

The Holy Spirit and the Christian

Introduction

A. The Neglect of the Holy Spirit

I. Opening Illustration

- The under appreciation of those that do the most for us

II. The Holy Spirit

- Do we even know that there is a Holy Spirit and if so what He does for each and everyone of us?

III. The Context of Our Study

- Acts 19:1–6 - [1] And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. [2] And he said to them, **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”** And they said, **“No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”** [3] And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” [4] And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” [5] On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. (ESV)

B. Purpose of Our Study:

- I. The purpose of our study is to examine the Holy Spirit in a very personal way. To discover what the Holy Spirit has done for you, continues to do for you as a faithful Christian, and how we must respond to the Holy Spirit if we desire to be united with Him.

Lesson

A. The Work of the Holy Spirit

I. Confirmed the Word In the First Century

- Jesus Ascends to Heaven but Promises to Send Another
 - **John 14:25–26 - [25] “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. [26] But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)**
 - **John 15:26 - [26] “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (ESV)**
 - **John 16:12–15 - [12] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13] When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. [14] He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (ESV)**
- Not only did the Apostles Have All Truth but They Had the Power of the Holy Spirit as Well
 - **Mark 16:19–20 - [19] So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. [20] And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs. (ESV)**
- The Day of Pentecost with the Speaking of Tongues
- The Confirmation of the Acceptance of Gentiles by the Pouring out of the Spirit Upon Them

The Holy Spirit and the Christian

II. Inspired Men to Record the Word

- The Spirit confirmed - established - authenticated the Word of God
- One Story from Start to Finish - Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained
- Illustration to the contradictions, errors, and plot holes in the Harry Potter series
- This was a series from one individual written over about 16 years
- The Bible had dozens of authors - three languages - three continents - over 1600 years - varying backgrounds, genres, and settings
- In the realm of man's ability? IMPOSSIBLE
 - **1 Corinthians 2:11–13 - [11] For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13] And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (ESV)**

III. Preserved the Word Even Until Today

- Ancient Scroll reaffirm every word that we have is the same text that the first century Christians had
- Geisler and Nix – (pg. 603)
 - “No book from antiquity comes to the modern world with greater evidence for its authenticity than does the Bible. Both the kind and the amount of evidence that supports the fidelity of the present critical text are greater than for any other book from the ancient world.”
 - “For if there is overwhelming evidence that the biblical documents are genuine and authentic – that they stem from alleged periods and authors – then one must face seriously their persistent claim to divine inspiration. When these claims are thoroughly examined and honestly faced, one can but conclude that the Bible as a whole claims to be the Word of God, and the evidence confirms that claim.”

B. The Gift of the Holy Spirit

I. Salvation Through Obedience to the Word

- Salvation and its manifestation and revelation is only made through the Holy Spirit
 - **Acts 2:37–41 - [37] Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” [40] And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41] So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (ESV)**
 - **Hebrews 2:1–4 - [1] Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. [2] For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, [3] how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, [4] while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (ESV)**

The Holy Spirit and the Christian

- **John 7:37–39 - [37] On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” [39] Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)**

II. The Indwelling of the Spirit

- Upon Our Obedience to the Word We Enter Into a Unique and Special Relationship With God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
 - **1 Corinthians 3:16–17 - [16] Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? [17] If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (ESV)**
 - **2 Corinthians 1:21–22 - [21] And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, [22] and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)**
 - Romans 8:18–30 - [18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. [19] For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. [23] **And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.** [24] For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? [25] But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. [26] **Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.** [27] **And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.** [28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)
 - **James 4:4–5 - [4] You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. [5] Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?** (ESV)

C. Our Response to the Holy Spirit

I. How Much Has the Spirit Done For You?

- The Spirit confirmed the work of Jesus, He inspired men to write down all of the things that Jesus did and taught, He has preserved the good news of salvation throughout the ages, if you ignore these things what hope do you have?
 - **Luke 12:10 - [10] And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. (ESV)**
- The heart that is unwilling to humbly submit to the will of God - What else can we offer them for salvation from their sins?

The Holy Spirit and the Christian

- Robert Turner -
 - “But when one, out of a wicked and rebellious heart, assigns the work of God to Satan, knowingly and deliberately rejects every legitimate offer of mercy; treats evil as good, and good as evil—that one separates himself from all hope of forgiveness. He has sinned the “eternal sin” and sealed his destiny in hell.”
 - Clinton D. Hamilton -
 - “The act is that of resisting the Holy Spirit whose testimony as to the deity of Jesus is of such a nature that one is without excuse who denies it. He is guilty of an eternal sin. His is a sin unto death (eternal). God does not give life in response to prayer for one who has so sinned.”
 - Have I committed this “unpardonable” sin? -
 - The very acknowledgement of the sin confesses your innocence. Total rejection and abandonment of God and His scheme of redemption would
- II. Are You Keeping Step With the Spirit?
- The Spirit is the means by which we have eternal life, do we cherish it?
 - **Galatians 5:25 - [25] If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (ESV)**
 - **Hebrews 6:4–6 - [4] For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, [5] and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, [6] and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. (ESV)**
 - **Hebrews 10:26–31 - [26] For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. [28] Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. [29] How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)**

Conclusion

- A. The Gift of the Holy Spirit is a product of our obedience to the Gospel
- I. Do you want to be one with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?
- You must be born again!
 - **John 3:3–5 - [3] Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” [4] Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” [5] Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)**
 - **Matthew 28:18–20 - [18] And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (ESV)**