

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Bible Facts about the Holy Spirit

Part II

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Review:

The Holy Spirit is an individual within the godhead (*theios*) and recognized in the scriptures as deity. Though the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three individuals they nonetheless are one in purpose (Jn. 17:17ff). This article shall examine the distinct work of the Holy Spirit.

Overview of the Holy Spirit's Work

Seeing that the Holy Spirit is one in purpose with the Father and Son it stands that their unified priority is the **sanctification** of mankind (see Jn. 17:17). Divine revelation makes manifest the dire need for man's separation from sin. "*Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord*" (Heb. 12:14). The Holy Spirit's work is to bring man to sanctification and a true hope of eternal salvation. Man must thereby be convicted of sin and made to feel the sting of guilt for sanctification to occur.

A Distribution of Power

The Old Testament speaks of the Spirit of the Lord endowing people with super human strength (Judges 14:6-19), courage (Micah 3:8), and knowledge of things that were not previously known (II Sam. 23:2; Isa. 61:1; Ezek. 11:5). When Moses led Israel out of Egypt he did so by the strength, courage, and knowledge of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 63:11-14; Hag. 2:5; Rom. 9:17). The Holy Spirit's power "*fell upon*" (Ezek. 11:5) and "*entered into*" (Ezek. 2:1-2) men to speak and perform divine works. Man's sanctification has ever been the directive of these powers. The Lord prophesied of a time when He would pour forth his Holy Spirit upon mankind that they may speak words of eternal salvation and perform powerful signs to confirm truth and establish His sanctified church (Ezek. 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17, 33).

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Gospel Meeting Time!

We will be having a gospel meeting September 11-14th of this year. Stan Cox of the Westside Church in Fort Worth will be doing the preaching.

Please remember the following prisoners in your prayers as they study God's word:

Manuel Ruiz, Rickey West, Edward Ray Wallace, Floyd Buster, and Manuel Gonzales

Blake Robertson's Address:

Recruit Robertson, Blake A.
2nd RTBN Golf Co. Plt. 2153
35051 Midway Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92140-2141

Last Sunday of the Month Singing:

Get with a song leader to have your favorite songs sung!

Several people are out of town this week. Please keep our traveling in your prayers.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

The New Testament also reveals how that the Holy Spirit came upon men that they may do things otherwise humanly impossible. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit by God that he may preach divine revelation and perform powerful miracles of healing the lame and sick (Lk. 4:18ff; Acts 10:38). God "*supplied*" the Holy Spirit to many who heard and obeyed the gospel of Christ and thereby endowed them with divine power to perform miracles (see Gal. 3:5). The apostles and prophets were endowed with powers to perform miracles and teach divine revelation through the work of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:19-20; I Cor. 2:4; Eph. 3:5). The Holy Spirit "*moved*" some to speak and act for the sanctification of mankind (II Pet. 1:21).

These miraculous powers are termed "*gifts or distributions of the Holy Spirit*" at Hebrews 2:4. The apostle Paul explained that these gifts, or distributions of powers, varied from individual to individual. Some men received the miraculous ability to speak in tongues and some the ability to interpret the tongues. Some had the power to perform miracles and others had miraculous knowledge, wisdom, and faith (I Cor. 12:4-11). The function of all this power being distributed by the Holy Spirit to mankind was to cause amazement (Acts 3:10), compassionately heal (Matt. 14:14), and confirm the divine origin of the message being preached (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3). These three functions added up to man's sanctification.

There was clearly a time when the Holy Spirit endowed people with the power to perform miraculous powers and speak words that they had no previous knowledge of. The apostle Paul told the Corinthians; however, that this power would not always be exercised. Paul said, "*Love never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away*" (I Cor. 13:8-10). Paul states that as long as divine revelation remained incomplete the powers of the Holy Spirit upon man will continue. Whenever revelation was completed and man had all divine knowledge at his disposal the powerful manifestations of the Holy Spirit, through man, would cease. The apostle Peter latter wrote, "*Seeing that his divine **POWER** hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue*" (II Pet. 1:3). James too would later write of the "*perfect*" (i.e., complete) law of liberty (James 1:25). Jude writes, "*Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was **once for all delivered unto the saints***" (Jude 3). The reason the Holy Spirit does not give, distribute, or pour out divine powers of miraculous abilities today is because this phase of his work is complete (II Tim. 3:16-17). Paul stated that when the Word of God was completed then these powers would end. Those who lay claims to miraculous abilities today are liars and the truth is not in them (continued on pg. 3).

Work of the Holy Spirit Today

The Holy Spirit succeeded in bringing the complete revelation to man bit by bit and confirming these truths by powers. This complete revelation of God continues to convict man of sin, righteousness, and judgment today (see Jn. 16:8). The Holy Spirit instructed men during the Old Testament days (Ps. 143:10; Neh. 9:20-30), New Testament days (Jn. 14:25-26; I Cor. 2:12-13) and he continues to do so today (Jn. 6:44-45; Eph. 4:20-24). The only way for man to know and achieve God's desired undefiled state of **sanctification** is to allow the Holy Spirit's work to bear fruit in our lives (Gal. 5:16-24).

John C. Robertson

By their Fruits you shall know Them

Matthew 7:15-20

Introduction:

You and I can use our deductive reasoning, like a detective, and gain a great understanding about the inner makeup of ourselves and others by observation. Those whose lives are bent on spirituality make this manifest, as do the wicked, by their words and actions (Heb. 11:14). Jesus tells us that we may know individuals by their fruits (see Matt. 7:15-20; 12:34-35). Each of us ought to have the mental awareness to conclude that not only am I observing others but that others are observing me (II Cor. 3:1-3). Do I make it manifest that my objective in this life is to obtain heaven?

I. Do I make it manifest that I am more concerned with the World than a Heavenly Home?

- A. Do I persist in sin (Rom. 6:21)?
- B. Do I practice the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19)?
- C. Do I not realize that people know my objectives (I Cor. 11:19; I Jn. 2:19; 3:10)?

II. What Do People see in Me?

- A. Do people see someone who has knowledge (Col. 1:10) and is progressing in truth (I Tim. 4:15)?
- B. Do people see:
 - 1. Humility / Pride (I Pet. 5:6)
 - 2. Obedience (Jn. 15:8-10)
 - 3. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22ff)
 - 4. Peacefulness (James 3:18) / trouble maker (Gal. 5:15)
 - 5. Love (I Jn. 3:17) / or hatred
 - 6. Forbearance or bitterness (I Thess. 5:14)

III. Should I really care what anyone thinks?

- A. Edification (Eph. 4:11ff; I Thess. 5:14; Heb. 10:24-25)
- B. What about God's view of me (II Cor. 5:10; Heb. 4:13)

Conclusion:

We are all like an open book that is read by the world. I can make intelligent inferences about your interest and character by what I hear you say and watch you do (Titus 1:16). What would you infer about me if you heard me use foul language and display a spirit of bitterness? What if I dressed immodestly and had profane tattoos inked on my skin? What if you saw that I was kind, forbearing, and knowledgeable of Bible principles? What do you think of me? What does God think of me? Does it really matter?