

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

John 16:5-15 ⁵ "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

This passage contains some of the last words of instruction our Lord spoke to His disciples before His arrest, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection. They had been with Him for approximately three years and now He was soon going to be leaving them and returning to the glory that was His with the Father before the world was. And although, sorrow fills their hearts because of His words, he plainly tells them that it is to their advantage that He is going away. He explains that if He goes away He will send them a Helper who, when He comes will teach them all things, and will convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. All things necessary to their understanding and to the salvation of God's elect throughout the world. This Helper of course is none other than the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Jesus here in the passage calls Him the Spirit of truth.

We as Christians acknowledge the doctrine of the Trinity, in the Words of the Athanasian Creed we confess that "...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal."

Sometimes I think we err in the church regarding the person and work of the Holy Spirit for sometimes I fear that we simply take Him for granted. Therefore this morning, on this Pentecost Sunday I want us to consider these things. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is His part in our salvation? And then what is His continuing work in our sanctification, our daily walk with Christ?

A. The person of the Holy Spirit - Who is the Holy Spirit?

1. We refer to Him as the 3rd person of the Godhead.
 - a. First, second and third persons of the Godhead or Trinity are terms we use to understand what we can refer to as the economical aspect of the Trinity.
 - b. It does not infer greater to the lesser, but rather how each one relates to the other in our salvation. That is, the Father purposed, the Son provided, and the Holy Spirit applies.
 - c. The Holy Spirit then is referred to as the third person in that He proceeds from both the Father and the Son to accomplish the purposed and provided salvation in us.
 - d. He accomplishes in the elect what the Father purposed and what the Son provided.
2. He is truly God
 - a. Thus when we speak of the ontological Trinity we speak of the three Persons of the Trinity as being co-equal, co-eternal, equal in honor and glory being of the same substance.
 - b. That is the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son in honor and glory.
 - c. He is called God in Holy Scripture

1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the **temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Acts 5:3,4 "But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit . . . you have not lied to men but to God."

- d. The church is to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This baptismal formula declares all three persons of the trinity to be equal.
3. He is a separate person, yet one with the Father and the Son.
 - a. At the baptism of our Lord, the Father spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descended upon our Lord as a dove descends.
 - b. When our Lord promises the Spirit He our Lord speaks of Him as a separate person.

I will send **Him** to you. ⁸ And when **He has come, He will convict** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: - - when **He, the Spirit of truth**, has come

- c. Both the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to the church.
- d. On the day of Pentecost He filled each one tarrying for His coming.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

B. What is His part in our salvation?

1. We might speak of it as the necessity of the Holy Spirit in our salvation.

a. This arises from the total corruption of human nature, or our being dead in sin.

Rom 8:6-7 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

b. In other words we would not and could not have come to God had it not been for the quickening work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Eph 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

2. We see the work of the Spirit in the Apostles, how prior to Pentecost they really did not understand Who and why Jesus came.

a. Peter - Took Jesus aside and rebuked the Lord regarding the upcoming crucifixion

b. Same Peter on the Day of Pentecost - had a clear understanding.

c. Paul who had at first persecuted the church clearly states that that which he taught was directly given to him by the Holy Spirit

"The things which we speak," says Paul, we speak in the words which the Holy Spirit teaches." (1 Cor. 2:13.)

3. Personally it is the Holy Spirit that has made you aware of our sinful state - *He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me*

4. It is the Holy Spirit that has given you an understanding of who Christ is and what He did for up upon the cross.

a. This is clearly taught in 1 Cor. chapter 2.

(1) Paul preaching was not with persuasive words of man's wisdom.

(2) Message of the gospel is a hidden wisdom

(3) Had the rulers of the world known - not have crucified the Lord of glory.

b. Our understanding of salvation in and through Christ comes as a direct revelation of the Holy Spirit to us.

1 Cor 2:10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

1 Cor 2:13-15 *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but **which the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. **But he who is spiritual judges all things.***

CONCLUSION: It is the Holy Spirit that gives us assurance and confidence in the work of Christ. - *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Rom 8:16)*

The Holy Spirit has been given us as a guarantee that our salvation is in Christ for all eternity assuring us that our hope and comfort is eternal.

Paul first assures us of our eternal hope

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor 5:1

Then he informs us that the Holy Spirit has been given us as the "guarantee" of this promise

2 Cor 5:5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Let us close with this thought

Your understanding of who God is, who Christ is and even your awareness of your sinful state, and therefore your faith and repentance is a result of the Spirit of God working in you

Therefore you can be assured that you will be kept by that same presence of the Holy Spirit in you.

Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.