

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 2 – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

LESSON 62 – THE TRINITY: THE HOLY SPIRIT – INSPIRATION AND ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE
BIBLICAL DOCTRINE (JOHN MACARTHUR), PGS. 387-396
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (WAYNE GRUDEM), PGS. 640-653

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Revelation and Inspiration

- ▶ The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13; 1 John 4:6; 5:7) and has been actively engaged in every aspect of Mediating God's Word to us.
- ▶ Jesus taught the disciples that the Spirit was the "Paraclete," the Divine friend who would do whatever was necessary to forward the best interests of God through the apostles. In Christ's absence, the Spirit come alongside the apostles to equip them and exhort them to continue teaching what He had taught them (John 14:16, 26).
- ▶ The term Paraclete is best and most often translated as "Helper." In John's Gospel, every instance of the use of the term is within the immediate context of the Spirit helping the disciples to know, remember, and preach the truth about Christ.

Revelation and Inspiration

- ▶ The term “revelation” generally refers to the divine disclosure of what was previously unknowable to humans (1 Cor. 2:10-11).
- ▶ Inspiration refers only to the written Word of God, whereby the Holy Spirit protects God’s revelation through human writers from error in order to provide a completely true and trustworthy writing, down to the very words used (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- ▶ Peter makes it clear that the prophecy of Scripture was made not by an act of human will, but rather by men who were directed by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:20-21 – “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”)
- ▶ Listen to the Lesson on the Inspiration of Scripture here:
<https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=11191806215638>

Revelation and Inspiration

- ▶ John was “in the Spirit” when he received inspired revelation from the “Seven Spirits” (Rev. 1:4), which refers to the Spirit’s fullness (see Rev. 4:5; 5:6).
- ▶ This role of the Spirit in revelation is confirmed from many who spoke on behalf of God:
- ▶ Prophets (Neh. 9:20, 30; Isa. 63:11, 14; Hag. 2:5), David (2 Sam. 23:2), Ezekiel (3:24, 27), Micah (3:8), Zechariah (7:12), Simeon (Luke 2:26), Disciples (Matt. 10:20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12), Agabus (Acts 11:28), Paul (1 Cor. 2:10), and Peter (1 Pet. 1:10-12).

Revelation and Inspiration

- ▶ At times the Biblical writers speak specifically of Scriptural texts that were both revealed and inspired by the Holy Spirit:
- ▶ Matt. 22:43; Mark 12:36; citing Psa. 110:1
- ▶ Acts 1:16, 20, citing Psa. 41:9; 69:25; 109:8
- ▶ Acts 4:25-26, citing Psa. 2:1-2
- ▶ 1 Tim. 4:1, citing Matt. 7:15; 24:24
- ▶ Hebrews 3:7-11, citing Psa. 95:7-11
- ▶ Hebrews 9:1-8, citing Exodus 25-26
- ▶ Hebrews 10:15-17, citing Jer. 31:33-34
- ▶ Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13, as general examples

Illumination and Instruction

- ▶ Illumination can refer to one's salvation (2 Cor. 4:4, 6) as we come with the help of the Holy Spirit to understand and obey the Gospel.
- ▶ Illumination also refers to a believer's need for greater understanding of or enlightenment regarding the Bible.
- ▶ "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." (Psa. 119:18).
- ▶ "The entrance [unfolding] of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psa. 119:130)

Illumination and Instruction

- ▶ Nehemiah tells us “You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them.” (Neh. 9:20).
- ▶ Paul wrote, “We impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit.” (1 Cor. 2:13).
- ▶ John encourages us, “You have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything...” (1 John 2:27; see also 1 Cor. 2:14-16).
- ▶ Paul prayed for the Ephesians that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know...” (Eph. 1:17-18).
- ▶ Psalm 119, more than any other chapter in Scripture, tells us the need for divine instruction for understanding the Word of the Lord.

Illumination and Instruction

- ▶ There are things illumination cannot do:
- ▶ Illumination does not function outside God's Word (Psa. 119:18; Luke 24:45).
- ▶ Illumination does not guarantee that every Christian will agree doctrinally, because the human element can cause false doctrine (Gal. 2:11-21).
- ▶ Illumination does not mean that everything about God is knowable (Deut. 29:29).
- ▶ Illumination is not a substitute for dedicated, personal Bible study (2 Tim. 2:15).
- ▶ Illumination is not a one-time experience (2 Tim. 2:15).

Illumination and Instruction

- ▶ The Holy Spirit also bears witness to the believer that Scripture is truthful and trustworthy. At least three New Testament texts speak to this aspect of the Spirit's ministry:
- ▶ “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32).
- ▶ “But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us” (Hebrews 10:15).
- ▶ “This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.” (1 John 5:6).

Illumination and Instruction

- ▶ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:15-18).
- ▶ The Spirit is involved in the delivery and teaching aspects of Scripture (1 Cor. 2:4-5; 1 Thess. 1:5), but He also empowers believers in their obedience to the Word of God.
- ▶ The similar outcomes from letting the Word of Christ dwell in a believer (Col. 3:16-17) and from letting the Holy Spirit control the believer’s life (Eph. 5:18-20) illustrate that the Holy Spirit is equally involved in energizing the will of believers in obeying Scripture.

Arming Believers for Spiritual War

- ▶ The Spirit provides Christians with and helps them employ spiritual weapons in battle.
- ▶ A vital part of the Armor is “the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph. 6:7).
- ▶ Spiritual warfare involves tearing down false beliefs, mental and emotional strongholds, and any ideas that are contrary to the Word of God.
- ▶ 2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Next Week

- ▶ Lesson 63. The Doctrine of the Trinity:
The Holy Spirit – Ministry to Christ