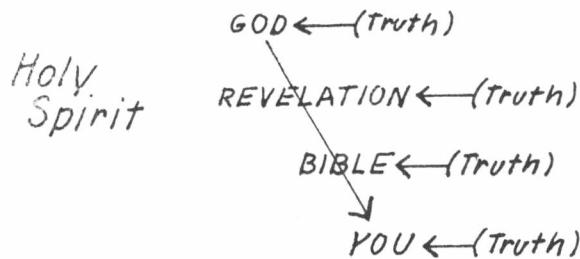


Lesson #3—The Work of the Holy Spirit in Divine Revelation.

Introduction

- A. One of the greatest wonders of all time is that God has revealed Himself to us.
 - 1. When we turned our back on Him—He did not allow our rejection of Himself to stand—He came to us and has made a provision so that we may come to Him. Jesus Christ is our prophet, priest and king.
 - 2. The One intimately related to all of this glorious work is the blessed Holy Spirit. He has inspired the Holy Scripture and through the Word of God performs His work of illumination, conviction, the new birth, sanctification, instruction, and guidance.
- B. It is very important for the believer to understand two great facets of this truth.
 - 1. There is a close connection between the reasons why the Bible was written and the work the Holy Spirit desires to achieve in our daily life.
 - 2. In this regard the Word of God may be called a "means of grace". It is through the Scripture that the Holy Spirit will reach into our life and perform His work. The implications of this truth are clear—we must read, understand, and implement the Bible in order to be a successful Christian.



I. The Description of His Work.

- A. The Old Testament spokesman for God and writers of the Scripture were enabled to do their task by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you,

Searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify**, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have **preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven**; which things the angels desire to look into. I Peter 1:10-12

Observations:

- 1. This unusual passage is a commentary on the construction of the Old Testament. This covered a time of about 1500 years and involved well over 50 people. All of it stands, with the New Testament, as a monument to the blessed Holy Spirit.
- 2. It is interesting to see that the theme of the Old Testament is designated "salvation" and how that is explained by use of such terms as "grace", "sufferings of Christ", "glory", and "gospel".
- 3. This passage also records a most unusual subject—angelic curiosity. It would seem that the angels seek to know what the Bible states and what that means in its outworking in history. (See also I Cor. 4:9 and Eph. 3:10)

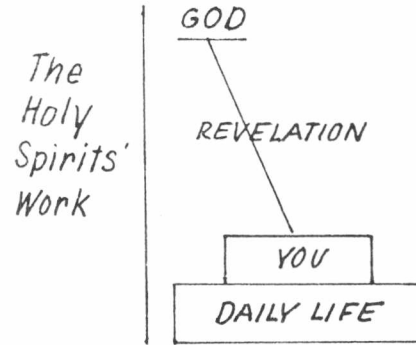
- B. David testified that He spoke the Word of God by the enablement of the Holy Spirit.

Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue. II Samuel 23:1, 2

Observations:

1. The Psalms written by David may well be called "relational writings" or "experience psalms". These helpful expressions of David's pen have been a comfort and source of instruction for all of us. There is an interesting implication here. It would seem that the Holy Spirit who inspired David to write his Psalms also led him and enabled him throughout all the experiences that he records. This is the constant picture of the saint in the Old and New Testament—the recipient of the ministry and help of the blessed Holy Spirit.
2. These verses also remind us of the twofold character of the Bible. It is the work of God—through human means.



C. Peter explained that the Bible was given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy....

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, **but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.** II Peter 1:19-21.

Observations:

1. Peter had just spoken of the great experience he had had with James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. There they had heard God speak to them about the Lord Jesus Christ! What was more important and certain than even that is the written Word of God.
2. The basis of this great certainty is found in the work of the Holy Spirit. The text states that He caused men to be "moved" and thus to "speak" the Word of God. The Greek word for "moved" would indicate "being carried along" and designates a divine enablement and control. We must recognize this authority and certainty of the Scripture.

D. The Apostle Paul joined with Peter in speaking of the work of the Holy Spirit as an "inspiring" of the Scripture.

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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:16, 17

Observations:

1. Paul's use of the word "inspiration" literally means "God-breathed". It indicates the great truth that the Word of God is the production of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through human instruments. The product that this activity produced is thereby the inerrant Word of God.
2. The value of the Bible is indicated in these verses by the term "profitable". This is further explained that it has been given to us for "doctrine", "reproof", "correction" and "instruction in righteousness". The goal of all of this is that we may be "thoroughly equipped for every good work".
3. These verses remind us that what we take so for granted—the Bible—is a treasure that is beyond comparison. We must pray and work with one another so that we may not miss the value of what God has said to us.

II. The Purpose of His Work.

A. He has given us the Bible so we may have a final authority.

To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not **according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.** Isaiah 8:20

But He (the Lord Jesus) said unto them, Have ye not read...? Matthew 12:3

Observations:

1. God Who is absolute and infinite in truth has given us a final authority for every age—the inspired Word of God.
2. This reminds us that the measure of our belief, surrender, and obedience before God—is determined by our belief, surrender, and obedience to the Word of God. The two cannot be separated.
3. God has given us the truth—we do not have to stumble along through life.

B. He has given us the Bible so we may have certainty.

It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, **to write unto thee** in order, most excellent Theophilus,

That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou has been instructed. Luke 1:3, 4

Observations:

1. Here the physician Luke utilized a very important word, "certainty". There are certain areas of our life where we can live with probability but there are other areas where we need and long for this certainty. It is a comfort to know that the Holy Spirit has met this need.
2. What Luke is referring to in this passage has to do with the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ and what that means to us. This is the area where we need to know for sure. Because we have the Bible, and the Holy Spirit to help us, we no longer need to guess about who we are, what has happened to us, nor about salvation, how to live, how to serve, what to believe and whether we are going to get to Heaven. We have a "certainty" given to us in the Word of God.

C. He has given us the Bible so we may know what to believe and thereby have life eternal.

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book.

But **these are written, that ye might believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and **that believing ye might have life** through His name. John 20:30, 31

Observations:

1. The Holy Spirit caused the Bible to be written and thereby recorded the evidence that Jesus Christ was the Son of God—so that we might believe and become a child of God. The mercy, and grace, and love behind all of this is beyond human comprehension.
2. These verses underline the two previous passages. In the Holy Word of God we have an authoritative basis for certainty. It is important that we accept this divine provision by faith. He knew how much we would need this foundation for our faith. We must believe Him and stop looking at ourselves.

D. He has given us the Bible so we may know of our coming judgment.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.**

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Rom. 14:10, 11

Observations:

1. It makes a difference as to how we live our daily life. This makes us to be the person we are and will be as well as determining our future rewards or losses.
2. Every believer must give an account to God for how he has lived. The basis of all of this is the Bible. The Holy Spirit has spoken to us about this that we may realize how important it is to cooperate with Him and live as the spiritual people we can be. We must face the truth—every one of us shall stand before God and be evaluated according to truth!

E. He has given us the Bible so we may know how to live.

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your **ignorance**,
But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (daily life).
Because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy. I Peter 1:14-16

Observations:

1. Because of the Fall of Man all of us are in need of help in the area of the daily life.
2. The Holy Spirit has given us the Bible as a step-by-step group of principles so that we may quickly learn how to live with the power of God in our life.
3. In these verses we are told how to break the old patterns of selfish response and initiate new patterns of holiness. The importance and value of such a life is shown to be based upon the very character of God.

III. The Provision of His Work.

A. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement salvation.

But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through **sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth**. II Thess. 2:13

Observation: This is how we have been brought to salvation—through the Scripture. This is what the Holy Spirit will use to convict, bring to repentance, and implement the new birth.

B. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement assurance.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**.... I John 5:13

Observation: The basis of our assurance is not in our experience but in what the Bible says about us and about our experience. The former is seen in 5:9-12 and the latter in 2:3-5; 2:15-17; 3:9; 3:14; 3:24; 5:20. It is particularly important to understand that the foundation of assurance is not our feelings.

C. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement cleansing.

...Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it.
That He might sanctify and **cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word**. Ephesians 5:25,
26

Observation: All of us need a daily cleansing from the effects of sin within and without. God has made a provision for us in the Word of God. As we walk in fellowship and obedience the Holy Spirit can use the Scripture to perform this necessary and valuable service.

D. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement protection.

Stand therefore, **having your loins girt about with truth**, and having on the breastplate of righteousness...And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God**. Eph. 6:14, 17

Observation: All believers have an enemy in Satan and his host of demonic forces. The protection God has provided is the truth. When we choose to implement the truth in honesty, faith, and love it becomes our protection and weapon.

E. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement freedom.

And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.** John 8:32

Observation: The freedom spoken of in this verse has to do with the liberty to be the child of God we should be and to do the will of God as it should be performed. Sin will always enslave and weaken us. The Holy Spirit has made it possible for us to increasingly live in enjoyable freedom as we live in harmony with the Bible.

F. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement sanctification.

Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth. John 17:17

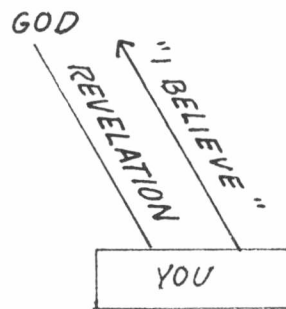
Observation: This is one of the most important verses in the Bible for the serious believer. We are reminded here as to how God brings about the sanctification purchased for us by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit seeks to teach us, guide us, encourage us, cleanse us, convict us, and lead us into a deeper walk of glorifying God all through the Word of God.

G. He wants to use the Bible in our life to implement joy.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. I John 1:4

Observation: To enjoy the Lord through fellowship, prayer, the Bible, and service—is an unbeatable combination for success. God made us to enjoy Him. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God, we can live as fulfilled people.

IV. The Exhortations Related to His Work.



A. We must give due reverence to the Word of God.

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord, but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and **trembleth at My Word.** Isaiah 66:2

Observation: We must recognize the Bible for what it is—the very Word of God. The only correct attitude is presented in this verse—“tremble at the Word”. This does not mean being “afraid of God” but the “reverence of love and respect”. This will enable us to obey God and His Word.

B. We must read the Word of God.

As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the Word,** that ye may grow thereby. I Peter 2:2

Observation: As a child will hunger for food the believer is to seek to understand and practice the Scripture. To fail to do so is to sin against the Holy Spirit.

C. We must daily mix the Word of God with faith.

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them, **but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith** in them that heard it. Hebrews 4:1, 2

Observation: All believers have the ability through the new birth to respond to God by faith and love. It is vitally important that we do that on the basis of the Bible. The promises must be claimed, the warnings obeyed, the commandments put into practice, and the exhortations implemented.

D. We must become involved with God in implementing the Word of God.

But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

Observation: The one who simply "hears" the Word of God is thereby substituting mental acceptance and approval for the obedience of faith and love. For the grace of God in its power and experience to flow into our lives we must put God's Word into practice. This may not be easy to do—but it must be done—or we will deceive ourselves! When we choose to obey God's Word—then God can become involved in our daily life.

Conclusion: God the Holy Spirit has given us His Word. We must respond to Him in the obedience of faith and love. Each of us must decide as to what this means in daily life—and put that into practice.