

The Spirit's Work

Introduction. As we saw earlier, many false teachers are in the world convincing those who have little Bible knowledge that the Holy Spirit is staging a "revival" in our day and time. They use manipulative techniques under the guise of biblical revelation to deceive thousands.

Perhaps one of the most confusing aspects of the Godhead today is the work of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Godhead is unified and diversified. The work of each member can be called the work of God, yet there is diversity in the work which each one does. The Father planned. The Son executed the divine plan. The Holy Spirit revealed this divine plan to man.

In order to try and dispel the darkness in the minds of some, we are going to examine how the Holy Spirit truly works in the lives of people today. Perhaps this study will assist you in helping those who are deceived see the truth about the Holy Spirit's work.

I. *The Spirit's Work In Creation*

- A. He was involved in the creation of the Universe.
 - 1. God used the Spirit in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30).
 - 2. God used the Spirit in the creation of the heavens (Job 26:13; Psalm 33:6). This was clearly in conjunction with the work of the Son (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16).
- B. He was involved in the creation of man.
 - 1. He was involved in the creation of the first man (Genesis 1:26-27).
 - 2. In the creation of every man, as in the case of Elihu (Job 33:4).
- C. From the very beginning, the Spirit was at work. His work continued, especially as God began to slowly reveal His plan of redemption for mankind.

II. *The Spirit's Work In Revelation*

- A. In Old Testament times.
 - 1. Men of old spoke by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Samuel 23:2).
 - 2. The Spirit was in them, testifying of things to come (1 Peter 1:10-11; Isaiah 53:4-6).
- B. In New Testament times.
 - 1. The Spirit was to guide the apostles into all the truth (John 16:12-13; 14:26).
 - 2. The apostle Paul testified of this (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 1 Timothy 4:1-3).
- C. Thus the Spirit's role in redemption included His work of revealing the will of God.

III. ***The Spirit's Work In Confirmation***

- A. He confirmed Jesus as the Christ.
 - 1. Jesus was attested by God through the miracles He performed (Acts 2:22).
 - 2. The Spirit worked with Christ to confirm His work (Acts 10:38; Matthew 12:28; Luke 4:18-21).
- B. He also confirmed the apostles of Christ.
 - 1. He confirmed their message through gifts given by the Spirit (Hebrews 2:3-4).
 - 2. They used these gifts as they traveled about proclaiming the gospel (Romans 15:19).
- C. As the Bible was being revealed and confirmed, it was the Spirit of God at work! But as the word was preached, the Spirit was at work on those who listened with honest hearts.

IV. ***The Spirit's Work In Regeneration***

- A. The word was preached.
 - 1. The Spirit was doing His work of convicting the world (John 16:8).
 - 2. For example, consider the events on the day of Pentecost.
 - a) The Spirit gave the apostles utterance and Peter preached Christ to them (Acts 2:4, 22-24, 36).
 - b) People in the audience were convicted of their sins (Acts 2:37).
 - c) They were encouraged to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38-39).
 - d) They received the word gladly (Acts 2:40-41). Thus the Spirit convicts the world through His revealed and confirmed word whenever it is preached; those with good and honest hearts will bear the proper fruit (Luke 8:15).
- B. The word was obeyed.
 - 1. Those who obeyed the Spirit's word were baptized (Acts 2:38-41).
 - 2. In their baptism, they experienced a "washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 6:11). Thus they were being born again (regenerated) not of water only, but of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).
- C. This work of regeneration by the Spirit in response to the preaching of the word does not end the work of the Spirit in the life of the Christian.

V. ***The Spirit's Work In Sanctification***

- A. Our initial sanctification.
 - 1. Sanctification involves the idea of being "set apart" or "consecrated."
 - 2. Sanctification begins in conjunction with our washing (1 Corinthians 6:11).
 - 3. This washing, sanctification and justification occurred "by the Spirit

of our God." In obedience to the word of God, we are sanctified by the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

B. Our ongoing sanctification.

1. Sanctification is an ongoing work (Hebrews 2:11; 10:14).
 - a) Not in the sense of needing redemption (Hebrews 10:10).
 - b) But in the sense of living holy lives (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23).
2. The Spirit plays an important role in living holy lives.
 - a) God strengthens us by His Spirit in our inner man (Ephesians 3:16, 20).
 - b) It is with aid of the Spirit that we put to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:11-13; Colossians 3:5-9). This is why we need to "walk in the Spirit" and be "led by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16-18).

Conclusion. The Holy Spirit continues to work through a confirmed revelation to produce regeneration and sanctification. The Holy Spirit does the work, but He does it through the means of teaching and the medium of the gospel, not through miraculous intervention. The whole concept of this counterfeit "revival" is completely erroneous.

Sadly, many people resist the work of the Spirit in their lives. This occurs whenever one refuses to obey the word of God that was revealed and confirmed by the Spirit (Acts 7:51-53). How much better to obey the truth and be born again by the Spirit working through that "incorruptible seed" (1 Peter 1:22-23).

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