

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 2:11-13

INTRODUCTION:

A. This area, like every other regarding the Holy Spirit, is fraught with falsehood, misunderstanding, confusion, in our religious world.

B. Let us examine what saith the Scriptures on the matter.

TS: Consider the WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. CREATION

1. **Gen. 1:1-2** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

2. **Psa. 104:30** Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth

B. IN INSPIRING THE PROPHETS

1. The Spirit came upon the prophets of Israel:

a. Seventy elders of Israel - Num. 11:25-29

b. Saul - 1 Sam. 10:6

c. David prophesying - 2 Sam. 23:2

d. The prophets of the nation of Israel - Neh. 9:20, 30

e. The prophets prior to and including Zechariah - Zech. 7:12

2. Heb. 1:1-2

3. 2 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of 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 Ghost

C. IN PRESERVING THE NATION OF ISRAEL - Isaiah 63:10-14 – Spirit led Moses – Kept nation!

D. IN GUIDING THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL

1. Moses - Num. 11:16-17

2. Othniel - Judges 3:10

3. Gideon - Judges 6:34

4. Jephthah - Jud2es 11:29

5. Samson - Judges 13:25; 14:6,19; 16:20

6. David - 1 Sam. 16:13

II. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

*Three areas of work of Holy Spirit apparent in NT.: EMPOWERING, REVELATION & INSPIRATION, and DIRECTING

A. EMPOWERING

1. Jesus promised the apostles miraculous power: **Matt. 10:1-43**
v. 8 Heal sick, cleanse lepers, raise dead, cast out devils.
2. The apostles would be powerful witnesses of Christ:
 - a. **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth
 - b. **Acts 2:1-4**
 - c. **Acts 2:43** ...and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles
3. The new Testament RECORD and PURPOSE
 - a. **Mark 16:17-20**
 - b. **Heb.2:1-4**
 - c. **2 Cor. 12:12** Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, wonders, and mighty deeds

d. These signs were to *confirm, authenticate, prove, verify, validate* the testimony of these men, that they were speaking forth the message of God.
4. These MIRACULOUS SIGNS have ceased:
 - a. Their purpose fulfilled *(ILLUS: scaffolding on bldg)
 - b. We have the completed revelation of God - 1 Cor. 13:8 (Psa. 19:7)
 - c. The way miraculous powers were given is gone:
 - (1) Acts 8:18 Simon saw that thru the laying on of the apostles hands the Holy Ghost was given...
 - (2) Acts 14:1-3
 - (3) Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them...
 - d. No one is demonstrating the signs of an apostle today!
 - (1) Many claim such, but *assertion* is not the same as *demonstration* 7
 - (2) Jesus and apostles' miracles were instant, immediate, genuine -
(2 Cor. 12:12) *Who is doing such today?*
 - e. This is in accordance with God's plan:
 - (1) God created man by miracle, then set in motion His law of physical reproduction for human race
 - (2) Likewise, God began the system of N.T. X'ty by miracle, then set in motion His *spiritual law of reproduction*, the seed of the kingdom being the Word of God (Luke 8:11)
 - (3) Thus, we don't point people today to "faith healers" or "snake handlers," but to the "*engrafted word which is able to save your souls*" (Jms 1:21)

B. REVELATION and INSPIRATION

1. Definitions:
 - a. "Revelation" = "the action of God that enables man to know what he cannot discover through his own senses and abilities"
 - b. "Inspiration" = "the action of God upon man that enables him to inerrantly record this revelation for the good of mankind."

2. What Jesus promised:
 - a. John 14:25-26

 - b. John 16:12-13

 - c. John 17:20-21

3. The promise fulfilled:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

 - b. Ephesians 3:3-5

 - c. 1 Peter 1:10-12

C. DIRECTING {A third work of the Holy spirit is directing all men...through the Word He has given}

1. Men who would lead godly lives must be led by the spirit of God! Rom. 8:14

2. What is the means by which the spirit directs, leads, guides?
 - a. John 17:20-21

 - b. Eph.3:4

 - c. 2Tim.3:16-17

 - d. Heb. 4:12

3. We have the inspired Word of God on the pages of the N.T.
 - a. *ILLUS: Man chopping wood with axe - strength in the man - but the axe is the means whereby the wood is cut - Likewise, the Spirit of God directs - the Word is the means whereby He directs. (Energy inherent in man- transmitted thru axe to wood- axe is means by which energy resident in man applied to wood.)
 - b. We have the Word of God: It is *inspired, revealed, infallible, confirmed, preserved, incorruptible, comprehensible*

CONCLUSION:

- A. We trust that all of us will be content with taking what God's Word says on this, and every, subject - *not the theories, opinions, speculations, imaginations of men.*
- B. Take the Sword of the Spirit, Eph. 6:17