

8. The Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit

The Necessity of the Spirit

“I shall comprise what belongs to this part of His work in the two following assertions: (I). There is in the souls of believers a supernatural principle or habit of grace, wrought and preserved by the Spirit of God, whereby they are enabled to live unto God, and perform that obedience which he requires and accepts; and this is essentially distinct from all natural habit, intellectual or moral, however acquired or improved. (II). There is an immediate work of the Holy Spirit required unto every act of holy obedience, whether internal or external.” - John Owen

Galatians 3:2-5

John 6:63

Regeneration, motivation, filled with Spirit, keep in step with Spirit

Our hope is NOT in ourselves - our willpower and work

Our hope is in the Gospel of what God has done in the past

Our hope is in the presence and present work of God’s Spirit in our lives

Our hope is in our future inheritance/consummation, guaranteed by the Spirit

Our hope is in God, Who has saved, Who is mighty to save and Who is faithful to complete the work He began in us (Phil 1:6)

8.1 Who is the Spirit?

Jesus (Messiah) and the Spirit

- Incarnation, Baptism (Mark 1:9-11), Temptation (Mark 1:12-13), Ministry, Miracles/Signs, the Cross (Heb 9:14), the Resurrection (Rom 1:1-4)

- Jesus baptizes with the Spirit (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)
- Jesus and the life of the Spirit in us (John 7:37-39)
- Jesus and the Promise of the Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 2:33)
- The Spirit and the New Creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- The Spirit and the Last Days (Acts 2)
- the Age of the Spirit

Review material, but emphasize application of these truths to Christian life

The Spirit is God Himself

The Spirit grants us access to God through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:18)

- The Spirit is a person - “He”, not “it”
- The Spirit is Real and active - not a fairy tale/fiction
 - we can expect and experience God’s work in our life.

- The Spirit is present - God's presence with us in EVERY situation

The Spirit is omniscient and omnipotent - all the resources of God working on our behalf

The Spirit is the presence of the future - Already/Not Yet, emphasize the Already

The Spirit is not the only spirit - beware of counterfeits

8.2 Why does the Spirit work? What is the Goal/Purpose/Result of the Spirit's working?

Applying and bringing to completion the work of Christ in the Gospel (Phil 1:6)

Regeneration - John 3:5-8; Ephesians 2:4-5; 2 Cor 3:15-18; 4:4-6

Assurance/Sealing - Guarantee of Future inheritance

- putting our affections on future hope - 2 Cor 5:1-10, Eph 1:13-14; 4:30, Rom 8:15-17

Freedom - 2 Cor 3:15-18, Rom 8:1-2

Sanctification - 2 Thes 2:13, Rom 8, 1 Thes 4:7-8, 1 Pet 1:2

"A few honest actions, and a few useful duties satisfy many that they are as holy as they need to be; but God rejects all such duties, however multiplied, if the heart be not before sanctified, Isa. 1:11-16." - John Owen

"And this free, genuine, unforced inclination of the mind to all that is good, with an inward labouring to break through all opposition, is the first fruit and most pregnant evidence of the renovation of our natures by the Holy Ghost." - John Owen

Overcoming the works of the old life - Gal 5:16-26

Fruit of the Spirit - character - Gal 5:22-25

Strengthening/Edification Eph 3:16, Rom 8:11

Witness - Acts 1:8, 1 Pet 1:12

Gifts of the Spirit - witness and ministry 1 Cor 12-14

Revelation of Christ - to us and to others through us - Jn 14-16, 1 Cor 2:1-16

Glorifying Christ - Jn 14-16

Summary - all the life of the new age cf. 2 Cor 5:16-17

8.3 What does the Spirit do? What can I expect from the Spirit?

The Spirit and sanctification through the Word (John 17:17)

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

- 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

- Romans 12:1-2

Change our minds - focus on Christ and His purposes (Rom 12:1-2)

Change our hearts/affections

Change our actions

Empower our consciences

Convict of sin

Empower our actions

Empower our prayers
Work in our circumstances

“Thus: the purpose of Christian ethics is the glory of God; the pattern for such ethics is the Son of God, Christ Himself, into whose likeness we were predestined to be transformed; the principle is love, precisely because love is at the essence of Who God is; and the power is the Spirit, the Spirit of God.” - Gordon Fee

Be realistic about tension btwn already/not yet

we still are in a war, we need to fight, we are prone to idolatry, cannot trust the natural heart

But emphasize the present reality of the new life in the Spirit

The NT says that the old way of life is incompatible with the new life in Christ

We need to realize and walk in the truth that we are no longer slaves to sin and we don't have to live that way.

We have been recreated in Christ with a new heart

The One in us is greater than the one in the world, The One in us is greater than our heart

8.4 How does the Spirit do it? What is the manner of the Spirit's working?

Sometimes manifestly miraculous

Sometimes behind the scenes - un-noticeable

Sometimes through circumstances and other believers

Beware prescribing to God the way He must work in your life

Our part/responsibility and God's and how they work together (Philippians 2:12-13)

Works through and in partnership with God's Word

8.5 How do we participate in/experience the Spirit's working?

Walk by the Spirit - Gal 5:16

Be Led by the Spirit - Gal 5:18

Keep in step with the Spirit - Gal 5:25

Sow to the Spirit Gal 6:8

Be Filled with the Spirit - Eph 5:18

Live according to the Spirit/ Be controlled by the Spirit - Rom 8:1-17

mortification/vivification Rom 8:1-17

by the Spirit put to death the misdeeds of the body v. 14

fruit of the Spirit - character of Christ (Galatians 5:22-24)

Don't quench the Spirit 1 Thes 5:19-22

Do not grieve the Spirit Eph 4:30

EVERYTHING good, godly and Godward in our life is only explained (at least partly) by the work of the Spirit in our life

Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7)