

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SALVATION

John 14:16-17; 16:7-11

Introduction: A "silent partner" is found in many, many businesses, organizations, etc., and we are familiar with the term. When one is confronted with becoming a Christian, there is the "printed" Word of God, there is the "spoken" Word of God, there are the testimonies from those who are already Christians, but just what part does the Holy Spirit play in one becoming a Christian? We hear a lot about the Holy Spirit, but it's mostly "about" the Holy Spirit, just who is the Holy Spirit?

I. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE?

1. The Heavenly Father speaks, Jesus, the Son of God speaks, but the Holy Spirit never utters a word.
2. Although the Holy Spirit never speaks audibly, He does what the Father and Son do:
 - reproves (rebukes) the world, pointing out sin.
 - teaches, speaks to hearts, intercedes in prayers, leads, appoints and equips to service.
 - ministers, regenerates, baptizes.
 - is affected by others and can be vexed, quenched.
3. The Holy Spirit is co-equal with God, the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son.
 - He is called God and blaspheming Him brings eternal death.
 - He has the same attributes of God, does the work of God, is the object of faith and is to be obeyed.

II. WHEN DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME?

1. During the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came and went, taught, revealed visions, inspired the prophets and writers of the Old Testament scriptures, came upon a person and stayed until the assigned mission of that person was completed, then He left, He never sealed anybody during the Old Testament.
2. While Jesus Christ was here:
 - The Holy Spirit descended to Jesus Christ and stayed with Him until the Cross.
 - Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit as He had.
 - John the Baptist preached that Jesus Christ would baptize man with "fire" meaning the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit comes upon Believers.
 - Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and would stay while He (Jesus) was in heaven.
 - The staying, dwelling place of the Holy Spirit would be in the hearts of believers.
 - The Holy Spirit would show unbelievers their need of Salvation.
 - He would show unbelievers and believers how righteous God is.
 - He would reveal Satan's work in the world and how Satan is doomed.
 - Nobody can be saved apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in his/her life.

- He would regenerate, indwell, seal and baptize the believer.
- The Holy Spirit is a Church Age gift as is Grace.
- After the Church is taken up, the Holy Spirit's work will revert back to the Old Testament manner.

III. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATE?

1. "Regenerate" is used to express what happens when one believes in Jesus Christ.
2. Regeneration is the Holy Spirit's work. It is not of heritage nor of one's will, but of God.
3. Unbelievers are dead in the eyes of God (Nicodemus) and must be made alive.
 - the unbeliever must also be made anew.
 - the new birth, new life is not accomplished by man, nor by the act of the Church, it is an instant process brought by the Holy Spirit.
4. Regeneration is the first step in learning Godly things.
 - When born anew, one receives a new nature and life style changes to one of having victory over sin. A thirst after the things of God. Life takes on a different meaning, values change. Never saw how one really was, but now sees God's viewpoint.
 - The very nature of salvation forbids a reversal (being lost again). It is a work of God. Faith is only the channel through which God can work.
 - Cannot reverse the resurrection of Christ no more than one can reverse natural, physical birth. Neither can man reverse the act of God of Salvation.
 - Man cannot un-create or unbirth himself.

IV. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELL AND SEAL THE BELIEVER?

1. Indwelling and sealing is not found in the Old Testament, it is a New Testament, Church Age feature.
 - The Day of Pentecost brought the Holy Spirit permanently for the Church Age period.
2. All believers in Jesus Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 - It is possible to be out of God's will but still be indwelt, although undeserving.
 - The Holy Spirit enables believers to live Godly lives.
 - The Holy Spirit sets apart the believer (similar to the "anointing" reasons of the Old Testament, to set a person apart for God's use).
 - The Holy Spirit's anointing of believers is at the moment of salvation. A so-called "second blessing" is not scriptural.
3. Can one lose the Holy Spirit?
 - In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did leave for it was not normal for Him to remain.
 - At first in the early Church days, delay was seen in receiving the Holy Spirit, (the account of Cornelius and those who had followed John the Baptist).
 - The anointing (setting apart) is the initial act of the Holy Spirit.

- Anointing in the Bible:
 - The oil used was sanctified in the Old Testament (the Holy Spirit does that in the New Testament).
 - Men were sanctified with the oil in the Old Testament (the Holy Spirit does that in the New Testament).
 - Priests were sanctified with oil in the Old Testament (the Holy Spirit does that in the New Testament).
 - Kings were set apart, sanctified with the oil in the Old Testament (the Holy Spirit does that in the New Testament).
 - Oil was for healing in the Old Testament (the Holy Spirit heals the soul in the New Testament).

4. The Holy Spirit seals the believer.

- All is done entirely by God.
- *Ephesians 1:13* - "...**Having believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..**"
- Not a reward for believing but a work of GRACE
- *Ephesians 4:30* - One can grieve the Holy Spirit and yet remain saved.
- Sealing of the believer by the Holy Spirit is a FACT, it the symbol of a finished transaction.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, you are so because of God's love for you, God's call to you, God's Grace offered to you and the Holy Spirit making you aware of all these things and then upon your simple trust in what you learned, then indwelling you, to seal you forever.
2. Christian, you have the very presence of God living within you, you are one of God's Children forever.
3. Christian, follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, that's what He is within you to do.