

GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS

18. Work of the Holy Spirit



An Introduction

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be in us as individuals, and also to be within his Body, the Church. Although we can't really separate these two, we will do so, to help us understand the work of the Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit in the believer begins prior to his conversion and continues throughout his life.

1. HOLY SPIRIT BRINGING A PERSON TO SALVATION

(a) Prior to conversion

1) Revelation

- Without the work of the Holy Spirit a person cannot turn to God. John 6:44-45
- Before conversion the Holy Spirit illumines a person's mind, revealing the truth about Christ, salvation and their need as a sinner. This leads to the convicting work of the Spirit.

2) Conviction John 16:8-11

- Conviction of sin: sin takes on a new meaning. It is refusing to believe in Jesus Christ.
- Conviction of righteousness: is realising how far short of God's righteousness we are.
- Conviction of judgment: is the realisation that unless we come to Christ we come under God's judgment.

(b) At conversion

As soon as a person responds in repentance and faith to the convicting work of the Spirit, aspects of God's saving work are experienced. This is the initial work of the Spirit at conversion, although it is only the beginning of his work, which is essential to our final salvation.

1) Regeneration

- God may be preparing a person to come to him over a long period of time, but he is regenerated by an instantaneous act of God. John 1:12-13, 3:3-7
- God breathes life into a man and he is born again. Ezekiel 37:10
- Man becomes a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- God begins to renew him into His image and likeness, which is the ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. 2 Corinthians 3:18

2) United with Christ

- At regeneration we are united with Christ and become one with him in his death and resurrection.
- We are also baptised into the Body of Christ and united with all the members of his Body in spiritual unity. 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:3-4

3) Gift of the Spirit received

- When a person is born again they receive the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17, Acts 2:38, Romans 8:9-11
- We are sealed with the Spirit and this is the guarantee of our inheritance in Heaven. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30



Knowing regeneration is a work of the Holy Spirit, how does this affect our approach to evangelism?

2. ON GOING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A BELIEVER

When a person is born again, God seeks to bring this work to completion by the ongoing work of the Spirit. Not only does he work within us, but he also works through us.

(a) Reveals Christ to us

- The Holy Spirit illumines our minds so we can understand truths about Christ and the Scriptures. John 16:13, 15, 1 John 2:27
- He comes to glorify Christ in and through us. John 16:14, 17:10

(b) Assures us we belong to him

- Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 3:24, 4:13

(c) Enables us to pray

- Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 6:18

(d) Enables us to worship

- John 4:24, Acts 10:45-46, Colossians 3:16

(e) Sanctify us

When a person is regenerated, the indwelling Spirit begins his work of sanctification. 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 2 Thessalonians 2:13. The Holy Spirit wants to:-

1) Make us holy

The word sanctify means 'to make holy'. There are 3 aspects of holiness in the Old Testament that help us understand the meaning of holiness in the New Testament.

- To belong to God. God chose Israel as a special possession to belong to God alone. (Deuteronomy 7:6) We now belong to God and are called his saints or holy ones. 1 Peter 2:9
- To set us apart for God. We are separated to God and from sin. Romans 6:11, 19
- God requires holiness of us. He expected his people to be like him, and likewise he expects us to be holy. Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16

On one hand we are already holy in God's sight because of what Christ has done, but on the other we need to strive to be holy. Holiness means Christlikeness.

2) Make us like Christ

- Romans 6

3) To restore us into his image

- 2 Corinthians 3:18

(f) Bear fruit

- The Holy Spirit enables us to bear fruit. John 15: 2, 5
- What is this fruit? See Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 1:11, Hebrews 13:15-16
- Fruit is the primary evidence that we are walking in the Spirit.

(g) Equip us for service

- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit for the purpose of equipping the disciples with power for witnessing. Acts 1:8
- The Holy Spirit also enhances our natural gifts and gives us spiritual gifts to enable us to serve him.



What is the purpose of fruit in our lives? John 15:2, 8, 11

Is it possible for a person to be a Christian, yet not have the Holy Spirit?



The more we allow the Holy Spirit to fill our lives, the greater evidence there will be of fruit in our lives.