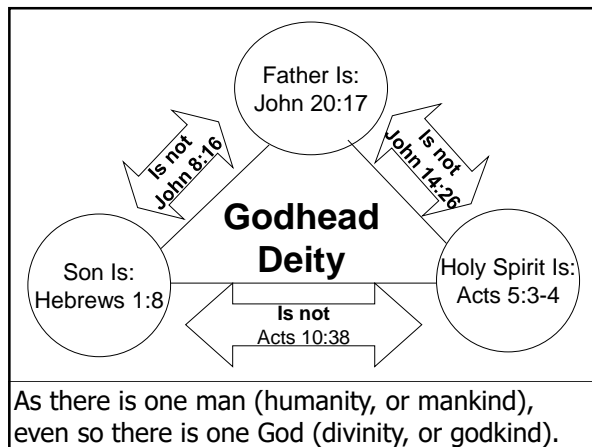


The Holy Spirit Lesson 2 Conviction And Conversion

The personalities constituting the plurality of the Godhead are “the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”

- The three were present in the beginning. Genesis 1:1-2; cf. John 1:1-2
- The three were present at the baptism of Jesus. Matthew 3:16-17
- Baptism administered in the name of the three. Matthew 28:18-20
- Paul’s entreaty to God involved the three. Romans 15:30
- Closing remarks were in the name of the three. 2 Corinthians 13:14



- Every conversion to Christ which has occurred from the beginning of the Lord’s church, until this present hour has begun, carried on, and consummated as a result of the operation of the Holy Spirit upon the sinners heart.
- Problems arise however, when we begin to discuss **the manner of His operation.**

➤ The question is in the conviction and conversion of the sinner to Christ, “**How does the Holy Spirit exercise his influence upon the heart?**”

- Does he operate immediately (without means) or intermediately (through means)?
- Directly or indirectly?

➤ Our purpose is to show that the Bible teaches that in the conviction and conversion of the sinner to Christ, the Holy Spirit operates upon the sinner’s heart through the agency of the Spirit-revealed and Spirit-inspired word of God ... through the agency of Divine Truth, hence that the operation of the Holy Spirit in this realm is indirect and intermediate.

Why So Much Confusion?

- The Calvinistic theory of “Total Hereditary Depravity” argues that, “In conversion and sanctification there is an influence of the Spirit in addition to that of the word, and distinct from it ... an influence without which the arguments and motives of the gospel would never convert and sanctify one of Adam’s ruined race ... Why then, it will be asked, is it necessary that there should be an influence of the Spirit, in addition to that of the Word, and distinct from it? The necessity arises simply from the depravity of the human heart ... Men are sinful ... deeply depraved. Hence, the necessity of a special divine influence, in addition to, and distinct from, the word.”
(N.L. Rice in Campbell-Rice debate, pages 628, 630. Beginning November 15, 1843, and continuing eighteen days, between Alexander Campbell, Christian, and N.L. Rice, Presbyterian.)

Why So Much Confusion?

- “Man is so depraved that he is unable without the direct enabling power of the Holy Spirit to obey the Gospel of the son of God.” (J.B. Moody, Missionary Baptist, in Nashville Debate)
- “I, by the natural birth am too wicked to live, too sinful to die ... Total Hereditary Depravity means that man in his entire self is bad.” (Albert Garner, Missionary Baptist in The Royal Birth – A Life of Liberty, pages 8-9)

Calvinism Reviewed

- **T**otal Depravity. Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 3:23
- **U**nconditional Election. Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 3:26f
- **L**imited Atonement. Hebrews 2:10
- **I**rresistible Grace. Romans 5:1; Acts 7:51
- **P**erseverance of the Saints. Galatians 5:4; Luke 8; Acts 8; Hebrews 3:12; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Heart Must Be Changed!

- Jeremiah 17:9, “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?*”
- Matthew 15:18-20, “*But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: these are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not the man.*”
- Acts 15:9, “*and he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.*”

What Is The Heart?

- Thinks. Genesis 6:5; Proverbs 23:7
- Reasons. Mark 2:8
- Understands. Matthew 13:15
- Believes. Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10

Intellect

What Is The Heart?

- Plans and Intends. Hebrews 4:12
- Purposes. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Executes obedience. Romans 6:17

Will

What Is The Heart?

- Desires. Romans 10:1
- Loves. Matthew 22:37
- Despises. 2 Samuel 6:16
- Trusts. Proverbs 3:5

Emotions

What Is The Heart?

- Pricked. Acts 2:37
- Cut. Acts 5:33; 7:54
- Condemn or approve. 1 John 3:19-21

Conscience

- Corruption begins in the heart.
(Matthew 15:18f)
- Salvation must therefore begin in the heart.
(Romans 10:10)

➤ But ...

- Is this accomplished directly by the Holy Spirit operating on the heart of man or through some medium?

The Holy Spirit Operates Through Divine Truth To Change The Heart Of Man

Old Testament Period

- 2 Samuel 23:2, *"The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."*
- The Hebrew writer ascribes the words of David (Psalms 95:7-10) to the Holy Spirit – Hebrews 3:7-11.
- Peter said the words of David were by the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:16, *"Brethren, it was needful that the scriptures should be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spake before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who was guide to them that took Jesus."*
- Nehemiah 9:30, *"Yet many years didst thou forebear them and testifiedst against them by thy Spirit in thy prophets."*
- 1 Peter 1:9-11 – Peter testifies concerning the prophets.
- 2 Peter 1:21, *"For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* (KJV)

The Holy Spirit Operates Through Divine Truth To Change The Heart Of Man

New Testament Period

- Ephesians 3:1-5
- Revelation 3:6, *"He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."*
- 1 Peter 1:12 – Peter said that he and others *"preached the gospel unto you by the Holy Spirit sent forth from heaven."*
- Romans 1:16

The Heart Is Changed By The Gospel

What Is The Gospel?

- **FACTS to be believed.**
cf. Mark 1:14-15; Romans 1:16-17;
John 20:30-31; Romans 3:23ff;
Titus 1:2-3; Acts 2

What Is The Gospel?

- **COMMANDMENTS to be obeyed.**
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; cf. Romans 2:8-9
– Faith – John 8:24; Mark 1:14-15
– Repentance – Acts 17:30-31; Luke 13:3;
Romans 6:12
– Confession – Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10;
cf. Acts 8:37
– Baptism – Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38;
Galatians 3:26-27
– Faithfulness – Revelation 2:10;
1 Corinthians. 15:58; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

What Is The Gospel?

- **PROMISES in which to trust.**
Romans 8:24-25; Hebrews 6:15-16

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT.

SPIRIT	ACTION	WORD OF GOD
John 3:5-6, 8	Born, Begotten	1 Peter 1:23-25 1 Corinthians 4:15 James 1:18
John 6:63; Romans 8:11	Quickens	Psalms 119:50, 53

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT.

SPIRIT	ACTION	WORD OF GOD
Titus 3:5	Saved	James 1:21
Romans 15:13	Power of	Romans 1:16
I Corinthians 6:11	Sanctified	John 17:17
I Corinthians 6:11	Washed by	Ephesians 5:25-26

An Inspired Example – Jews – Acts 2

- **Holy Spirit promised.** John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13
- The apostles to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit – Luke 24:46-49
- Holy Spirit's coming near – Acts 1:8
- Holy Spirit came – Acts 2:1-4
- Holy Spirit's coming to convict – John 16:8

An Inspired Example – Jews – Acts 2

- **Pricked ... convicted of sin.**
 - HOW? *“When they heard this.”*
 - Heard what? The Spirit inspired words of Peter.
 - But Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would *“convict the world of sin.”* – John 16:8
 - Conclusion ... The Holy Spirit convicted the sinners on that day of Pentecost through the instrumentality of the word of God.

An Inspired Example – Jews – Acts 2

- FACTS presented. Verses 22-36
- COMMANDS issued. Verses 36, 38
- PROMISES offered. Verses 38-39

Conscience Cleansed – cf. 1 Peter 3:21

Hearts changed: *“They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added (unto them) in that day about three thousand souls.”* Verse 41

Gospel Changed Saul of Tarsus

- **FACTS presented**
 - Acts 9:5, *“I am Jesus whom thou persecutest”*
 - cf. 2 Timothy 2:12, *“I know whom I have believed ...”*
 - cf. Acts 26:28-29 Paul was persuaded.
- **COMMANDS issued**
 - Acts 22:16, *“Arise and be baptized ...”*
 - Acts 9:18, Paul *“arose and was baptized.”*
- **PROMISES trusted**
 - Acts 13:23-32; 26:6-7
 - 2 Corinthians 4:7,16; Romans 8:18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

CONCLUSION:

- Truly, every conversion is begun and consummated by the Spirit.
- As the “revealing agent” in man’s conversion, He reveals the wonderful love and goodness of God. John 3:16; Romans 2:4
- He reveals the awful plight of man lost in sin. Romans 3:23
- In the sublime story of God’s providing salvation for man through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- Through faith produced in the heart by the word of God, Romans 10:17, man obeys ... turns to God from sin ... is converted.
- No other way to come to God.