

How Firm a Foundation, Part 10 -- The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

#1 – The Holy Spirit is a person

The Holy Spirit:

- Can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
- Can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- Can be obeyed (Acts 10:19)
- Intercedes in prayer for followers of Christ (Romans 8:26)
- Can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)

#2 – The Holy Spirit is “God”

The Holy Spirit is:

- Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7)
- Omnipotent (Isaiah 40:13)
- Omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10)
- Sovereign (1 Corinthians 12:11)

The Holy Spirit:

- Took part in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2)
- Took part in the writing of the Bible (1 Peter 1:11)
- Was responsible for the virgin birth (Luke 1:35)

“Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Life-giving One, who is to be glorified equally with the Father and the Son.” Council of Constantinople 381 A.D.

Almost all the work of God going on in the world today is being done by God the Holy Spirit.

#1 – The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts/convinces people that they are sinners and facing God’s judgment.

“He will convict the world regarding sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:8

#2 – The Holy Spirit is the one who regenerates us as followers of Jesus Christ

“... being born again by the (Holy) Spirit.” John 3:6

“God saved us . . . by the regenerating and rebirthing ministry of the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5

#3 – The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us assurance of our salvation

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.” Romans 8:16

#4 – The Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead who indwells every follower of Jesus Christ

“Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and thus you are not your own?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

#5 – The Holy Spirit is the one who illuminates our minds so we can understand the written word of God

“The unbelieving person cannot grasp the truth that comes from God, for it is foolishness to him because it must be spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14

“But we have received the Spirit who is from God, so that we can understand the truths freely given to us by God.” 1 Corinthians 2:12

#6 – The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us spiritual gifts to serve God and the power to use them (1 Corinthians 12: 7-11)

#7 – The Holy Spirit is the one who comforts us in the trials of life (John 14:26, 27)

#8 – The Holy Spirit is the one who restrains evil in the world so the work of God can move forward (2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7)

#9 – The Holy Spirit is God’s down payment on us as followers of Jesus Christ

“After you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is God’s down payment guaranteeing our inheritance. Ephesians 1:13

“We know that He who raised Jesus will raise us also . . . so that our mortality will be swallowed up by eternal life. Now he who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.” 2 Corinthians 4:14, 5:4, 5

So What?

The Holy Spirit is the person who lives the Christian life.

“For our sinful nature desires what is contrary to God’s Spirit and God’s Spirit desires what is contrary to our sinful nature. These two are in conflict with each other, so that we often do not do what we wish.” Galatians 5:17, 18

“For what I want to do I do not do, but what I don’t want to do, I do . . . For I have the desire to do what is right, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do. No -- rather it’s the evil that I do not want to do, that’s what I keep doing . . .” Romans 7:15-24

“I have come that you might have life and that you might have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Most of us as Christians were taught to live the Christian life incorrectly - - by depending on human works instead of the power of the Holy Spirit.

“If we live by the Spirit, we will not gratify/carry out the desires of our sinful nature.” Galatians 5:16

The Bible says that, if we want an abundant Christian life, we must “live by the Spirit.”

The “cause” of a Spirit-filled life is the Holy Spirit!

The Christian life is a supernatural life - - and therefore, the supernatural Holy Spirit must produce it in us.

“I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in this body, I live by faith.” Galatians 2:20

We begin our Christian lives by faith . . . we will end our Christian lives by faith

Faith = depending on God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves

If the Christian life begins by faith and ends by faith, why would God change systems in the middle?

“ . . . I live by faith . . . ” Galatians 2:20

God impressed on me that I need to live with the same dependence on the Holy Spirit here in Washington as I did on the streets of New York City.

The Christian life, lived correctly, works!

The way to live the Christian life is to live it by faith - - by actively depending on the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life through us.