

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 9/26/12 Wednesday evening
"Let the Wind Blow: A Doctrinal Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"
part 3

Outline of Study of the Holy Spirit

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Who is He?
 - B. What is He like? (His attributes)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
 - 1. In Worship (Jn 4:23-24)
 - 2. In Unity (Eph 4)
 - 3. In mobilizing for outreach ("filling")
 - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
 - 1. In salvation (regeneration--John 3) (baptism--I Cor 12:13)
 - 2. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - 3. Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - 4. Sanctification (II Cor 3:18)
 - 5. Sets free from Habits (Eph 4-5)
 - C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World
 - 1. Convicting of sin (John 16)
 - 2. Restraining (II Thes 1)

Tonight: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

In our first two studies, we have explored the Person of the Holy Spirit. Who is He? What is He like? Tonight, we move to another area. What does He do? What is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit? We will explore three primary areas in future weeks:

- A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
- B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
- C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World

Tonight, we'll look at the first. What does the Holy Spirit do in the Church?

(See: Topical Analysis of the Bible, Walter Elwell, editor)

- 1. The Spirit appoints leaders.
Key Text: Acts 20:28
- 2. The Spirit bestows gifts.
Key Text: I Cor 12:4-11
- 3. The Spirit gives direction to leaders.
Key Texts: Acts 8:29; 13:2-4; 16:6-10
- 4. The Spirit provides power for ministry.
Key Texts: Acts 1:8; 4:31-33; I Cor 2:4; II Cor 3:6; I Thes 1:5; I Pet 1:12
- 5. The Spirit enables worship.
Key Text: John 4:23-24

1. The Spirit appoints leaders.

Key Text: Acts 20:28

Q: What is the setting? Paul is saying farewell to the Ephesian elders (17)

Q: What counsel did he give these church leaders, in v 28?

1. Take heed to yourselves. (You can't help others if your spiritual battery is dead)

2. Take heed to all the flock. Feed the church of God. Christians are like sheep. They need a shepherd to lead them, to feed them, to guard them. Jesus is the Great Shepherd.

Note: Three words used synonymously of the Pastor in the NT (all in this passage). Elder--his character; Overseer (bishop; episcopos)--his position; Pastor--his function

Q: According to v 28, how does a church get a pastor? "over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseer"

I remember attending an pastoral installation service of a friend of mine (Doug Phillips). Mr. Grier charged both Doug and the congregation (my paraphrase), "You may not have realized this, but the appointing of a leader in a church is a divine working. You may have thought that you listened to this man preach, you voted, that you called him, but never forget this. The Holy Spirit directed all this, and put him here."

Challenge: Pray for God to direct in appointing of leaders...

2. The Spirit bestows gifts.

Key Text: I Cor 12:4-11

READ: v 4, v 11 "The Spirit divides to every man severally as He will."

Q: Who has a spiritual gift? Every Christian

Q: Who determines what gift you have? The Spirit

Q: Why do we have gifts? For service to Christ in the Body and world

3. The Spirit gives direction to leaders.

Key Texts: Acts 8:29; 13:2-4; 16:6-10

How does He direct leaders? Here's how He did it in Acts (caution: remember, Acts is narrative literature which reveals how the Spirit guided before the canon of Scripture was completed):

- a. He guided Philip to witness to the Ethiopian (Acts 8:29).
- b. He guided the church at Antioch to send Barnabas and Saul on a missionary trip (Acts 13:2-4).
- c. He closed the door for Paul to Asia and Bythinia (Acts 16:6-7).
- d. He opened the door for Paul to Macedonia (Acts 16:9).

Discuss:

--What common factors do you see in these cases? The Spirit guided individuals who were holy and godly men. His leading was to make Christ known.

--Does the Spirit give direction to church leaders today?

4. The Spirit provides power for ministry.

Key Texts: Acts 1:8; 4:31-33; I Cor 2:4; II Cor 3:6; I Thes 1:5; I Pet 1:12

READ the following texts:

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

Power for what? To be witnesses for Christ

Acts 4:31 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."

I Cor 2:4 (Paul's testimony--Why was he "successful"?) "My preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power."

Discuss: How can you tell if someone's preaching is impacted by the Spirit's power?

Do they yell? Do they get all excited?

Clue: Spirit-filled preaching brings a response from hearers. Not always positive, either (it will offend some who are hardened in sin). But sinners will repent. Believers will grow. For an example, see the following...

II Cor 3:6 "...the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." How? Through the Word (I Pt 1:22-23)

Discuss: How do we tap into the Spirit's power for ministry?

Prayer--"You have not because you ask not." "How much more will My Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."

The Word--"The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God."

5. The Spirit enables worship.

Key Text: John 4:23-24

God is a Spirit. Thus, true worship is done in "spirit and in truth." Is Jesus referring to our "spirit" or to the Holy "Spirit"? The Holy Spirit enables us to worship, not just mechanically or ritually, but with our "spirit" in response to "truth." Genuine worship is always marked by "spirit" (not mere religious activity) AND "truth" (God's Word).

Challenge: If we are to be a biblical church, we need the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Having the ministry of the Spirit is not some vague, mystical "feeling." The evidence is very specific and tangible, as the church is moved to know Christ better, and make Him known to others.