

HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson II

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Notes for Holy Spirit, Lesson II – Works

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Many of us are familiar with God the Father and God the Son, but maybe we are not as familiar with the Holy Spirit. Why? It could be because we do not spend as much time studying about the Holy Spirit. If we will take the time to study there is much we can learn. But just like the Father and Son there is only so much we can learn about God because God is Spirit and we are flesh therefore we cannot fully comprehend the spiritual world. But God has given us what we need to know even if we still have a lot of questions.

In Lesson I we discussed the “characteristics” of the Holy Spirit and answered the question, “Is the Holy Spirit, God?” Let’s review Lesson I....

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Now that we have seen that the Holy Spirit is not just an influence but has the characteristics of a person, has characteristics of God and does the work of God and is in fact God, let’s now look at the “work” of the Holy Spirit in man’s salvation...

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As we have learned, the Holy Spirit has been working in the lives of mankind since creation and continues to work so that all who obey the Word of God will be saved...

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This is a very important question. There are many teachings and beliefs concerning what the Holy Spirit does and how He does it, pertaining to man’s salvation. We are not interested in what man says or teaches but what the Bible says. And what does it say? Let’s see!...

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Here we see that part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to teach. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, here called the Helper (Comforter), to teach all the Apostles, and therefore all of us, everything that God wants us to know...

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The Apostle Paul says that what they are teaching did not come from what man teaches but what the Holy Spirit teaches. Therefore, the Gospel is from God!...

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The Holy Spirit also guides us into all Truth. We also notice that the Holy Spirit speaks what He hears from God the Father...

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Here we see the Holy Spirit forbidding or denying them to go into certain areas. In effect He was directing them to go to certain areas. Why? We are not sure but In Acts 16:9-10 Paul sees a vision about going to Macedonia to preach the Gospel. Maybe the people in Macedonia would be more receptive to the Gospel being preached...

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To some religious groups, the Holy Spirit is the focus of their teachings and actions but here we see that the Holy Spirit is to direct our focus upon Jesus. God the Father, at the Transfiguration, pointed us to Jesus when He said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matt. 17:5) Jesus is our savior and the "author and finisher of our faith." (Heb. 12:2) The focus of our salvation is Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit is to put our focus upon Jesus by testifying and glorifying Jesus. Yet, there are some religions that seem to put more emphasis on the Holy Spirit than upon Jesus. We also see that the Holy Spirit gave us God's Word...

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This took place during the transfiguration as recorded in Matthew 17:1-13....

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Scripture is not from man. It is not some story, idea or belief of man, instead, it is the result of men being “carried along”, “guided”, “lead”, or “moved” by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave men the Truth and these men wrote it down for all ages to read and obey...

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One of the purposes of miracles was to confirm (to prove) that the words being spoken and taught were truly from God!....

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As we have just noticed, God’s Word was delivered to us through the Holy Spirit. Some say, “How do we know if we have the complete Bible? It has been 2,000 years since Jesus was on earth, maybe the scriptures that have been passed down has been changed or corrupted? Let me ask you this, “Do you believe that God created the world and everything in it including you and me? You say yes! So if that is the case do you believe that God could have a book written exactly how He wants it? Again, you say yes! So, if you say that we do not have the same Scripture that was given to the first century Christians then you are saying that the Holy Spirit has not done His job! That is quite an accusation! You are saying that the Holy Spirit is fallible! Because if God can not have a book written exactly how He wants it then He is not God! Therefore, we can rest assured that we have everything we need for our salvation. God is God and He is all powerful and fully capable of putting in our hands the full Truth that has been revealed! **II Peter 1:3**, “His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to **life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”...

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In Matthew 4 it tells us that Jesus was tempted. How did He overcome the temptations? By using the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, every time Satan tempted Jesus, He would fight back using the Word of God by saying, “It is written...” We must do the same. But we can not use the sword, the Word of God if we do not know it!...

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What was once a mystery concerning the church, salvation and how God would unite both Jew and Gentile is no longer a mystery because by the Holy Spirit God’s Will has been revealed! God’s Word is what saves us...

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Again we asked the question...

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We are going to take a look at some different actions and then look at verses that tell us that what the Holy Spirit does is also done through the Word of God...

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Let's review what the Holy Spirit and the Word of God provides....

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So which is it? Is it the Holy Spirit or the Word that provides these actions? The answer is BOTH! At one time, the Spirit worked directly with the Apostles and early Christians to provide all of these actions but He no longer works directly with man to provide these actions but does them through the revealed Word of God! Although there are many things that the Holy Spirit does through the Word there are some things He does without the Word. The Holy Spirit....

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Seals us...He is the earnest of our salvation...and our Intercessor. II Cor. 1:21-22 says...

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II Cor. 5:5 says that God has given the Spirit as a guarantee or some versions say "earnest". And then in Ephesians it tells us...

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God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit. This seal is not some brand put on our forehead or some other outward physical mark, but it is God's means of recognizing those that are His. The Holy Spirit is our "earnest" or down payment of eternal life in heaven. It is God's way of guaranteeing that we will spend eternity with Him in heaven. And there is one other thing that the Holy Spirit does that the Word does not do; He is our intercessor.....

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So, is the Holy Spirit still working to bring about our salvation? Yes, He is! The Word is alive and “sharper than any two edged sword”. (Heb. 4:12) The Holy Spirit is very busy working through the Word and He is also sealing us, an earnest (guarantee) of our salvation and as an intercessor in our prayers. But there is something that the Holy Spirit does not do...

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For example, the day of Pentecost....

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Read and Review these passages.

Day of Pentecost – Even with the Holy Spirit showing all the miraculous manifestations on the day of Pentecost He did not directly speak or act upon the Jews who were there. Instead the Holy Spirit delivered the Gospel message through the Apostle Peter (Acts 2:1-41).”

Ethiopian Eunuch – We also notice that the Holy Spirit did not teach the Ethiopian Eunuch directly, instead He sent Phillip to do the teaching. (Acts 8:26-39)

Conversion of Saul – We learn the same thing with Saul (Apostle Paul), that Jesus or the Holy Spirit did not directly teach Saul and tell him what he needed to do in order to be saved. Instead, Ananias was sent to Saul to tell him what he must suffer for the cause of Christ and what to do to be saved. (Acts 9:1-18 & Acts 22:3-16).

The Holy Spirit has always used man to teach the Gospel to man and show him what he must do to be saved. Another thing we must make sure we understand and that is, we can understand God’s Word....

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This next passage we read earlier when we were talking about the Holy Spirit revealing to Paul the mystery of the Gospel. But, I want to read it again and this time let’s notice what it says about us being able to understand God’s Word, the Gospel...

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Here we see that the Apostle Paul, as directed by the Holy Spirit Himself, is saying that we can understand God’s Word, the Gospel, when we read God’s Word. God’s Word is not mysterious or un-comprehensible, instead it has been written so that we can understand God’s will for us. There is no excuse

for any of us not knowing what God wants us to do. And God's Word, the Gospel, is all that we need....

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God has given us everything that we need to live the Christian life. There is no need for latter day revelations as some religions are based upon today. For as Paul said....

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Do you want to be saved? Do you want to spend eternity with God in Heaven? Then to be saved....

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That is why we must read and study God's revealed Word, so that we can do God's Will and be obedient to His Word and be found faithful on the day of Judgment! In Conclusion....

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The Bible is a result of the work of the Holy Spirit. It did not come through the wisdom of man but from the Holy Spirit. Hebrews tells us that the Holy Spirit used prophets and Jesus Christ to deliver God's message. We are also told in II Peter that the Holy Spirit used holy men to reveal the Word of God...

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And because of the work of the Holy Spirit we have everything that we need for our salvation...

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Therefore, since God, through the Holy Spirit has given us everything we need for salvation, we ask the question....