

ONLY THROUGH THE WORD

As we listen to religious folks around us, one hears and will read a great many things. One is the issue regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in conviction, redemption, sanctification and justification of an individual.

Does the Holy Spirit operate to convict one of their sins? – Yes. (John 16:8)

Does the Holy Spirit lead and influence Christians? – Yes. (Romans 8:14)

The question then is how is this accomplished? There are only 2 possibilities: either directly or indirectly.

Some have the Holy Spirit operating directly upon the heart of the sinner, separate and apart from the word of God (Calvinism; Pentecostalism, etc.). Others have the Holy Spirit working “in conjunction with” the word. This position has the Holy Spirit operating in addition to God’s word.

In either case, to hold such views makes the word of God insufficient, yet the Bible affirms it’s all sufficiency (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3), therefore these positions fall short of scripture.

Since the direct operation is unbiblical, then the only position left is that the Holy Spirit operates indirectly, through the Word of Truth. To affirm that the Holy Spirit operates on the heart of mankind only through the word of God is both scriptural and entirely defensible.

In Acts 2, Peter preached to the crowd assembled. At the conclusion of his sermon the Bible says, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart...”

Did the Holy Spirit operate? Yes. How? When were they convicted? – when they heard. Heard what? – The word of God. The word of God is the means by which the Holy Spirit operates. Many other passages could be considered. (Acts 4:4; John 6:44-45, 17:17, 20:30-31; Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23)

The Holy Spirit *never* operates directly on the heart of man apart from revelation, but *always* through and by means of the word of God.

– Jerry D. Sturgill