



World Christian Fellowship

www.wcflondon.com
wcflondon@gmail.com

Galatians

Lesson 19 Holy Spirit

Work of the Spirit in Regeneration

Galatians 3:1-3, *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

The Spirit of God gifts believers and how He works through them in the manifestation and operation of those gifts for the building of the body. Holy Spirit was at the very focal point of life in the church and interest in the body of Christ.

Churches in our present time moved away from the Holy Spirit and developed its own theory such as psychological. Most churches have backed off from the Holy Spirit!

Modern day churches have developed a sanctification apart from the Holy Spirit. Apart from the Holy Spirit there is no sanctification at all.

If any theory or system developed and used for sanctification apart from Holy Spirit, then it is a false. This is the lie and deceiving which will lead the church to greater problem in the following areas.

- ✓ sinfulness,
- ✓ immorality, and
- ✓ defection from divine standards.

Only God can sanctify through His Holy Spirit.

Having begun in the Spirit, we must continue in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the agent of salvation. Holy Spirit is what God uses to bring the new birth.

We are born of the Spirit.

We are begotten again by the Spirit.

We are transformed by the Spirit.

Saving work of God through His Holy Spirit can be seen in four ways.

1. Conviction of Sin
2. Conviction to Repentance
3. Preaches the Word of God
4. Regeneration

1. Conviction of Sin

The Holy Spirit begins the saving work by convicting of sin.

John 16:7-11, *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to*

My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Oswald Chambers: *"Conviction of sin is one of the rarest things that ever strikes a man. It is the threshold of an understanding of God. Jesus Christ said that when the Holy Spirit came, He would convict of sin, and when the Holy Spirit rouses the conscience and brings him into the presence of God, it is not his relationship with men that bothers him, but his relationship with God."*

Conviction or feeling guilty about sin is a work of the Spirit of God. It is not a work of man, but it is a work of God. We may be the instrument through which the truth about sin is spoken, but the conviction is the working of the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit will begin to deal with the heart of an unbeliever, and by the time He is finished, that lost, sinful soul will feel exposed and convicted. As the Holy Spirit enables that person to hear the Word of God for the first time, the razor-sharp sword of the Word will penetrate his soul until he feels as if he has been cross-examined on a witness stand. Finally, the court will be adjourned, the verdict announced, and he will know on the inside that he is guilty of sin.

This is precisely what a sinner feels when the Holy Spirit convicts him of sin. It is amazing how long a sinner can live without conviction or godly sorrow for his behaviour.

How long he can be nearly numb to any sense of wrongness regarding his sinful actions?

The Bible says that sin has made unbelievers to be hard-hearted, spiritually blind, and past feeling (**Ephesians 4:18-19**).

But those factors change instantly when the Holy Spirit touches the human soul and exposes its sinful condition.

- Exposed,
- Naked,
- Confronted

that is exactly what a sinner feels when the Holy Spirit wakes him up to his true spiritual condition.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict sinners of their lost condition. The whole world stands guilty before God (**Romans 3:19**), but the lost don't realize they are guilty until that moment when the Holy Spirit reveals it to them.

John 6:44, *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Drawing of a person's heart to Jesus is done through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Conviction isn't shame, or guilt or, fear, or anger. Conviction is the pronouncement that wrong has been done and it is made known.

In a court of law, if someone is convicted, they are charged with the crime and will be punished according to the law, which is just. The Holy Spirit's role in this particular piece is simply to make our wrongdoing known to us. Christ has played the part of sacrificial lamb, has taken our sin upon Him, and has satisfied the justice system.

But there still lies this piece of recognizing our sin and bringing it to the Lord with our repentance for our own hearts.

For a depraved heart need not feel convicted. Its own depravity will deceive itself about the reality of its own sinfulness.

So, the conviction must come from the outside, by the Holy Spirit, who invades the fallen heart and convicts of sin. Thus, the salvation work begins in the unbeliever by the conviction of Holy Spirit.

2. Conviction to Repentance

Conviction is guilt.

Repentance is a desire!

A deep and strong desire to turn from sin that which causes the guilt.

2 Timothy 2:24-25, *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,²⁵ in humility*

correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Paul says that God must grant repentance.

Man, on his own does not repent.

Man deceives himself about the reality of his sin and he loves darkness more than light.

Acts 11:18, *When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”*

God granted to the Gentiles repentance that leads to life. That is a gift of God worked in the heart by the Holy Spirit.

So, the Holy Spirit is the agent of conviction which then leads to repentance.

3. Preaching the Word of God

The Holy Spirit energizes the truth in the mind.

1 Peter 1:12, *To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.*

The Holy Spirit energizes the truth in the mind.

First the Holy Spirit energizes the preacher.

Those who preach the gospel are preached through by the Holy Spirit. The preaching came through the power of and the energy of the Holy Spirit.

The hearers are built up in faith by the same power and the same energy.

1 John 5:7, *For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.*

The Holy Spirit bears witness the truth.

4. Regeneration

The hearing of the Word of God one gets convicted of their sin, conviction leads to repentance and then the regeneration.

John 3:3, 6-8, ³*Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

⁶*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* ⁸*The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

"Born of the Spirit, born of the Spirit,"

"Unless you are born of water and the Spirit you can't enter the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. You must be born again,"

Everyone is born of the Spirit is a believer in Jesus Christ.
So, the Spirit then regenerates.

Titus 3:5, *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

So those four things sum up the work of the Spirit.

- ✓ He convicts of sin,
- ✓ He turns the heart toward repentance, that is turning from sin toward God,
- ✓ the hearing of the gospel message and
- ✓ then regenerates the heart.

Now all of those are supernatural works.

When we know all these works are super natural then it does not matter what kind of strategy or method, we use to bring our message. Its God who does the work.

But what matter is that are you doing the work by the Holy Spirit or not?

It is not the method that can convince a depraved heart.

It is that whether the message is energized by the Spirit of God to speak the truth of the gospel. Since it is only God who can turn the heart and since God uses the truth energized by the Spirit to turn the heart, we are bound then to proclaim the truth.

It is a supernatural work!