

## Salvation and the Holy Spirit

15 December, 2010

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

Scripture References – Psalm 139:7, 23-24; John 3:3-8, 16:7-11; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 8:14-16, 15:15-16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:2

**Unit Theme:** The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

**Central Truth:** The Holy Spirit works with God the Father/God the Son to redeem us from our sin.

**Focus:** Examine the Holy Spirit's role in our salvation.

**Key Verse:** 1 Corinthians 12:3 - *...no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

**Introduction:**

The Holy Spirit is forever working in the hearts and lives of men. There is no where we can run from His presence. We may be able to escape the presence of our antagonist, or miss the presence of a loved one, but the Holy Spirit is always present working behind the scenes in many cases and up front and personal in others. He is able to convict, regenerate and sanctify those who have surrendered to Him would not trade His presence for anything. He plays the pivotal role in our salvation and without Him there would be no conviction that leads one to repentance and a new found life in Christ. Without Him there would not be a new heart, without Him we could not be set aside for God's work. He is the one that leads us into all truth and reveals the very mysteries of God. Remove Him and we would be lost without hope of salvation, remove Him and truth would never be known. How much of His influence have you allowed in your life?

**I. Agent of God in Conviction** – Psalm 139:7, 23-24; John 16:7-11; Acts 2:37-38

Think about conviction for a moment – what does it mean to you? Can you describe the difference between conviction and condemnation? One definition of conviction is: an unshakable belief in something without need for proof or evidence. Of course it also signifies the burden of guilt for a crime or wrong doing. Condemnation on the other hand means: an expression of strong disapproval; pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable; a final judgment of guilty and I would add, with no hope of restoration. When considering these two terms we must look at them from a spiritual perspective. Condemnation leaves no hope for restoration, conviction is the element that when yielded to prohibits condemnation. Note that the scripture does not say the Holy Spirit Condemns, but that He convicts. Those who believe His conviction to be true are then spared the condemnation that awaits those who do not believe (John3:16-19). Without conviction repentance would be impossible. Men often bring condemnation through their disapproval of others actions, words or behavior and in many instances they become judge. The Holy Spirit offers gentle conviction with the intent of full restoration to the Father for those who heed. Which would you rather have? For further study see 1 Samuel 16:7 and Romans 8:1.

➤ **Note Taker:** Describe the Holy Spirit's influence on the world.

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## II. Agent of God in Regeneration – Titus 3:5-7; John 3:3-8; Romans 8:14-16

Last week we briefly looked at John 20:22 where the Lord breathed on the disciples and they received the Holy Spirit, I believe that this was their salvation experience. This is the same thing that happens to all who are born again by receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. At this moment the Spirit begins to do a new work in us that changes us 2 Corinthians 5:17 says we are a new creation...., As we walk in this new life He begins to convict of us things that He does not approve of, giving us opportunity to give them over to Him and avoid His judgment. Romans 8:1 says no condemnation for those who are in Christ.... This is because Christ bears witness with the Holy Spirit who is leading us into all truth and truth cannot tolerate unrighteousness, that is, truth cannot stand untruth.

- **Note Taker:** “Apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit we would never clearly see the truth of God concerning our sin, or the truth of God about our savior.” – Billy Graham


## III. Agent of God in Sanctification – Romans 15:15-16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2

Sanctified simply means to be set apart for God’s service and to be made holy, another way of looking at it is to be marked as God’s with His holiness. Personally, I believe sanctification is both a onetime and continuing event in our lives. That is, when we give our heart to Christ we are sanctified (set apart for God) by the Holy Spirit. Then, as we continue our new walk of faith we are continually sanctified (made holy for God). The word of God makes very clear that this is the role and function of the Holy Spirit and that it is an expected event in the lives of believers. It is completely and wholly a work of the Holy Spirit however. There is nothing we can do to aid in our sanctification process except to believe on Jesus Christ and know that He is able to make us Holy without our help. We would be gravely mistaken to think that our “good” behavior (church attendance, speech, actions etc.) somehow

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contributed to our sanctification – it does not! Interesting though that it is often our behavior that prompts condemnation from men. I don't know about you but I'm glad I only have to please the Lord and not men.

➤ **Note Taker:** What had the Lord done from the beginning (2 Thessalonians 2:13)?


### **Conclusion:**

God the Holy Spirit desires that all surrender to His conviction and come to knowledge of the truth – that they need a savior and His name is Jesus. Furthermore, the Spirit desires to renew the hearts of men so that they are no longer deceitful and wicked, regardless of what we see on the outside it's the Lord and the Lord alone that sees the heart (Jeremiah 17:9-10, Hebrews 4:12). Finally since sin appeared and marred the image of God from our lives we have needed the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit to restore us to our original state as God's own. Think about this as we close, you belong to God and therefore should be a reflection of His character and being. Everyone who sees us should say "they belong to God". This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

*Title and outline taken from the Evangelical Sunday School Lesson Commentary ©2010 Pathway Press Cleveland TN*

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*Except where I have paraphrased all scripture is taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.*

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