

## Lesson No. 14

# What Does the Bible Say About the Holy Spirit and His Work?

### 1. What took place ten days after the ascension of Christ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*Acts 2:1-4.* Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

The exalted Christ fulfilled His promise and poured out the Holy Spirit upon His disciples.

### 2. Who is the Holy Spirit?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

*Matthew 28:19.* Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**.

*Acts 5:3,4.* But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the **Holy Spirit**?..You have not lied to men but to **God**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the Holy Trinity, true God with the Father and the Son. (Other names for the Holy Spirit are: Spirit, Holy Ghost, Spirit of God, Spirit of Truth, and Comforter.)

### 3. What does the Holy Spirit work in us in order to make us possessors of the salvation which Christ earned for us?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

\**Acts 16:31.* **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved.

\**1 Corinthians 12:3.* No one can say that **Jesus is Lord** except **by the Holy Spirit**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Christ and imparts to us the blessings of redemption.

### 4. Why is it necessary that the Holy Spirit work faith in us?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *1 Corinthians 2:14.* But the natural man **does not receive** the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; **nor can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.
- (b) *Ephesians 2:1.* And you He made alive, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins.
- (c) *Romans 8:7.* Because the carnal mind **is enmity against God**.
- (d) *Ephesians 2:8,9.* For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.
- (d) *Philippians 2:13.* It is **God who works in you** both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We are by nature spiritually (A) blind, (B) dead, and (C) enemies of God, and therefore (D) cannot bring ourselves to faith in Christ, or even help along to do so.

## 5. How does the Holy Spirit bring men to faith in Christ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **2 Thessalonians 2:14.** He called you by our **gospel**.
- \* (b) **Romans 10:17.** So then faith comes by **hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.
- (b) **Romans 1:16.** For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The Holy Spirit calls and invites men by the Gospel, offering them the blessings of salvation.
- (B) The Holy Spirit, by the same Gospel, which is a living power, works in men's hearts the acceptance of this invitation, bringing them to faith. (The Gospel and the Sacraments are the means of grace, that is, they are the means through which the Holy Spirit imparts the grace of God to sinful men.)

## 6. What is this work of the Holy Spirit called?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **2 Corinthians 4:6.** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, **who has shone** in our hearts to give the **light of the knowledge** of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- \* (b) **John 3:7.** You must be **born again**.
- (c) **Matthew 18:3.** Unless you are **converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

This work of the Holy Spirit is called

- (A) Illumination (enlightenment), since the Holy Spirit makes man's heart, which is dark with ignorance and despair, bright with the knowledge of his Savior and the certain hope of salvation;
- (B) Regeneration (new, or second birth), since the Holy Spirit gives to man, who is dead in sin, spiritual life;
- (C) Conversion (turning about), since the Holy Spirit turns man from sin and destruction to God and grace.

## 7. How may a person know whether he is converted?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

**Acts 16:29-31.** (He) fell down **trembling** before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

A person is converted

- (A) If he is sorry for his sins; and
- (B) If he believes, or trusts, in Jesus Christ for his salvation.

## 8. What else does the Holy Spirit work in us by the Gospel?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **1 Thessalonians 4:3.** For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**.
- (b) **2 Corinthians 5:17.** Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**.
- (b) **Psalms 51:10.** Create in me a **clean heart**, O God.
- (c) **Ephesians 2:10.** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Holy Spirit (A) sanctifies us, that is, (B) He renews our hearts by faith, so that we can now overcome sin and (C) do good works.

## 9. What is a good work in the sight of God?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- \*(a) *John 15:5*. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who **abides in Me**, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me** you can do nothing.
- (a) *Hebrews 11:6*. But **without faith** it is impossible to please Him.
- (b) *John 14:15*. If you love Me, **keep My commandments**.
- (b) *Matthew 15:9*. And **in vain** they worship Me, teaching as doctrines **the commandments of men**.
- (c) *1 Corinthians 10:31*. Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all **to the glory of God**.
- (d) *Galatians 5:13*. Through love **serve one another**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

A good work is everything that (A) a child of God does, speaks, or thinks in faith (B) according to the Ten Commandments (C) to the glory of God and (D) for the benefit of his neighbor.

## 10. What does the Holy Spirit lastly work in us?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

\**1 Peter 1:5*. Who are **kept** by the power of God **through faith** for salvation.  
*1 Thessalonians 2:13*. The **word of God**... effectively works in you who believe.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Holy Spirit, by the Gospel, keeps us in the true faith.

## 11. Is the Holy Spirit willing to work all this in everyone who hears the Gospel?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*Ezekiel 33:11*. As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have **no pleasure** in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.  
*1 Timothy 2:4*. (God) desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

The Holy Spirit seriously desires to bring all men to salvation.

## 12. Why, then, are not all men saved?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*Matthew 23:37*. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often **I wanted** to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**  
*Hosea 13:9*. O Israel, **you are destroyed**, but your help is from Me.  
*Acts 7:51*. You **stiffnecked** and **uncircumcised in heart and ears!** You always **resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Most men stubbornly resist the Word and the Spirit of God and are thus lost by their own fault. (Men are saved wholly and solely by the grace of God; men are lost wholly and solely by their own fault.)

*Before the Next Lesson*

**FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 14.**

**MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (\*). The Third Article (without the Explanation). See Catechism.**



**READ Luke, chapters 22-24, and Acts, chapters 1-4.**

*Work Sheet No. 14*

**1.**

*(Check the correct statement.)*

- (A) The Holy Spirit alone converts man.
- (B) The Holy Spirit converts man with man's cooperation.

Give a Scripture passage that supports your answer.....

- (A) The Holy Spirit brings us to faith without any means.
- (B) The Holy Spirit brings us to faith by means of the Ten Commandments.
- (C) The Holy Spirit brings us to faith by means of the Gospel.

Give a Scripture passage that supports your answer.....

- (A) Only a Christian can do works which are good in the sight of God.
- (B) Any person is able to do such works.

Give a Scripture passage that supports your answer.....

- Many who hear the Gospel are not converted
- (A) Because the Holy Spirit does not want to convert them.
  - (B) Because they resist the Holy Spirit.

Give a Scripture passage that supports your answer.....

**2.**

*(Check whether true or false.)*

- A person is converted when he gives up bad habits. True.  False.
- When a person is converted, it is because he resisted the Holy Spirit less than others who are not converted. True.  False.

**3.**

Why must Christians remain diligent hearers, readers, and students of the Word of God until their dying day? .....

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