

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 1 – “Of the Holy Scriptures”, Message # 21 –
“He Will Take of Mine”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on November 17th, 2019.**

Chapter 1, Paragraph 5 – We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church of God to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, and the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man’s salvation, and many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfections thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet notwithstanding, our h) full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

h) John 16: 13-14 1st Corinthians 2: 10-12 1st John 2: 20,27

Let me give to you 3 Observations on the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

1st – Our minds must be opened to comprehend the Scriptures by God Himself.

We cannot believe the Scripture to be the word of God, we cannot believe any particular divine truth which we find in the Scripture, without the effectual inward work of the Holy Spirit’s illuminating our minds the fact that this is His word and His word is true. It is only when the Holy Spirit illumines our minds, that we can receive the testimony of the Scriptural facts with the full confidence that they are God’s very word, because His authority is in them. It is because of the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts, that we are thereby convinced to believe them and to receive them and to rest our faith upon them. By the working of the Spirit in granting illumination on them, opening our minds to them, we become convinced that it is our duty to believe them. And we joyfully receive them as from the hand of God Himself.

2nd – The Holy Spirit takes the things of Christ, and He makes them known to us.

John 16: 5-15 – “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’” “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.” “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; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” “All things that the Father has are Mine.” “Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

He will take of Mine seems to mean that the Holy Spirit’s ministry to the apostles first, would be to take all the truth concerning Christ and His ministry, Christ and His glory, Christ and His faithfulness to the Father, Christ in His teaching, His life, His death, and resurrection, and enable

them to by His inspiration to write the Scriptures which we, all the saints of this entire Church age would draw upon. These vital spiritual truths and doctrines would become spiritual realities in our lives as we would abide in them. But let us understand that there is a progression in our personally learning the truth by the Holy Spirit's revealing it to us, and there is also a progression in the Church of Jesus Christ as a whole; learning from the Spirit revealing truth to them. This is what has overturned error and promoted the advance of Christ's cause and kingdom to take place over many generations of Church history. This progression will eventually find its full fruition in the Latter Day glory of the Church or the Millennium which is yet to come when the Spirit's light will be given in a greater sense yet, to understand the Scriptures.

3rd – We must understand that in our Sanctification, there is a progressive work of light being shined into our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 3: 18 – “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”

I would suggest to you that this light shining ever brighter is the light of the Holy Spirit, showing us in relation to the Scriptures how we can grow up into Christ and how we may become mature if we will respond to the truth of the Scriptures which the Holy Spirit has shined His glorious light upon. This give us a responsibility. Are we acting upon the light that is given to us, so as to be transformed in this wonderful way from one degree of glory to another?

Now, with this mind, let's go back, once again, and look at Luke 24 again.

Luke 24: 44-49 – “Then Jesus said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ “And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’ “And you are witnesses of these things.” “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Now, as we read these words and think about them, we see what I would term a “mustness” in relation to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Jesus. And this is why Jesus had to open their understanding spiritually, so that they would comprehend the Scriptures. He did this at that time, before Pentecost. But in doing this what was He particularly opening their minds to understand? He was opening their minds to spiritually see the meaning of what was written. He was showing them that it was necessary that He suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. And so, now at this point, He was saying to them that it was necessary in accordance with God's eternal plans that they, the apostles would go out to fulfill the Great Commission; that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, he said to them. And He said that they were witnesses of these things, concerning Him, and concerning them. He says that He was going to send the Promise of His Father upon them; but that they were to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with the power from on high; that is, the power of the Holy Spirit which would enable them to suffer with Him and to fulfill the purpose of preaching the gospel – Repentance and remission of sins.

So, was the Holy Spirit given to the whole Church on the Day of Pentecost, and not just to the apostles? Most definitely! And, since Christ had ascended to heaven to sit in session at the Father's right hand, He has sent the Spirit to us, as well, to do for us what He first did for them. The Spirit must open our understanding, as well, to comprehend the Scriptures. We have the Spirit, but that does not mean that we necessarily comprehend everything that we are reading in the Scriptures. Well, what doctrines of the Scripture would you think we might not be understanding, as a Christian, as well as we should? I think that it is most often the case that the doctrines which are not understood are those truths which are called mysteries by our Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul. These "mysteries" of Scripture sometimes are not really understood as they should be, without the Holy Spirit's Divine Light and Power revealing them to us.

Not all Christians have the eyes of their understanding enlightened in the same exact way. Not all Christians, therefore, are seeing the Scriptures with equal clarity. They all have the same Bible, the same Scriptures. But Truth is something that the Lord reveals to you by the Holy Spirit. What then can we do to make progress in understanding the Scriptures? Well there are several things that we can do. We can regularly read them and abide in them. We can ask ourselves whether we are foolish and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken, as Jesus said to the two on the road to Emmaus. And we can pray for ourselves, and we can pray for each other, to come to a better understanding of the Scriptures, and then speak with each other about the Bible truths that we are learning, as the Lord enables us.