

The Work of the Holy Spirit and the “Unsaved”

Introductory Comments

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- 1) The Holy Spirit is the source of life.
 - a) HS is the creator and sustainer of the physical universe (Gen. 1:1-2)
 - b) HS gives physical life to men (Job 33:4)
 - c) HS does God’s work of creation and renewal (sustaining) (Psalms 104:30)
- 2) The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God’s presence.
 - a) HS is God’s presence (Psalms 51:11)
 - b) HS is God’s omnipresent manifestation (Psalms 139:7)
 - c) HS was God’s manifestation to the Israelites (Haggai 2:4-5)
- 3) The Holy Spirit is a teacher.
 - a) HS instructed the Israelites in the desert (Nehemiah 9:19-20) and taught them through the prophets (Nehemiah 9:30)
 - b) HS is the one who teaches God’s will (Psalms 143:10)
- 4) The Holy Spirit has conflicts with people:
 - a) HS “contended” with sinful mankind at the time of the flood (Gen. 6:1-3)
- 5) The Holy Spirit inspires creativity.
 - a) HS gave creative inspiration to Bezalel for preparing the tabernacle (Ex. 31:1-3; 35:30-36:1)
 - b) HS gave creative inspiration to David for planning the temple (I Chronicles 28:11-12)
- 6) The Holy Spirit equips leaders:
 - a) Joseph (Gen. 41:37-40)
 - b) Moses and the 70 elders in the wilderness (Numbers 11:16-17; 25-29)
 - c) Joshua (Numbers 27:18)
 - d) Various judges of Israel
 - i) Othniel (Judges 3:9-10)
 - ii) Gideon (Judges 6:33-34)
 - iii) Jephthah (Judges 11:29, 32-33)
 - iv) Samson (Judges 13:24-25; 14:6, 19; 15:14-15)
 - e) Saul (I Samuel 10:1, 5-7; 10:10; 11:6; 19:23-24)
 - i) What about the “evil spirit from the Lord”?
 - f) David (I Samuel 16:13; II Samuel 23:1-2)
- 7) The Holy Spirit speaks through prophets.

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism

- 1) Holy Spirit’s General Activity Continuing What He Did in the Old Testament
 - a) He gives life. (We will see more about the giving of spiritual life.)
 - b) He manifests God’s presence. We should be able to sense the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of unbelievers.

- c) The Holy Spirit continues to teach people. He gives insights from their experience, the testimony of Christians, and/or reading the Bible that draw people to faith in Jesus.
 - d) The Holy Spirit “contends” with sinners, revealing to them their sinful nature. Paul says in Romans that people often suppress this revelation.
 - e) The Holy Spirit specially equips some people to be effective in evangelism (leaders in the sphere of evangelism).
 - f) The Holy Spirit specially equips some people to creatively communicate the gospel. (Unfortunately, except for music, many Christians look down upon the arts.)
- 2) HS gives new life – a radical interior transformation (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:4-5).
 - 3) HS convicts unbelievers (John 16:7-15)
 - a) HS convicts of sin – He convinces people that they are sinners and cannot stand on their own before God. And their greatest sin is their unbelief.
 - b) HS convicts of righteousness – He convinces people that Jesus was righteous and is worthy of all praise and glory. Because of His righteousness, His death on the cross had eternal value. If Jesus were physically with us, His presence would be a positive proof. But, without that presence, the Holy Spirit works to convince a person of that.
 - c) HS convicts of judgement – He convinces people that the power of evil has been overcome. Because of Jesus, people who follow Him will not be condemned in God’s judgment of sin. This is a very significant worldview issue.
 - 4) HS confirms the content of the gospel that people hear! (I Cor: 1:4-7)
 - 5) HS reveals the truth of the gospel. (I Cor. 2:6-15)
 - 6) HS helps the evangelist clarify the gospel message (example: Acts 15:28-29)
 - 7) HS leads Christians in ways that they can have “divine appointments” for the gospel
 - a) Example 1: Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)
 - b) Example 2: Paul’s Missions Trip Interruption (Acts 16: 6-10)