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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**

**John 14:25-26**

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

**Ephesians 4:17-24**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-13**

* **The Holy Spirit Convicts Us of Sin**

**CONVICT,** verb transitive [Latin, to vanquish or subdue.]

To convince of sin; to prove or determine to be guilty, as by the conscience.

**John 16:8a** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin…

**2 Peter 1:21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

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

**John 16:7** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you…

"Helper," here, is translated from the root term paraklētos. This can also be translated as a "comforter," or "advocate." This is the same term John will use later to describe Jesus in 1 John 2:1. That connection has meaning—Jesus will later point out that He is leaving behind His earthly ministry specifically so the Holy Spirit can act (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit, in a sense, does from the inside what Christ would do from the outside: teach, convict, remind, and guide.

**Romans 8:15-16**

**Romans 8:26**

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

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11**

It is foundational and crucial that we see that these gifts are for the common good. The gifts are given to the saints but profit all. These gifts are maintained and granted by the Spirit. Such spiritual gifts can be seen as, but not limited to, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, mercy, etc.

* **The Holy Spirit Gives a Desire and Ability to Obey God**
* **The Holy Spirit Leads Us**
1. Delighting in
2. Longing, yearning, craving, or lusting for
3. Good pleasure, good purpose or good will
4. The will in action
5. To seek after
6. As prayer

How does the Holy Spirit Lead us?

1. Conviction of sin
2. Teaches us the word of truth
3. Helps us in prayer
4. Changes our desires

**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.

1. We, the saved, imperfectly but increasingly, grow in these things.
2. The saved show the fruit of the Spirit.
3. The saved repent from sin.
4. The saved affirm biblical truth and grow in holiness by obedience to God’s word.
5. The saved love others.
6. The saved live within Christian community.
7. The saved abide in Christ by persevering in saving faith.
8. The saved do these things by God’s power and grace.
* **We, the Saved, Imperfectly but Increasingly, Grow in These Things**

There will be various results and experiences for all of God’s people in display of the fruits of the Spirit, repentance, affirmation of biblical truths, holiness, obedience, brotherly love, etc. Why is that? Because we’re not saved unto immediate perfection. Rather, we are saved unto a life of continual repentance and transformation by the Spirit of God.

* **The Saved Show the Fruit of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**John Owen:** “The best duties of unbelievers are but white lies.”

A non-believer may show kindness, joy, peace and patience. But the kindness that the non-believer displays is only a tool for them to get what they want. They may want accolades, prestige, sympathy, etc. They live in accord with their sinful (from birth) nature.

The Christian may indeed struggle with persistent fleshly desires, *but* the flesh has no dominion over us. Thus, we may employ love, joy, peace and patience for the same sinful reasons as the non-believer, but the difference is that if we’re truly believers we will, over time, increasingly act in ways that show we love Christ, not the flesh. Indeed, as we are conformed to the image of Christ, we righteously exhibit more and more fruit of the Spirit.

* **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**

* **The Saved Love Others**

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

**Romans 13:9**

Christians, we are not saved by our adherence to the law, but we show our esteem for God by obedience to the fullness of His moral law.

The Christian life can be summed up by our love for God being expressed in loving others. We share the gospel out of a desire that peoples everywhere would repent and turn to Christ for salvation.

* **The Saved Live Within Christian Community**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

Gather with the church you are committed to, when that church gathers. You will be blessed by this commitment, as will others. You may not see all the ways God is working in this, but He is. Trust Him, believe His word.

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

**Colossians 1:21-23**

**Romans 8:29**

**1 John 2:19**

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

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

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