

FOUNDATION OF FAITH: HOLY SPIRIT

By Keith Greer

What is the most misunderstood, misapplied subject in the religious world today? The purpose and the work of the Holy Spirit. However, if one will take away all the preconceived ideas, then we can come to comprehend this vital part of "foundations of faith".

Who is the Holy Spirit? The third person of the Godhead. The Godhead is made up of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19, 1 John 5:7,8. Three person with one work and purpose. Many cannot understand passages such as:

"I and My Father are one. "{John 10:30} "Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, "Show us the Father." {John 14:9}

Do you understand when the Bible tells us that the husband/wife are "one flesh"? Are they still two persons? God, and the Son are "one" in purpose and unity. Can you ever see God, Son, or the Holy Spirit opposed to one another? If they are the "same person", please explain the next passage:

"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16,17) All three are present!

What work does the Holy Spirit accomplish? "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged "{John 16:8-11}

"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual'. "{1 Corinthians 2:9-13}

What medium does the Holy Spirit use to get these things done? By the word! What convicted the Jews in Acts 2 to obey the gospel? What "convicted" them of their sin? The preaching of the word by Peter.

What will judge men in the final day? "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. "{John 12:49}

How do I know what righteousness is? What pleases God and displeases Him? What He has called me to do? "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God "{2 Timothy 2:15}

Can you show me one thing that the Holy Spirit does that the word of God doesn't also accomplish? The Holy Spirit was the "revealer" that informs us of the mind of God so we could know His will in our lives. Thank God for the Holy Spirit! ***