

The Holy Spirit's Work in Salvation

Equip Conference Workshop - Central Africa Baptist University

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Salvation - past, present, future

Introduction

Holy Spirit in salvation: It is the Spirit of God who leads a man to believe in the Son of God for righteousness. Salvation is Trinitarian in nature!

- God the Father is the Author of Salvation
- God the Son is the means of Salvation
- God, the Holy Spirit, is the agent who applies Salvation

The Spirit of God testifies to the man of the validity and person of Jesus Christ, convincing him who Jesus is, and what Jesus has done, that it is for him personally.

The Spirit of God witnesses to the heart of the man the validity of the propitiation of Jesus and fills that man's heart with faith to believe it is true for him.

It is the Spirit of God by which we rest in Jesus Christ and continue to rest in Him. This resting in Christ is the way that you know that you have the Spirit of Christ – you are depending upon God with a heart of faith. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are sons of God.

The Holy Spirit is the agent by which salvation is applied to the believer, renewing the heart, indwelling in union with Christ, and empowering for duty.

The Holy Spirit is the one who produces new birth and faith. Salvation is not by feeling or self-effort but by the Spirit's work in applying Christ's finished work.

The Holy Spirit is foundational in salvation; He:

- Convicts (Jn 16:8-11)
- Regenerates (Jn. 3:5-8, Titus 3:5-6, Ezk. 36:26-27)
- Indwells (Rom. 8:9-11, I Cor. 6:19-20, Jn. 14;16-17, Eph. 1:13-14)
- Sanctifies (Gal 5:16-23, 2 Thes 2:13, 1 Pt. 1:2)

I. THE SPIRIT CONVICTS

1. This work of the Spirit precedes faith, reveals sin and the need for grace, awakening the sinner to recognize his own guilt before a holy God.

2. The Spirit's work begins before conversion. Jesus taught that the Spirit would "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8-11). This conviction is necessary because unregenerate humanity is:
 - Spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1)
 - Unable to understand spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14).
3. The Spirit opens blind eyes and draws people to Christ, though this drawing works in conjunction with human response rather than overriding human will in most evangelical understandings (John 6:44, 16:7-11).

John 16:8-11 - "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

Acts 2:37 - After Peter's Spirit-empowered sermon: "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'"

1 Thessalonians 1:5 - "Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction."

1 Corinthians 2:4 - "And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

Application:

- When the Spirit convicts you of sin, do not harden your heart; repent immediately. Don't ignore or silence His voice.
- When He exposes sin, repent quickly, believing that conviction is a grace that leads you to Christ, not condemnation that pushes you away.

II. THE SPIRIT REGENERATES

1. The Holy Spirit gives new spiritual life and is a sovereign act of God.

James 1:18 - "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

Titus 3:5 - "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you

a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."

2. The Spirit accomplishes regeneration - the new birth. Jesus emphasized its absolute necessity:

John 3:5-8 - "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'"

3. Paul describes believers as those who "were washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

4. The Holy Spirit provides the believer with internal assurance of salvation. He causes believers to cry "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6), giving them confidence in their relationship with God.

Romans 8:16 "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

5. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ at the moment of conversion. This is distinguished from the filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), which is a repeated experience of empowerment for service.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

1 Peter 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:23 - "Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God."

Application:

- Reject any teaching that bases salvation on emotional experiences (goosebumps, manifestations, shouting, etc.).
- Because new birth is the Spirit's sovereign act, salvation cannot be earned or bought.

- Trust that salvation rests on Christ's finished work, applied by the Spirit—not on your emotional experiences.
- During seasons of doubt, run to the Word and prayer; the Spirit uses these to strengthen faith.

III. THE SPIRIT INDWELLS

1. At conversion, the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence, marking the believer as his own.

Romans 5:5 - "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Romans 8:11 - "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

1 Corinthians 3:16 - "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

2 Timothy 1:14 - "By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."

2. The Holy Spirit's indwelling is the defining mark of genuine conversion. The believer's body becomes "a temple of the Holy Spirit"

Romans 8:9 - "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

1 Corinthians 6:19 - "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own."

3. The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee to the believer of their future inheritance.

- Believers are "sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13-14), which serves as God's guarantee of the believer's future inheritance.
- This sealing provides security and assurance, marking believers as God's possession until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

Ephesians 1:13-14 - "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 4:30 - "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

4. The Spirit provides internal assurance of salvation.

- He, Himself bears witness that we are God's children

Romans 8:16 - "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

- He causes believers to cry "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6), giving them confidence in their relationship with God.

Galatians 4:6 - "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"

5. The Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers for edifying the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) and empowers them for witness (Acts 1:8).

6. The Spirit guides believers into truth (John 16:13) and helps them in prayer, interceding "for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).

John 14:16-17 - "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

Application:

- Live every day with the reality that you are God's temple and refuse to grieve the Spirit.
- His presence is permanently within you. Let this reality shape your holiness and decision-making.

IV. THE SPIRIT SANCTIFIES

1. The Holy Spirit produces holiness and fruit, enabling ongoing obedience.

- Believers are called to "walk by the Spirit" and not gratify the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Galatians 5:16-18 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

Romans 8:13 - "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

- The Spirit produces His fruit in believers' lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

- This transformation occurs as believers "are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

2 Corinthians 3:18 - "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2. The Spirit is the primary agent of progressive sanctification.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 - "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

1 Peter 1:2 - "According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood."

Romans 15:16 - "To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

Philippians 1:6 - "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 6:11 - "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

Ephesians 5:18 - "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."

Application:

- Walk by the Spirit daily and intentionally put sin to death by His power.
- Sanctification is the Spirit's ongoing work, but it requires your cooperation through obedience, discipline, and surrender. Yield your desires, habits, and attitudes to His transforming power.

CONCLUSION:

Salvation is Trinitarian: planned by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Spirit. Without the Spirit's work, no one can be saved, remain saved, or grow in salvation. His ministry encompasses the entirety of the Christian life from conviction through glorification, making pneumatology inseparable from a robust doctrine of salvation.

God's Spirit brings you to Christ, keeps you in Christ, and makes you like Christ. Your response is to depend, obey, yield, and worship.