

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God-head. He is the Spirit of God operative in the world today. Because he is God, and furthermore, because no human can know the divine except there be a self-revelation, the Bible must of necessity become our source of information concerning him. Once this revelation is accepted by faith, it is further supplemented by a Spirit-to-spirit witness. The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God." Romans 8:16.

Turning then to the bible for our understanding of the Holy Spirit, we see that he is the Ever-Abiding Present One. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the World." Matthew 28:20. That was the result of Jesus' prayer, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth," John 14:16. And again, "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come unto you." John 14:18. The Abiding One becomes evident in us as we fulfill the function of being the "Temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which you have of God." I Corinthians 6:19.

The Holy Spirit is also the Source and Giver of Life - life temporal and life eternal. "The earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the waters." Genesis 1:2. Also, "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7.

He is the source of inanimate matter. He gives life to rational soul, but more than this, he gives birth to those who were dead in trespasses and sin. "They are born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:14. This is being born of the Spirit.

Even in the Old Testament we have the witness of Job who said, "The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life." Job 33:4.

The Holy Spirit is also the giver of Power and Wisdom, of Understanding and Knowledge. In the book of Exodus there is the story of the preparation by Moses for the construction of the Tabernacle, which work required men of skill and talent. The Lord spoke to Moses saying, "I have called by name Bezaleel; and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship." Exodus 31:23. Going further to the reign of the Judges, we read that the "Spirit of the Lord came upon one named Othniel, and another named Gideon." Judges 3:10. It was Zerubbabel who in a holy vision received of the Lord these words in reference to the building of the Temple. "Not by might or power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6.

It is strange, yet true, that the Spirit of God is the power that causes evil men to be the instrument in the hands of God to accomplish His good will. Of the heathen King Cyrus, we read that Jehovah had called him to his work and anointed him with the Spirit of the Lord. Is. 45:1.

The Holy Ghost is also our Perfecter. This he does by "convicting of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment. Of Sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my father, and you see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

“He will guide you into all truth.” Such conviction by the Holy Ghost leads to repentance or a deeper condemnation. When he leads us to repentance, he is also leading us into the Truth. That truth is the rejection of Christ by the World, the acceptance of Christ by the Father, and the victory of Christ over Satan. The acceptance of this truth is the acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Lord. The more complete acceptance of this truth is the Perfecting of the Saints by the Spirit of God.

“HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF GOD SINCE YOU BELIEVED?”

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