

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION

I. The goal of His work.

- A. The Bible reveals to us the presence of three Persons in the Godhead.
 - 1. The first Person in the Godhead is the Father.
 - 2. The second Person in the Godhead is the Son.
 - 3. The third Person in the Godhead is the Holy Spirit.
- B. Each of these three work together in complete and perfect unity with one goal in mind: the salvation of mankind.
- C. Paul told Timothy what God's will was for mankind (1 Timothy 2:4).
- D. Since Jesus came to earth to do the will of the Father (John 6:38), it is easy to see that the salvation of mankind was His mission as well (Luke 19:10).
- E. The Holy Spirit has and does work for this same goal.
- F. When one is saved, God uses two elements to accomplish this:
 - 1. Washing of regeneration;
 - 2. Renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).
- G. Therefore, we see the Holy Spirit's goal is for mankind to be saved, the same as the Father and the Son.

II. The role of His work.

- A. If you see a building being built, you know there are different people involved.
 - 1. There is the architect, the contractor and the construction workers to name a few.
 - 2. Each of these are involved but each has a different role.
- B. The same is true in the work of conversion.
- C. All three members of the Godhead have the same goal but perform different roles in the fulfilling of that goal.
- D. We can see this idea in the creation of the universe.
 - 1. God the Father originated the work (Genesis 1:1).
 - 2. The Son carried out the work (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:2).
 - 3. The Holy Spirit enabled the work (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13).
- E. When it comes to conversion, the same principles apply.
 - 1. The gospel message that allows conversion to take place originated from God (Ephesians 3:11).
 - 2. It was carried out through Christ (Ephesians 3:11; 1 Corinthians 1-4).
 - 3. It was finished and allowed to continue even today by the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-14).
- F. Notice in this passage from John's account what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do:
 - 1. He would hear and receive things from Jesus;
 - 2. He would come;
 - 3. He would speak what He had heard and show the apostles things to come and guide them into all truth;
 - 4. He would glorify Jesus.

- G. The Holy Spirit fully completed the instructing of the apostles by guiding them into all truth.
- H. Also, the Holy Spirit was to bear witness of Jesus (John 15:26).
- I. He was also to reprove the world (John 16:9-11).
 - 1. Reproof was not a new work for the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Before the flood, the Holy Spirit was used to preach to the sinful of that age (1 Peter 3:18-20).
- J. The Holy Spirit's role, in a concise manner, is to show man the error of his way and to show him how to change his situation: basically He persuades men towards conversion.

III. The tool of His work.

- A. Every worker has some type of tool that allows him to perform his work.
 - 1. A painter has a brush;
 - 2. A musician an instrument;
 - 3. A secretary a computer.
- B. Similarly, the Holy Spirit has a tool as well: the Word of God.
- C. As one studies the Bible and the Holy Spirit, one sees that what the Holy Spirit is said to do, the Bible is said to do as well.
 - 1. This should come as no surprise since the Bible was given by the Holy Spirit (2 Samuel 23:2; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13).
 - 2. Therefore, when one is influenced by the Holy Spirit, he is influenced by the Word, and when he is influenced by the Word, he is influenced by the Holy Spirit.
- D. There is no other tool mentioned with which the Holy Spirit works to bring about the salvation and sanctification of mankind.
- E. As He uses this tool, it is always used to persuade, not to force.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit allows us to choose (Joshua 24:15; Revelation 22:17).
 - 2. There is no direct operation of the Holy Spirit on man's heart to force him to be saved.
- F. When the Holy Spirit was used to persuade men before the flood it was through Noah's preaching (2 Peter 2:5).
 - 1. Only Noah and his family were saved.
 - 2. We see that the Holy Spirit didn't act directly on the heart of the antediluvians.
- G. Remember the Holy Spirit's role: to guide the apostles into all truth and to reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:13; 16:9-11)?
 - 1. This is what took place on the day of Pentecost.
 - 2. The apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) and then reprovved the people of sin (vs 23, righteousness (vs 38) and judgment to come (vs 40).
 - 3. This is what Paul did with Felix (Acts 24:25).
- H. We have the same Word the apostles had, but in written form (2 Timothy 3:16).
- I. This is how the Holy Spirit converts.

1. One must be born again of the Spirit (John 3:5) which is also expressed as begotten through the gospel (1 Corinthians 4:15).
 2. Also, it is expressed by Peter as being born again by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23).
- J. If one is to be converted it must be by the Holy Spirit; and if one is converted by the Holy Spirit it must be done by the Holy Spirit's tool - the Bible.

IV. The fulness of His work.

- A. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth.
- B. This provided the means by which men would be converted or persuaded.
- C. If the Holy Spirit didn't do this, then the words of Jesus are meaningless.
- D. The New Testament points out the fact this did indeed take place.
 1. 2 Peter 1:2-3 - all things that pertained to life and godliness were revealed.
 2. 1 John 1:3-4 - the apostles revealed all things to us.
 3. Jude 3 - we now have all that God was to reveal.
- E. God has furnished once for all, all things that pertain to life and godliness.
- F. There is absolutely nothing lacking to convert men and women to Christ today.

From an article by Lee Moses