

## THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Thessalonians 5:19

(Not entirely original by me)

**Introduction:** There is not as much know about the Holy Spirit as Jesus or God, the Father, but there is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is involved in the history of the world and all mankind. No one becomes a Christian unless the Holy Spirit is involved. The Holy Spirit is also involved in helping equip Christians to serve God in various ways. Just what kind of work is the Holy Spirit involved in? What has the Holy Spirit done, what is the Holy Spirit doing right now and what is the Holy Spirit going to do?

### I. THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKED IN THE CREATION PROCESS

1. The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the universe:
  - God used the Holy Spirit in the creation of the world - Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30
  - God used the Holy Spirit in the creation of the heavens - Job 26:13; Psalm 33:6
  - The Holy Spirit worked with the Son of God in the creation process - John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16
2. The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of man:
  - The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of Adam - Genesis 1:26-27
  - The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of every man (as in Elihu) - Job 33:4
3. From the very beginning the Holy Spirit was at work and has continued to work as God slowly revealed His plan of redemption for lost mankind.

### II. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN REVEALING THINGS

1. The Holy Spirit revealed things in the Old Testament times:
  - The prophets of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit - 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Samuel 23:2
  - The Holy Spirit was in the prophets, revealing to them things to come - 1 Peter 1:10-11; Isaiah 53:4-6
2. The Holy Spirit revealed things in the New Testament times:
  - The Holy Spirit was to guide the Apostles into all the truth - John 16:12-13; 14:26
  - The Holy Spirit did guide the Apostles - 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 1 Timothy 4:1-3

### III. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN CONFIRMING CERTAIN THINGS

1. The Holy Spirit confirmed Jesus as the promised Christ:
  - Jesus was attested by God through the miracles He did - Acts 2:22
  - The Holy Spirit worked with Jesus to confirm His work - Acts 10:38; Matthew 12:28; Luke 4:18-21
2. The Holy Spirit confirmed Jesus' Apostles:
  - The message of the Apostles was confirmed through gifts given by the Holy Spirit - Hebrews 2:3-4
  - As the Apostles traveled about proclaiming the gospel of God, the Holy Spirit confirmed their actions - Romans 15:19
  - As the Apostles preached, the Holy Spirit was at work on those who listened.

#### IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN REGENERATION

1. The Holy Spirit was there when the Word was preached:
  - The Holy Spirit convicted the hearts of those hearing the Word - John 16:8
  - On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was present:
    - The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles words to speak - Acts 2:4
    - Peter preached Christ to the people - Acts 2:22-24; 36
    - People who were hearing Peter's message were convicted of their sins - Acts 2:37
    - The people were encouraged to repent and be baptized - Acts 2:38-39
    - Many were willing to do so gladly - Acts 21:40-41
  - The Holy Spirit convicts through God's Word whenever and wherever it is preached.
2. The Holy Spirit works whenever God's Word is obeyed:
  - Those who obey the Word are baptized - Acts 2:38-41
  - When baptized a person experiences a "washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" - Titus 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 6:11
  - Thus when one is born again, regenerated, not of water only, but of water and the Holy Spirit - John 3:5
  - The work of the Holy Spirit does not end when a person becomes a Christian.

#### V. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN SANCTIFICATION

1. The Holy Spirit is at work at a person's initial sanctification (salvation experience):
  - Sanctification involves the idea of being "set apart" or consecrated to God.
  - Sanctification begins with one being baptized and set apart - 1 Corinthians 6:11
  - The washing, sanctification and justification is brought about by the Holy Spirit of God.
  - In obedience to the Word of God, the believer is "sanctified" by the Holy Spirit - 2 Thessalonians 2:13
2. The Holy Spirit is at work in the Christian's ongoing sanctification:
  - Sanctification is an ongoing work - Hebrews 2:11; 10:14
    - Not in having to be redeemed again - Hebrews 10:10
    - In the sense of the Christian living a holy life - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23
  - The Holy Spirit plays an important role in helping Christians live holy lives:
    - God strengthens the Christian by the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 3:16; 3:20
    - It is with the Holy Spirit that the Christian can put to death the fleshly works of the body - Romans 8:11-13; Colossians 3:5-9
  - It is very needful for the Christian to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Holy Spirit - Galatians 5:16-18

#### CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Spirit worked in the creation, in revealing truth, in confirming, in regeneration and in sanctification of the believer.
2. How important is the work of the Holy Spirit?
  - A person's very presence (physical being) is the result of the Holy Spirit's work.
  - A person's eternal destination is dependent upon the work of the Holy Spirit.
3. Sadly, many resist the work of the Holy Spirit - What about YOU?

