

Lesson #4—The Work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation.

Introduction

- A. The lesson before us has to do with one of the most unusual, interesting, and encouraging messages in all of the Bible—salvation.
1. As we read the Scripture to understand this subject we realize it is a display of the greatness of God's holiness and love; it is a display of the lostness of the sinner; and it is also a display of the benefits that have come to the person who has received Jesus Christ by faith.
 2. In the last lesson we were reminded that the message of salvation is so marvelous that the angels are curious to find out its meaning. (I Peter 1:10-12)
 3. In every area of this salvation we find the Holy Spirit at work. The particular key we must keep in mind has to do with His relationship to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit applies the benefits of the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension to the one who repents, believes, and receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- B. It will be helpful to keep four things in mind as we study this lesson.
1. What has happened to me as a believer?
 2. What does this mean as a display of the power of the gospel?
 3. What will happen to those I win to the Lord Jesus Christ?
 4. What kind of a foundation do I have for the living of the Christian life?

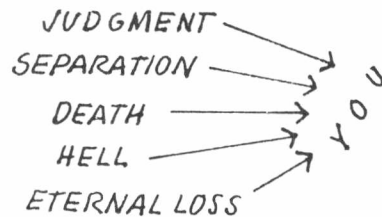
I. The Holy Spirit Convicted Us of Our Need of Salvation.

And when He (the Holy Spirit) is come, **He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.**

Of sin, because they believe not on Me.

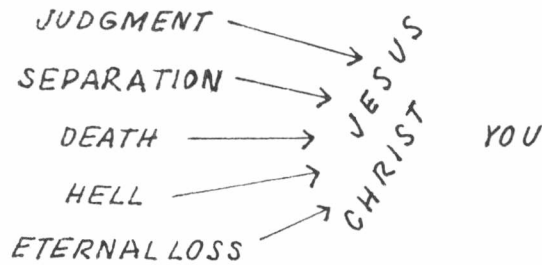
Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see Me no more.

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. John 16:8-11



Observations:

1. As a sinner we were in a state of death, ignorance, and bondage. Unless the Holy Spirit had worked with us to bring to an understanding of our lost condition we would have remained that way.
2. The word "reprove" in these verses could well be translated "rebuke" or "convict". That is what He has done for us.
3. It is interesting to see how the areas of conviction produced by the Holy Spirit indicates the basic needs of the sinner.
 - a. He convicts of sin—that which we have done as transgressions against God. Romans 3:23
 - b. He convicts of righteousness—that which we have failed to do—unrighteousness. Romans 3:10
 - c. He convicts of judgment—that accounting that all sinners must give before God. Romans 14:11, 12

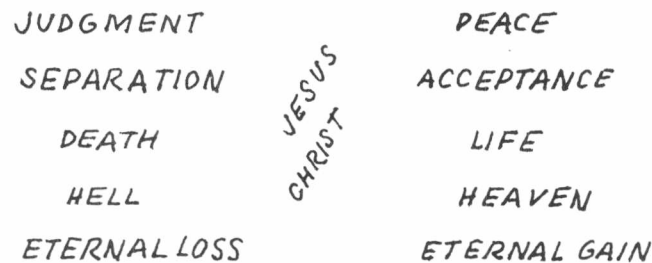


II. The Holy Spirit Has Brought Us Through the New Birth.

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **except a man be born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 3:5

Observations:

1. How wonderful to know that the Holy Spirit in His work of convicting has brought us to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. As we look on this experience in our lives we understand it to be called the "New Birth". It is so designated because it is essentially a bringing to birth, a begetting, a making-alive from the dead, an infusion of life—eternal life. No wonder the Lord Jesus said, "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish" John 10:28.
2. One of the most encouraging characteristics of the new birth is that it is permanent. Once born again—we will never be lost. The other benefits of this great act of salvation make that clear.
 - a. The new birth produces a spiritual washing, I Cor. 6:9-11; Titus 3:5.
 - b. The new birth produces a living hope, I Peter 1:3.
 - c. The new birth produces the desire and ability to live a righteous life, I John 2:29.
 - d. The new birth produces the desire and ability to live free from sin, I John 3:9; 5:18.
 - e. The new birth produces the desire and ability to love other Christians, I John 3:14; 4:7.
 - f. The new birth produces the desire and ability to overcome the sinful world culture about us, I John 5:4.
3. This work of the Holy Spirit is such a radical and complete transformation that it is described as making the Christian into a "new creature", II Cor. 5:17.



III. The Holy Spirit Now Indwells Us and Has Made Us His Temple.

Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God** and that **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you**? I Corinthians 3:16

What, know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Corinthians 6:19, 20

Observations:

1. It staggers the imagination to think that we could be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit of God!

We must accept this great truth by faith, daily express our gratitude to God, and learn how to live in harmony with His indwelling.

2. Perhaps the word "temple" in these verses can help us to know what has happened to us and how we are to now live. The word certainly indicates a number of spiritual truths.
 - a. It indicates approval. (Ephesians 1:6)
 - b. It indicates adornment. (Isaiah 61:10)
 - c. It indicates involvement. (Galatians 2:20)
 - d. It indicates purpose. (II Timothy 1:9)
 - e. It indicates service. (John 17:18)
3. To make progress in the Christian life and to honor the indwelling Holy Spirit we must accept who we are, choose to live in cooperation with Him, and seek to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. This may involve some serious decisions.

IV. The Holy Spirit Has Sealed Us and Has Become Our Earnest.

In Whom (the Lord Jesus) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Whom also after that ye believed ye were **sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise.**

Which is the **earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13, 14 (See also II Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 4:30)

Observations:

1. There are three great truths emphasized by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life as a divine seal.

- a. It is an indication of ownership. (I Corinthians 6:19, 20)

As a king would mark a document with his signet ring to indicate that it belongs to him—so we have been marked by God. His seal in our case is the Holy Spirit. He is a divine stamp of ownership.

- b. It is an indication of authenticity. (Romans 8:9)

The sealing of a document establishes it as the genuine article. This has a twofold application for the believer. His ministry to us as a person enables us to recognize ourselves as a true believer and His work of transformation in us causes the non-believer to see we are genuine through our manner of life.

- c. It is an indication of protective security. (Ephesians 4:30)

The presence of a seal on a document or letter means that it is not to be tampered with. It is comforting to know that the work of the Holy Spirit to protect us is specifically designated as "...until the day of redemption".

2. The Holy Spirit is also an "earnest" in our life.

This word indicates that the Holy Spirit is a divine "pledge" given to us by God to assure us and promise to us that all the benefits of salvation will be fulfilled in us. It has been likened to a down-payment which is given as a promise that all the other payments will be made. It is interesting to see that God has not only said that He would give us all the blessings of redemption, He has given us the person of the Holy Spirit as a continual reminder of that promise. This puts our doubt and fear in a new light.

V. The Holy Spirit Has Baptized Us Into the Body of Christ.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. I Corinthians 12:13

Observations:

1. This great event came to pass at the same moment as the new birth. It is important to recognize the teaching of this verse that this work of the Holy Spirit has to do with every believer. To be a Christian means that we have been baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ.
2. It was John the Baptist who stated to his followers that the coming Messiah would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:11) By this he meant that all who truly believed upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior would, because of that relationship, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That prophecy has come true for all believers.
3. There are many spiritual benefits that become ours through the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. We are brought through this into a living union with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27

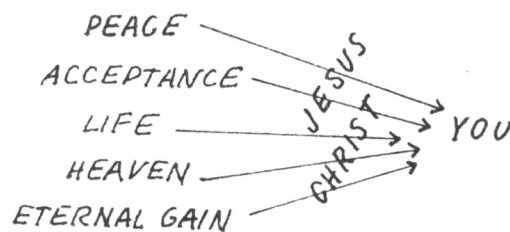
This is the basis for all those verses in the New Testament which describes the believer as being "in Christ". (Eph. 1:3; 1:10, 12, 20; 3:6, etc.) All of this signifies that most radical of all the divine activity in redemption whereby we are severed from our natural relationship and identification with Adam and united with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:12-19) This refers particularly to our legal position or state which in turn is the basis for all those benefits of experience which are characteristics of the Christian life.

- b. We are brought through this into identification with Jesus Christ in His Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension. Romans 6:3, 4; Colossians 2:12

This simply means through the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit all the benefits of the work of the Lord Jesus has been accredited to us. Christ died, was resurrected, and ascended as our representative. When we became a believer in Him—that was the moment of our baptism by the Holy Spirit—we received all the value of the work of Christ. Therefore, we are now seen by God as having died to sin, having been resurrected to live in newness of life, and having ascended to a position of assurance and victory over Satan. Since that is who we are, spiritually, that is how we must live.

- c. We are brought through this into a relationship of unity with all other believers. Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 4:4-7

The testimony of the Scripture is that all believers are one in Christ and that all of us share equally in the value of the work of redemption. This relationship is likened to the relationship of the various members of the body. (I Corinthians 12:12-26; Ephesians 4:16)



VI. The Holy Spirit Has Given Us Gifts.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom...

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will. I Corinthians 12:7-11

Observations:

1. All believers have been given some ability to fulfill the work God has given to them. This is a spiritual "gift" of great value.

2. It is vitally important that we recognize that this work of the Holy Spirit is intimately related to our salvation. We were once "unprofitable" to God (Romans 3:12) but now in Christ we have been given the ability to honor and glorify God.
3. It is necessary that we recognize what God has done for us and seek to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the exercise of our gift or gifts.

VII. The Holy Spirit Constantly Seeks to Lead Us Into a Deeper Understanding of Our Salvation as Adoption and the Assurance of Our Relationship with God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but **ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our Spirit, that we are the children of God. Romans 8:15, 16

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption of sons.**

And **because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.** Galatians 4:4-6

Observations:

1. Because we know so little of the salvation God has given to us we have been given the Holy Spirit as our "Helper". He has come to teach us so that we might understand how God has adopted us and be able to live as the children of God.
2. The basic question has to do with the basis of assurance. What does the Holy Spirit use to bring us to assurance? It is surely not our emotions—He does not create a certain emotion in us. The Bible reminds us that the basis of our assurance, as taught by the Holy Spirit, is the Word of God!

He that believeth on the Son of God hath **the witness in himself**, he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar, because he **believeth not the record** that God gave of His Son...

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 5:10-13

3. We must believe God. When we fail to do so we are resisting the inner work of the God—the Holy Spirit! Such unbelief will bring confusion, frustration, disappointment, weakness, and anxiety into our daily life. God wants us to know that we belong to Him.

Conclusion: Thank God every day that all of these glorious benefits are yours in Christ. And then, live as the Christian you are.