

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the previous study we considered the Holy Spirit as a Comforter to the apostles and the work assigned to Him as their Comforter of which there seven different aspect of it considered
2. This lesson completes our study of the work of the Holy Spirit by emphasizing his work pertaining to the truth, or to the word of God; that is, his work of revealing the mind of God to the mind of man.
3. The actual and fundamental work of the Holy Spirit, as revealed in the N.T. Scriptures, can be summed up in four brief propositions, as follows:
 - a. He was to reveal the truth, all of the truth.
 - b. He was to confirm the truth revealed.
 - c. He was to deliver the truth confirmed.
 - d. The truth revealed and confirmed is the sword of the Spirit.
4. No other work is assigned to the Holy Spirit. Thus his work is limited to the these four things or categories, which we will now discuss one by one in the order mentioned.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE TRUTH REVEALED, OR HIS WORK OF REVEALING THE WORD OF GOD TO MAN.

1. The Holy Spirit was sent by both the Father and the Son to reveal the mind of God to the mind of man through chosen men, known as Apostles, the Apostles of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Jno.14:15,16,25,26.
 - b. Jno.15:26,27.
 - c. Jno.16:7-15.
2. The revelation of the truth is the fundamental work of the Holy Spirit, for everything the Holy Spirit did, in the N.T. dispensation, was and is related to this.
 - a. To miss or to misunderstand this point of Bible teaching is to utterly misunderstand both the Holy Spirit and his work for which he was sent by the Father and the Son. See Prov.14.12.

3. While the O.T. always made room for additional revelation of God's will and way, the N.T. claims to be the final – the complete revelation of God's will to man – the absolute perfect system promised throughout out the O.T.
 - a. See Jer.31:31-34.
 - b. Heb.8:6-13.
 - c. 1Cor.2:1-13.
 - d. Jude 3.
 - e. Jas.1:18-25.
4. The N.T. is the consummation of all revelation. Nothing was ever to be added to it, subtracted from it, or substituted for it, Rev.22:18,19; 1Cor.4:6; 1Pet.4:11; Gal.1:6-12; Deut.4:2; Prov. 30:6.
5. This truth, the will and the way of God, thus revealed, contains the things man must know and do in order to be saved from past sins, live righteously, please God, and have hope of eternal life. See:
 - a. Jno.7:17; 8:31,32.
 - b. Eph.3:4,5; 5:17; Col.3:16,17; Gal.2:14; 2Th.2:10-12.
 - c. 2Tim.3:15-4:4.
6. It is therefore a grave misconception of the Holy Spirit and his work to seek or expect him to give latter day revelation to anyone for any purpose separate from or apart from the written word which we have in the N.T. Scriptures. Note Prov.14:12.

B. THE TRUTH CONFIRMED, OR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK OF CONFIRMING THE WORD HE REVEALED.

1. When the Holy Spirit revealed the truth, the word of God, as both the Father and the Son sent him to do, he did not leave it to human claims alone: He confirmed it with miracles, thus providing the necessary credentials for the original receivers and proclaimers of the gospel of Christ to confirm their message proclaimed as the truth, the work of God himself, Mk.16:19,20; Heb.2:1-4; 2Pet.2:20,21; 2Cor.12:12 (Rom.15:19); Jno.20:30,31; Ac.5:32; 1Cor.2:9-13.
2. All miracles in N.T. times were worked either directly or indirectly, to confirm the word preached, to convince all who were concerned the, and would be now, that both the messenger and his message in preaching the gospel were from God; that is,

that they were authentic messengers of Jesus Christ by means of the Holy Spirit.

3. When a miracle was performed to confirm the revelation God stamped his approval upon it – it was of God, not man.
 - a. Gal.1:11-13.
 - b. Prov.30:5a: “Every word of God is pure (*is tried*, ASV).”

C. FOR EMPHASIS, WE NOW CONSIDER THE TRUTH DELIVERED.

1. By this we mean, that in addition to revealing and confirming the truth, the work of the Holy Spirit involved delivering the truth.
2. By this we mean, the Holy Spirit did not reveal and confirm the truth, or the word of God, orally and leave it to be preserved by tradition. A part of his work was to deliver it in its completed or written form.
3. Thus all men today have access to the Scriptures, the written word of God, revealed, confirmed, and delivered to them. He has put it within reach of every responsible and accountable person to read and understand, believe, and obey.
 - a. 2Th.2:10-12; Gal.2:14.
 - b. Jude 3 speaks of “the faith once delivered”, or once and for all delivered, to man.
 - c. Note what 2Tim.3:16 says about it.
 - d. Then note what 2Tim.3:17 says as to the ultimate purpose of it.
4. See 1Th.2:13; Tit.2:11,12.
5. See also Mt.4:4; that is, that one’s life is to be directed or governed by every word of God.
 - a. Psa.119:9-11.
 - b. Psa.119:105,130.
 - c. Psa.119:104 (Precepts: “plural, only, collectively for the Law, commandment, precept,” Strongs, 6490).
6. The point that is emphatically made in 2Tim.3:16,17 is that the Scriptures (the written word of God) perfects the man of God, and furnishes (fully equips) him “unto all good works.”
 - a. Nothing else is necessary to perfect him in the service of God, either to save his soul or to provide him hope of eternal life in the world to come.

- b. Nothing else is needed; nothing unrevealed in the written word in any form is admissible.
- 7. There is nothing that pertains to faith and practice that has not been revealed, confirmed, and delivered (the faith once and for all delivered).

F. FINALLY, THE TRUTH EMPOWERED AS THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

- 1. Eph.6:17: "...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
 - a. David Lipscomb, A Commentary on the New Testament Epistle, said: "This is the sword which the Spirit puts into the hands of the Christian..."
 - b. Wlbur Fields, The Glorious Church, A Study of Ephesians, said:
 - (1) "It is both defensive and offensive."
 - (2) "God's Spirit inspired the word of God (2Pet.2:20, 21). When the word of God is preached, God's Spirit causes it to produce fruit in the human soul." See Gal.5:22-29.
 - c. The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary, Vol.29, Main Homiletics of Paragraph – Vv.13-17, pg.287. V.17 outlines The Bible the Sword of the Spirit in the following manner;
 - (1) The word of God is a sword.
 - (a) Like a literal sword, it is of no use till it is unsheathed.
 - (b) Like a sword, when it is unsheathed it cuts deeply – makes deep gashes in the heart and/or conscience.
 - (c) Like a sword, it is a weapon of defense as well as of offense "It is written."
 - (2) The word of God is the sword of the Spirit.
 - (a) Because he inspired it. Those whom we call the sacred writers were simply its penmen, or writers; God alone was the author through his Holy Spirit.

- (b) Because he wields it as the instrument of his victories – in the N.T. conversions, or of being “born again,” Jno.3:3-5; 1Cor.12:13.
 - d. Bible Commentary, by E.M. Zerr, Vol.Six, p.116, said:
 - (1) “Paul calls it *the sword of the Spirit* because the word of God is inspired by that *source*.”
 - (2) “Since the days of the apostles the Holy Spirit operates and speaks to man only by means of the Bible, hence the Christian soldier can ‘fight the good fight of faith’ only if he knows what that volume teaches.”
 - e. The Bible Commentary, by F.C. Cook, Vol. IX, Romans to Philemon, p.576,said:
 - (1) “It is the sword of the Spirit, both because Revelation is the work of the Spirit, and because he *word* does not serve as a sword except the Spirit teach its use.”
 - f. Word Studies In The New Testament, by Marvin R. Vincent, Vol. III, pp. 410,411, said: “It is the sword *of the Spirit* because the Spirit of God gives it and inspires it.”
2. The word of God revealed, confirmed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit is more than mere words. For as “the sword of the Spirit” :
- a. According to Heb.4:12, the word of God:
 - (1) Is “quick and powerful” (living, and active, ASV)” It is “living, active, and/or operative).”
 - (2) Is “sharper than any two-edged sword.”
 - (3) Is able even to “pierce (piercing) even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow.”
 - (4) “And is a discerner of the thoughts an intents of the heart.”
 - (5) Is no **“dead letter!!”**
 - b. The word of God has the power to accomplish that for which it has been given. See Isa.55:10,11.
 - c. The word of God has the power of light, Psa.119:105,130.
 - d. The word of God has the power of seed, 1Pet.1:22-25; 1Cor.4:15; Cf. LK.8:11; Mt.13:18-20, 22a,23a.; it has the

power to produce after its kind; it produces only one thing – a Christian, a plain Christian; there is no such thing as a hyphenated Christian – such as a “Baptist-Christian,” “A Methodist Christian,” et. al., et. al.

- e. The word has power to made one wise unto salvation, 2Tim.3:15.
 - f. The Word of God has power to save.
 - (1) Jas.1:18,21; 1Cor.4:15.
 - (2) Mk.16:15,16.
 - (3) Rom.1:16,17.
 - (4) 1Tim.2:3-6.
 - g. The word of God has power to keep the saved from sin, Psa.119:11; See also 1Cor.10:12,13.
3. Now consider vital question: What makes the word of God powerful, living and active?
- a. The word is the “sword of the Spirit,” the means by which the Holy Spirit operates, which the Spirit makes live and active.
 - b. The Spirit gives the power of (the capacity to give) life to the word. See Jno.6:63; 2Pet.1:3,4; 1Th.1:5; 1Cor.12:4-14.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. No wonder then that Jesus said what he did in Mt.4:4!
- 2. Having discussed the work of the Holy Spirit, in this series of lessons, first, from the standpoint of, the Holy Spirit and the apostles of Christ, then, the Holy Spirit as their “Comforter,” and then (specifically) ‘The Word of the Holy Spirit,’ in this lesson, in our next study, to turn our attention to a much needed lesson on “What The Holy Spirit Does Not Do,” or what work he doesn’t perform, was never sent to perform.

(Credit to Howard Winters, from his book: “The Work of the Holy Spirit,” pp. 100-115)