

Sanctified by the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

- A. Studying and preaching about the Holy Spirit is challenging
 - 1. Diversity of views even among brethren
 - 2. Contradictory doctrines; claims of being guided by the Spirit
 - 3. Demands scripture, patience, and humility
- B. What is the current work of the Holy Spirit?
 - 1. Like that of the Father and Son, the work of the Holy Spirit in this world is temporary, limited, and specific in purpose
 - 2. In the Creation, revealing God's word in the Old Testament, confirming the revelation of the Gospel in the New Testament, and His current work of sanctification until the Lord's return
 - 3. Just as we can distinguish the work of Jesus in the first century from His current work as Mediator, so we can discern between the very active work of the Holy Spirit in the first century and present work as sanctifier.

I. THE ANCIENT WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. The Holy Spirit's work in Creation - Gen. 1:2; Psalm 104:30; Job 26:13
 - 1. In the creation of man - Gen. 1:26-27
- B. The Holy Spirit's work of revelation
 - 1. Of the Old Testament - 2Peter 1:20-21; 2Sam. 23:2; 1Peter 1:10-11
- C. Of the New Testament - John 16:12-13, 14:26; 1Cor. 2:10-13; 1Tim. 4:1
 - 1. Through the Gospel
 - a. Designed to produce faith - Rom. 10:17; Col. 1:5-6
 - b. Which is God's power to save - Rom. 1:16-17; 1Cor. 1:18
 - c. Without the revelation by the Holy Spirit, we would not be saved.
- D. In confirmation
 - 1. Confirming Jesus as the Christ - Acts 10:38; Matt. 12:28; Luke 4:18-21
 - 2. Confirming the message of the apostles - Heb. 2:3-4; Rom. 15:19
 - a. By miraculous manifestations of the Spirit - 1Cor. 12:1, 4-11
 - b. Imparted by the laying on of the apostles' hands - Acts 8:14-18, 19:1-7; Rom. 1:11; 2Tim. 1:6
 - c. Given to some, but not all - 1Cor. 12:29-30, 14:16, 23
 - d. For the benefit of all, not just the possessors of the gifts
 - 1) To reveal the truth - 1Cor. 14:6
 - 2) To confirm the truth - 1Cor. 14:22
 - e. Temporary in duration - 1Cor. 13:8-12

II. THE CURRENT WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. In regeneration
 - 1. As the word is preached - John 16:8
 - a. The Spirit gave the apostles utterance - Acts 2:4
 - b. Peter preached Christ to them - Acts 2:22-24, 36
 - c. The audience was convicted of sin - Acts 2:37
 - d. They were taught to repent and be baptized - Acts 2:38-39

- e. Those willing to do so, did so gladly - Acts 2:40-41
- f. Thus the Spirit convicts the world through the revealed and confirmed Word whenever it is preached; those with good and honest hearts will bear fruit
- 2. As the word is obeyed - Titus 3:4-7; 1Cor. 6:11; John 3:5
 - 1. Reborn (regenerated) by means of the word - 1Peter 1:22-23
- 3. To continue to sanctify the saved
 - a. A process begun when washed and justified - 1Cor. 6:11
 - b. A process that continues by the word - John 17:17; Acts 20:32
- 4. Sanctification is an ongoing work - Heb. 2:11; 10:14
 - a. Not in the sense of needing redemption - Heb. 10:10
 - b. But in the sense of living holy lives - 1Thes 4:3-4
- 5. The Spirit plays an important role in our living the Christian life
 - a. Strengthening us in the inner man - Eph. 3:16
 - b. Interceding in our behalf - Rom. 8:26-27
 - 1) Not as mediator, but as an amicus curiae, literally "friend of the court," who is someone not a party to the case who offers information that bears on the case but has not been solicited by the accused to assist the court.
 - c. Serving as the seal and earnest - Eph. 1:13, 4:30; 2Cor. 1:22
 - d. Fills us with hope - Rom. 15:13

Conclusion:

- A. The Spirit's promise, work, and blessings at the beginning of the Christian age included the necessary process of revealing and confirming God's Word, and was accomplished by special offices of apostles, prophets, gifts, signs, and wonders. Once the Word was fully revealed, the miraculous manifestations came to an end
- B. Yet the Spirit's promise, work, and blessings throughout the Christian age includes the important process of convicting, regenerating, and sanctifying souls, and is accomplished by preaching the gospel. While not a miraculous manifestation, it is a Divine operation.
- C. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit - Gal. 5:25