

Lead 360 - Christian Theology

Session III, Part II: Belief in the Holy Spirit

I. Introduction

1. To think of the Holy Spirit as only related to the individual Christian shortchanges the comprehensive, Kingdom of God perspective of the Spirit's activity.
2. The Holy Spirit is the "empowering presence" of God Himself. His purpose is to accomplish His Kingdom's work.
3. The 20th century gave much attention to the Holy Spirit, notably three key movements:
 - (1) Origin of Pentecostal movement – now the largest Protestant groupings in world.
 - (2) Charismatic movement with focus on the Holy Spirit in mainline churches.
 - (3) The controversial "signs and wonders" movement with John Wimber and Peter Wagner.

II. Identity of the Holy Spirit

1. OT: He is the Spirit of God, not a "separate" person of the Godhead, though that distinction is implicitly there.
 - (1) The power source of creation and God's providence
 - (2) Calls and endows special individual leaders with God's wisdom and power.
 - (3) Promise that the Spirit will come in permanent power and presence.
2. NT: Close affinity between Jesus and the Spirit: his conception, baptism, ministry.
 - (1) Key teaching passage is John 14-16. Jesus explains relationship of the Spirit to Jesus' continuing ministry beyond His ascension.
 - (2) Pentecost: is where the Holy Spirit gets His "first" name; He is fully revealed as the Person of the Holy Spirit in the Trinity. He is the "power source" of the Kingdom of God movement in history and will bring God's purposes to fruition in the end. The Christian Church is born at Pentecost.

III. Mission (Work) of the Holy Spirit

1. Spirit of God in OT: power of creation and God's providence
2. H.S.'s work in salvation: "salvation" is God's Kingdom work involving the saving work of Christ, the place of the church, and God's final redemptive purposes.
3. Christian life: is a part of this larger picture of God's salvation as applied to the individual.
 - (1) H.S.: calls, convicts, illumines and enables individuals to receive personal salvation.
 - (2) H.S.: gifts (enables) all Christians to be engaged in personal Christian ministries.
 - (3) H.S. enables Christians to "abide in Christ" (persevere) as they grow in spiritual maturity.
 - (4) H.S.: makes conversion and sanctification (growing in relationship to Christ) a one beginning and continuing work of God's grace in life of the Christian believer.
 - (5) H.S.: will accomplish the final "glorification" or final purification of each Christian believer at Christ's return.
4. H.S. produced the Bible: He selected and enabled individuals to write down God's revelation in a totally trustworthy written record.
 - (1) In the 4th century A.D., church leaders *recognized* out of the many books used in the early church those which had wide usage, apostolic authorship or influence and gave clear evidence of the inspiration of the H.S. – this is the Protestant canonical Bible of 66 books.
 - (2) The various views of inerrancy seek to emphasize the importance of the utter reliability of the Bible as the only real source of telling us how to saved and live as being saved (2 Timothy 3:14-17).