

THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD

By Keith Greer

One of the most misunderstood Bible subjects, even among many in the church, is the **Holy Spirit**. How does He work? Does He literally dwell within us? Does He give men power to perform miracles? While we could write many articles on any of these questions, let us discuss the Spirit's work and the word.

INSTRUCTION. Read Nehemiah 9:20. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. "{2 Timothy 3: 16, 17} If it were not for the Holy Spirit, how would we know what is acceptable to God?

SAVES US. Read Titus 3:5. "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. "{James 1:21} Paul said it is God's power unto salvation, Romans 1:16. The message was given by the Holy Spirit. John 16:13.

CONVICTS MEN OF SIN. Read John 16:8. "Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict." {Titus 1:9} What prompted the question by the Jews in Acts 2:37? The preaching of the truth!

THE NEW BIRTH. Read John 3:1-5. "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, " {1 Peter 1:22,23} The Spirit revealed the conditions one must accept to be saved.

HE LEADS. Please read Romans 8:14. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." {Psalm 119:105} How is one, correctly stated also, led by the Spirit? If I follow the teaching of the Bible, which was given by the direct work of the Holy Spirit, these words are directing my paths. In other words, I'm being "led by the Spirit".

HE SANCTIFIES. Read 1 Corinthians 6:11. "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. "{John 17:17} "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." {John 15:3} The Spirit plays a role in our sanctification. He sets us apart by our obedience to the things which have been revealed.

HE CAN BE RESISTED. Read Acts 7:51. "Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;" {2 Timothy 3:8} How can one resist the Holy Spirit? Some men have told me that when the Holy Spirit comes over them, they lose all control. Wrong! He can be resisted simply by rejecting His teaching. If I reject what the truth instructs me to do, I have resisted the Holy Spirit.

DOES HE LITERALLY DWELL IN ME? Was a sinner ever converted by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit? Can he override my personal choice? If He is in me, what does He do? Does He work separate and apart from the word? We are told that Christ dwells in us, God dwells in us, and we have the inner man. Are God and Christ in us literally? Incorrect answers have led to the teaching of depravity.

So many more things could be said about the work of the Holy Spirit. Honestly, anyone that can tell you what the Holy Spirit does – I can show them the word does the same thing. Why is this so? The word is the work place for the Holy Spirit. Sadly, men want to make this some kind of “supernatural experience” that is better “felt than told.” Just read His work in the book! ***