

“The Work of the Spirit in Salvation”
“Know What You Believe” Part 12
John 16:7-8

“We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.”

1. The Holy Spirit gives power to the message of salvation.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...

Acts 1:8

Elements of the Gospel’s call:

• **An explanation of the facts:**

- ⇒ All people have sinned (Romans 3:23)
- ⇒ The penalty of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
- ⇒ Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty (Romans 5:8)

• **An invitation to respond to Christ personally in repentance and faith.**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21

• **A promise of forgiveness and eternal life.**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out... Acts 3:19

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." John 3:16-18 and 21

Question: How does a person come to accept the truth of the Gospel?

2. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of guilt and sin.

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment... John 16:7-8

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Acts 2:36-37

3. Regeneration is totally the work of God through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:5-8

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

Special note: Scripture often employs the imagery of blindness to describe the spiritual condition of persons who are either unable or unwilling to perceive divine revelation. The things of God are perceived not by observation and inquiry, but by revelation and illumination.

...the Lord gives sight to the blind...
Psalm 146:8

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved... For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.
Ephesians 2:1-9

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..." John 6:44

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.
Acts 16:14

We must distinguish between the work of Christ for us and the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Without the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, it would have been impossible for a person to be saved. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, it would be equally impossible. The Holy Spirit creates in our hearts the faith through which we recognize and receive salvation.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:20 and 22

4. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ in conversion.

- Knowledge alone is not enough.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Romans 1:21-23

- Knowledge and approval are not enough.

He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

John 3:2

- I must decide to trust in Jesus personally.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... John 1:12

5. Our union with Christ is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14