

Doctrine - God the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity, including intellect (1Corinthians 2:10-13), emotions (Ephesians 4:30), will (1Corinthians 12:11), eternity (Hebrews 9:14), omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10), omniscience (Isaiah 40:13-14), omnipotence (Romans 15:13), and truthfulness (John 16:13). In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; 1Corinthians 12:4-6; 2Corinthians 13:14; and Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17).

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. We recognize His sovereign activity in the creation (Genesis 1:2), the incarnation (Matthew 1:18), the written revelation (2Peter 1:20-21), and the work of salvation (John 3:5-7).

A unique work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ (John 14:16-17; 15:26) to initiate and complete the building of the body of Christ. His activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ (John 16:7-9; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Romans 8:29; 2Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:22).

The Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ (1Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption (Romans 8:9-11; 2Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13).

The Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible (2Peter 1:19-21). Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 5:18; 1John 2:20,27).

The Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith (John 16:13,14; Acts 1:8; 1Corinthians 12:4-11; 2Corinthians 3:18).

In this respect, God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of believers (1Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 2Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:1-4).