

The Spirit and the Word

Introduction:

- A. For many years faithful gospel preachers have fought the idea of “direct operation” of the Holy Spirit, whether of Pentecostal or Calvinistic variety.
- B. Yet, perplexing as it is, a “Holy Spirit movement” has been running amok through the Lord’s church for a generation. - e.g., “I do not believe the Holy Spirit operates only through the word of God in the life of a Christian.” (Jimmy Allen, former head of Bible department, Harding College)
- C. Proposition: The Holy Spirit converts and sanctifies men by the instrument of the Word of God.

I. Definition and Explanation of Proposition

- A. The proposition acknowledges that the Holy Spirit is alive and active and explains **how** He is active in our salvation.
- B. “convert”: “turn to God” - Acts 3:19; 26:20
 - 1. alien sinner
 - 2. erring child of God - James 5:19-20
- C. “sanctify”: make “separate from common condition and use; dedicated, hallowed, pure, righteous, holy” (J.H. Thayer, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**) - cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- D. The proposition includes everything done **to the heart** of man by the Holy Spirit in human salvation from the time he initially begins to be led to Christ until his spirit wings its flight to paradise.
- E. The proposition affirms the Holy Spirit uses the Word as His instrument to accomplish this work. - 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13
 - 1. moral persuasion of the Gospel, not direct power
 - 2. not Spirit equals the Word
 - 3. not Spirit **in** the Word or **with** the Word

II. Proof of Proposition: Syllogism

- A. Major Premise: If a person and an instrument perform the same task, the person is working by the instrument.
- B. Minor Premise: Everything the Holy Spirit (person) does in man’s conversion and sanctification (task), the Word (instrument) does.
 - 1. born of - John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23
 - 2. makes alive - John 6:63
 - 3. testifies - John 15:26; 5:39
 - 4. reproves - John 16:8; 2 Timothy 4:2
 - 5. comforts - Acts 9:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:18
 - 6. makes elders - Acts 20:28; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5
 - 7. frees from sin - Romans 8:2; 6:17-18
 - 8. leads - Romans 8:14; Psalm 119:105
 - 9. bears witness - Romans 8:16; 1 John 2:5

10. gives hope - Romans 15:13,4
11. has power - Romans 15:13; 1:16
12. washes - 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 15:3
13. sanctifies - 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17
14. justifies - 1 Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 2:16
15. gives faith - 1 Corinthians 12:3; Romans 10:17
16. changes - 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:3-5
17. walk in - Galatians 5:16,25; 2 John 6
18. produces fruit - Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 1:5-6
19. strengthens - Ephesians 3:16; Acts 20:32
20. gives understanding - Ephesians 3:16-19, 3-5
21. dwells in - Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16
22. fellowships - Philippians 2:1; 1 John 1:7,3
23. speaks - 1 Timothy 4:1,6
24. saves - Titus 3:5; James 1:21
25. calls - Revelation 22:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:14

C. Conclusion: Therefore, the Holy Spirit converts and sanctifies man by the instrument of the Word of God.

Conclusion:

- A. The Holy Spirit works on the heart through and only through the Word of God in the conversion and sanctification of both alien sinners and Christians. - John 6:63
- B. The Scriptures supply everything we need to successfully live for Christ. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- C. Will you make them your rule of life and guide to heaven? - James 1:21