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Section: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q95. In addition to being the seal of our salvation, what is the Holy Spirit’s ongoing ministry to the saved?**

The Holy Spirit enables us to understand God’s word, convicts us of sin, comforts us, prays for us, leads us, gives us spiritual gifts, and causes in us increasing desire and ability to obey God.

* **The Holy Spirit Enables Us to Understand God’s Word**

**1 Corinthians 2:12-13** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

What are the things that are freely given to us? He has given us the Son, justifying righteousness, remission of sins, adoption, and eternal life. He’s given us the gospel and all the riches of sound doctrine!

**1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

**Ephesians 4:11-13** [God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

* **The Holy Spirit Convicts Us of Sin, Gives a Desire and Ability to Obey God, and Leads Us**

**1 Corinthians 2:7-10** But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

**Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The Spirit draws our attention to our sin and uses God’s very words to teach us and lead us.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Romans 8:14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

* **The Holy Spirit Comforts Us and Prays for Us**

**Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

* **The Holy Spirit Gives Us Spiritual Gifts**

1 **Corinthians 12:4-7, 11** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Q96. By what evidence does one show true saving faith?**

By the work of God’s power and grace, the saved imperfectly but increasingly show the fruit of the Spirit, repent from sin, affirm biblical truth, grow in holiness by obeying God’s word, love others, live within Christian community, and abide in Christ by persevering in saving faith.

* **We, the Saved, Imperfectly but Increasingly, Grow in These Things**
* **The Saved Show the Fruit of the Spirit**

**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.

**Romans 6:14** For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

* **The Saved Repent from Sin**

**Matthew 3:8** “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”

* **The Saved Affirm Biblical Truth and Grow in Holiness by Obedience to God’s Word**

**2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

**Matthew 28:19** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

* **The Saved Love Others**

**Matthew 22:39** “… You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**Romans 13:9** For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

* **The Saved Live Within Christian Community**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

* **The Saved Abide in Christ by Persevering in Saving Faith**

**Colossians 1:21-23** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**Romans 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

* **The Saved Do These Things by God’s Power and Grace**

**1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

**Philippians 2:13** … it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.