the words they spoke
- ◎ The apostles received the baptism with the Holy Spirit
- ◎ Therefore, the Holy Spirit revealed truth to the apostles and confirmed it

The Holy Spirit and truth

- ◎ The Holy Spirit revealed all truth
 - Paul affirmed the things that the apostles spoke were not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but in words which the Holy Spirit teaches
 - Thus verbal inspiration
- ◎ The Holy Spirit confirmed all truth
 - Confirmed – established, showed to be true
 - Jesus' words confirmed through wonders, signs, and miracles
 - The apostles' words confirmed through accompanying signs
- ◎ All Scripture is breathed out by God – inspired
- ◎ God spoke by the Holy Spirit by the mouth of the prophets, and those things were written

The Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts in apostolic days

- ⦿ Miraculous spiritual gifts had been promised
 - Joel 2:28-32
 - Mark 16:17-20
- ⦿ The apostles had the miraculous through the baptism with the Holy Spirit
- ⦿ Christians would have miraculous spiritual gifts only through the laying on of the apostles' hands
 - Exception: Cornelius' household – the miraculous administered from heaven, but unique purpose (Acts 11, 15)
- ⦿ The purpose of the miraculous was to
 - Reveal truth
 - Confirm the word of truth
 - Edification in the absence of the written word
- ⦿ The duration of the miraculous?
 - Until that which is perfect is come
 - When their purpose was fulfilled

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?
- ◎ This does not suggest man has no part! Man has free will to respond or to not respond.

◎ 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 who choose to be are convicted and converted 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

How does the Holy Spirit bring men to belief?

- ⦿ Through the word of God
- ⦿ John 17:20-21
- ⦿ John 20:30-31
- ⦿ Acts 15:7
- ⦿ Romans 10:17
- ⦿ Romans 1:16
- ⦿ Acts 26:16-20

See the parallels – the Holy Spirit working through the Word

◎ John 3:5

- Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born **of water** and **the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

◎ Titus 3:5

- ...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **washing of regeneration** and **renewing of the Holy Spirit...**

◎ Ephesians 5:26

- ...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the **washing of water by the word...**

How are men drawn to God?

- V.44: No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- V.45: It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.
 - Therefore: Drawn by hearing and learning
- V.44: No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- V.40: For this is the will of my Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day
 - Therefore: Drawn by beholding and believing in Christ
- V.63: It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
 - How is spiritual life acquired? The Spirit gives life. The words that Jesus spoke are spirit and they are life.