

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Scripture

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Henry Mahan Sermons

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He is more than a principle. He is a person. He is a person in the godhead, equal with the Father and equal with the Son. Now that is certain.

Now let's take the Bible, first of all and go to Luke chapter three. In the third chapter of Luke, beginning with verse 21 we are told that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus Christ in a bodily shape. He came down from heaven upon Christ the Lord.

When our Lord was baptized the Father spoke from heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." And verse 22 of Luke chapter three says, "And the Holy Ghost," not an influence, not a principle, but a person, "descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him and a voice came from heaven which said, 'Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.'"

The Holy Spirit descended upon Christ Jesus our Lord in a bodily sense.

And then without turning when our Lord went back to glory he said to his disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Baptism is to be administered in the name of the Holy Spirit together with the Father and with the Son, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

And then our Lord said—and you needn't turn to this—I will just quote these because you are familiar with these Scriptures, our Lord said in Mark chapter three verse 29, "Whosoever speaketh a word against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven him in this world nor in the world to come. Whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit is in danger of everlasting damnation."

He is a person.

Now I do want you to turn to Acts the eighth chapter and here is an illustration of the Holy Spirit himself commanding disciples to act, to do certain things, the Holy Spirit speaking to the disciples in Acts chapter eight verse 29.

Philip was down in Samaria in a meeting, in a revival preaching the gospel and the Holy Spirit said to Philip, verse 29, Acts chapter eight, “Philip, the Holy Spirit said unto ‘Philip, go near and join thyself to this chariot.’ And Philip ran thither to him and heard him read the prophet Isaiah. The Holy Spirit said, ‘Go join yourself to that chariot.’”

And then we read in verse 39, “And after he baptized the eunuch, when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord called away Philip and the Eunuch saw him no more.”

Now turn to Acts 13. What I am showing you in these verses is the Holy Spirit is a person equal with the Father and with the Son. He is not just an influence. He is not just a principle. He is a person.

In Acts 13 verse two. “And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, ‘Separate me Barabbas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them’”

Here is the Holy Spirit instructing the disciples where to go, to whom they are to preach and who are they to send as missionaries with the gospel evangelism.

And then in John chapter 14... now turn over there if you will. The Lord Jesus Christ just before going to the cross is instructing his disciples. And he tells them in John 14 verse 26 that when he goes away, the Holy Spirit will come. The Holy Spirit will be their comforter. And also he is telling them the Holy Spirit will be their teacher.

John 14:26. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he...” Not it, he.

I don’t like to here people refer to the Holy Spirit as it, because he is a person.

“He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Now turn just a page to John 16 verse 13. Christ speaking again to his disciples and he says in John 16:13, “Howbeit, when he the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.”

He is our teacher. And then Paul wrote in Romans chapter eight verse 26 he is our intercessor. He prays through us.

“We know not the things for which we should pray except the Holy Spirit should teach us and instruct us.”

And then he is said in the Word of God to have a mind of his own, a will of his own and power. Those Scriptures are all...

Well, let's turn to Romans chapter eight verse 27. Let me show you this. Romans eight verse 27. The Holy Spirit has a mind. A person, a real person has a mind, a will and has ability or power.

And he says here, verse 27 of Romans eight, "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit; because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

The Holy Spirit has a mind.

Turn to Romans 15 verse 13. The Holy Spirit has power. Romans 15:13 says, "The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost."

And then 1 Corinthians 12 says he divides gifts severally as he will.

Now those Scriptures are sufficient to show us that the Holy Spirit is not just an influence. He is not just a principle. He is a person, coequal with the Father and with the Son. He descended upon Christ in a bodily form. We are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To speak a word against the Holy Spirit is to be in danger of eternal damnation. He commanded the disciples where to go, with whom to speak and what to preach. He is our teacher. Christ said, "He will be your teacher. He will take the things that I have said and show them to you. He will pray through us."

The Holy Spirit will reveal to us the things for which we should pray.

Now then the Bible assigns a prominent place to the Holy Spirit, a very prominent place. When our Lord was conceived in the womb of the virgin... let's turn to Luke chapter one. The angel appeared and said this in Luke one verse 35.

The angel of the Lord said to Mary, now watch this in Luke 1:35.

"The angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.'"

It was the Holy Spirit that gave life to the dead womb of Mary. It was the Holy Spirit who conceived and quickened the child Jesus in the womb of Mary. The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee.

And in the ministry of our Lord the Scripture tells us the Holy Spirit came upon Christ. Turn to Luke four.

In the fourth chapter of Luke verse one, “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”

God giveth not the Spirit by measure to Christ.

And then Acts chapter 10. Now this is important here. In the 10th chapter of Acts, verse 38 this is an important Scripture. What I am saying is this. The Holy Spirit had a prominent place in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil for God was with him. God was God the Holy Spirit.

The sacrifice of our Lord says he offered himself through the eternal Spirit. The resurrection of our Lord.

Turn to 1 Peter three. The Holy Spirit had a prominent part in the resurrection of Christ. In 1 Peter three verse 18. Listen to this verse.

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit,” capital S. That is the Holy Spirit.

And then the ministry of the apostles. Our Lord told his disciples, “You remain in Jerusalem till you be endued with power. After the Holy Ghost comes upon you, then you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”

And then this Bible, turn to 2 Peter one. The very Bible that we are reading right now was written by men who were taught and led and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In 2 Peter one verse 21, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man.”

That is not how the Bible was written, man just sitting down writing what they wanted to. “But holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

So there you have the Bible giving a prominent place to the Holy Spirit in the incarnation of Christ, in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the very sacrifice of Christ on the cross who offered himself as a sacrifice through the eternal Spirit, the Spirit by whom Christ was raised, the ministry of the apostles. They stayed in Jerusalem till the Holy Spirit came upon them. Then they went out and preached. The written Word of God was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Now then whatever spiritual life and whatever spiritual gifts that you have and that I have

is because of the Holy Spirit. Whatever spiritual life we have, whatever spiritual gifts, whatever spiritual knowledge we have is brought to us by the Holy Spirit.

Let me just quote these verses. You are familiar with these especially. The Scripture says, "You hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins."

Who does the quickening of the dead sinner?

Well, turn to John six verse 63 and let our Lord tell us. Who is it that comes to the sinner dead in trespasses and sins and gives him life? Who is it that comes to the sinner in his spiritual grace, in his deadness and quickens him to a response to the Word of God?

In John six verse 63, listen.

"It is the Spirit that quickeneth. The flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life."

It is the Holy Spirit. I know that is a small s there and it is referring to the spirit in the King James translation here. But that is the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that gives life, because by the Holy Spirit we are born again. Christ said, "That which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit."

"Regeneration," Paul wrote in Titus, "of the Holy Spirit."

Turn to John 16. We are convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit. In John the 16th chapter listen to this. Verse nine and 10, John 16 verse nine, verse eight.

"And when he is come, and when he is come," speaking of the Holy Spirit, "he will reprove or convince the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment. Of sin because they believed not on me, of righteousness because I go to my Father and you see me no more, of judgment because the prince of this world is judged."

The work of convincing men of sin is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that convinces us of sin. By the Holy Spirit we are sealed, Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. In Ephesians chapter four verse 30 listen to this.

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed or kept until the day of redemption."

It is the Holy Spirit that gives us assurance.

Now this I want you to read. Turn to Romans eight. I am going to give you time to turn to. Romans eight verse 15. It is the Holy Spirit that quickens us, makes us alive. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us life. We are born of the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who convinces us of sin. It is the Holy Spirit by whom we are sealed and kept for the day of redemption.

Now this. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us assurance, Romans chapter eight verse 15. Listen.

Verse 14. Romans 8:14.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, the Hebrew word of Father, Father, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

Where do we get this assurance? The Holy Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God. By the Holy Spirit we are sanctified and by the Holy Spirit we bear fruit.

Turn to Romans five, Romans five verse five.

By the Holy Spirit we bear fruit. Romans five verse five.

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, meekness, longsuffering, patience.” These things are the fruit of the Spirit.

So it is by the Holy Spirit that the believer is quickened, that he is born again, that he is convinced of sin, that he is sealed and kept of the day of redemption, that he has assurance, that he is sanctified and it is by the Holy Spirit that we bear any fruit.

Now Bishop J C Ryle said this and I want you to listen carefully to it.

“My friends, to give the Holy Spirit divine worship if he be not God is idolatry. But to withhold from him divine worship if he is God is a great sin. I entreat every believer to make sure that he holds a sound doctrine concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. Give the Holy Spirit the honor that is due unto him. Give him the place that the Bible assigns to him. Settle in your mind the work of the blessed trinity and don't leave out the Holy Spirit. The election of the Father and the atoning blood of the Son are the foundation stones of our faith. But the election of the Father and the atoning blood of the Son must never be separated from the work of the Holy Spirit. It is true the Father purposes. It is true the Son purchases, but it is also true the Holy Spirit applies the work always together in the Scripture, never separated. So they must not be separated in our thinking. Give him the honor due unto his name.”

Now here is the second point that I want to bring out briefly, the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit. Now the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in quickening us in

regenerating us, in convincing us of sin teaching us, this arises from the total corruption of our human nature. That is the reason his work is necessary, because we are dead in sins, because we are dead in our trespasses. The eyes of our understanding are blind. Our wills, our affections, our imaginations.

God said, "Every imagination of man's heart is evil continually." God says that we are enemies in our natural minds. The natural mind is enmity against God. We have neither faith, fear, love nor holiness and if left to ourselves we would never be saved. Therefore the Holy Spirit must do this work in us. He must do this work for us.

For, listen to these three things. Without the Holy Spirit no man will turn to God. All of the preaching in the world, all of the argument, all of the logic, all of the eloquence in the world will not open blind eyes. All of the preaching in the world will not unstop deaf ears. The Spirit must give life. The Spirit must regenerate. The Spirit must convict. The Spirit must reveal Christ.

Take away the Holy Spirit from the gospel and it becomes dead letter. In the power of the Holy Spirit resteth any man's ability to know God.

Turn to 2 Corinthians chapter four. I want you to look at this Scripture here. It is familiar to you, I know, but let's look at it again.

Without the Holy Spirit no man turns to God. In 2 Corinthians four and verse three, "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost in whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God should shine unto them. But we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord and ourselves your servant for Jesus' sake. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus."

That is how it came. And that is the only way it can come to any man.

Barnard used to quote one old preacher. He said he read a book one time by this preacher and this statement stuck with him throughout his entire ministry and he used it nearly every time he preached.

If my voice is the only voice you hear, nothing of any eternal value or consequence will take place. You have got to hear him speak who speaks in power. You have got to hear him speak who speaks through his Word. You have to hear him speak who by speaking gives life and that his the Holy Ghost. No man will turn to God without the Holy Spirit.

Then, secondly, without the Holy Spirit we have no part in Christ. Now let me read two verses. First of all, Romans eight verse nine. Turn over there if you will, Romans eight verse nine.

“But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

If a man does not have the Holy Spirit he does not have Christ. If a man does not have the Holy Spirit, he does not have God. If a man does not have the Holy Spirit, he does not have life.

“If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Now listen to this verse. In 1 John three verse 24, “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him and he in him and hereby we know that he abideth in us by the Spirit which he hath given unto us.”

He who has not the Spirit of God has not Christ. Everybody who has Christ has the Holy Spirit. Everybody who has salvation has the Holy Spirit. And if we don't have the Holy Spirit we have no part of Christ.

Now watch the third thing, the necessity of the Holy Spirit's work.

Without the Holy Spirit no man will turn to God. Without the Holy Spirit we have no part in Christ. If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is not his.

Thirdly, without the Holy Spirit we have no taste for heaven.

I read this one time not long ago and marked it. Heaven is a holy place and for this holy place we are by nature totally unfit. We have no capacity for enjoying the happiness of heaven, not in the flesh. We have no eyes for the beauty and the glories of heaven. We have no taste for the holiness and purity of heaven. We have no ears for the music of heaven. We have no heart for the glory which is Christ's alone.

This is what the author is saying when he writes, “Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.”

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to prepare us for heaven, to give us a taste for his holiness, to give us eyes for its beauty, to give us a capacity for enjoying its happinesses, to give us an ear to rejoice in its music and a heart that can enter into its praises. He alone can change our worldly hearts and give us affection for glory. He alone can give us a love for righteousness and a hatred for sin. He alone can bring our minds into harmony with God's holiness and God's justice so that we can say, “Amen,” to God's judgments.

The Holy Spirit alone can give us a real unity with God's will, God's glory and God's purpose. And without the preparation that takes place in the heart by the power of the Holy Spirit, an unregenerate man would be miserable in heaven. He would be miserable in heaven.

And then the third thing and this will be interesting, I think. It is to me.

The marks and evidences of the Holy Spirit's presence in a man's heart. Now I showed you from the Scripture the prominent place given to the Holy Spirit in the life of Christ, his disciples, every believer. I tried to show you from the Scripture the necessity, the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit's work because of our inabilities and because of our sinfulness.

Let me show you now the marks and evidences of the Holy Spirit's presence. Do I have the Holy Spirit? Well, it is decided if I don't I am not saved. If I don't have the Holy Spirit I don't belong to Christ. If I don't have the Holy Spirit I would be totally unfit for God's presence and God's kingdom.

But there are in the Scriptures some marks and evidences of the Holy Spirit's presence in a man's life, in a man's heart. The presence of the Holy Spirit in a man's heart can be known by his effects, by the effects that he produces, by the fruit that he produces.

In other words, you come to a tree and you know there is life in that tree because of the leaves of the tree or the fruit on the tree. There is life because there are leaves and fruit.

You see a car going down the street and you know that the driver in that car by the direction that it goes. Is it going all over the road and down the hills and through the ditches you would say, "Well, there is no driver in that car. He has no control over the car." But it takes a path. It turns at a certain corner and turns it up. There is a driver in that car and that car is doing what that driver wills.

Just so, you know that the Holy Spirit is present in a man's life by the influence that he has on that man's thoughts, attitude, beliefs or opinions, his affections and his deeds and his life in general.

Now then let's turn to 1 John one verse 10. The first evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence in a man's life is this. Where the Holy Spirit is, there will be a sincere and deep conviction of sin.

Now before I read 1 John listen to this. Our Lord said when the Holy Spirit is come he will do what? He will convict you of sin. And 1 John 1:10 says, "If we say we have not sinned we make him a liar and his Word is not in us."

If his Word is not in us, his Spirit is not in us. If his Word is not in us, his Son is not in us. If his Word is not in us, his grace is not in us. So when you find a person denying the existence of sin and denying his own sin, you will find a man who has not the Holy Spirit.

1 John 1:8 says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

Well, if the truth is not in us, the Holy Ghost is not in us, because he is the spirit of truth. And I don't care where you find a person. A person may say that I have been saved and sanctified and set apart and filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and I never sin.

Put it down right then he has not the Holy Spirit, because the very first thing the Holy Spirit does is convince us of sin and keeps on convincing us of sin. And if we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. And the Word of God is not in us if we say we have no sin.

All right, secondly. Where the Holy Ghost is there will be a sincere faith in Christ, in his person, in his work. Now you are right there at 1 John. Just turn on over, 1 John four verse one through three.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God. Every Spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. But every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of antichrist whereof you have heard that it should come and even now already is it in the world.”

I know I quote brother Rolf Barnard a lot, but he meant a lot to me. I learned a lot from him. We were very close, evidenced by the fact that when he died his wife asked me to preach his funeral and I am sure that was his request.

But one time some ministers started playing with the gifts and baptism of the Holy Ghost and I was present when they came to talk to brother Barnard about it about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Are they for our day and so forth and so on? We have the message of Paul. We don't have the power of Paul.

I heard him say this. He said, “Boys, I have no objections to God bringing again into operation the gifts of the Holy Spirit, whether it be tongues or healing or prophecies, interpretations or whatever it might be.” But he said, “I have been all over this country and I have sat and listened to these divine healers, second work of grace people, people who speak in tongues and claim these gifts.” But he said, “This is what I am looking for. When I find one of those people who knows and is preaching the gospel of substitution, when I find one of these people who claims these gifts of the Holy Spirit and he in his message is exalting the Lord Jesus Christ then I will listen to him on the Holy Spirit.” But he said, “I am not going to listen to anybody talk about the Holy Spirit who doesn't know anything about the Lord Jesus Christ. I am not going to listen to anybody talk about the Holy Spirit who doesn't know who Christ is and why Christ came to this earth and why Christ died on the cross and what he did when he died and where he is now, because every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.”

And he said, again, turn with me again to John chapter 16. And this is something that I want you to look at it. And Rolf made this very plain in this conversation. In John 16 verse 13, now this is very important. You listen to it carefully, because this is the religion that is sweeping the world today, this charismatic second work of grace and baptism of the Holy Ghost and tongues and all of these gifts are sweeping the country, sweeping the world. It may be that this will be the religion of the last days. I don't know. But people are talking everywhere about the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost.

But now you look at John 16. Christ said in John 16:13, "Howbeit when he the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth for he shall not speak of himself. But whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak. He will show you things to come. He shall glorify me. He shall receive of mine and show it to you. He shall not speak of himself. He shall not glorify himself."

The mission and the work of the Holy Spirit is to make Christ known and to glorify Christ. And when you hear a preacher or a teacher or an evangelist or a religious person making much of the Holy Spirit and little of the Lord Jesus Christ, you put it down. That is not the Spirit of Christ. That is the spirit of antichrist. That is the spirit of evil. That is not the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit does not speak of himself. He glorifies Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who wrote this work and when men deny God's sovereignty, they are not filled with the Spirit because the Holy Spirit wrote God is sovereign. When men deny God's electing grace and God's eternal purposes, they are not filled with the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit wrote this Word which says, thank God, beloved, for you knowing your election of God thought the sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth.

When a man denies Christ's effectual redemption he is not filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wrote that Jesus ransomed us by his blood, perfected forever them that are sanctified.

When a man denies the word of God he is not speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So Rolf said, "When I find a man who is standing in the pulpit exalting the Lord Jesus Christ and calling sinners to Christ, and that man wants to talk to me about the gifts of the Spirit, I will talk to him."

Where the Holy Spirit is there will be a sincere conviction of sin and there will be a sincere faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I am telling you this, too. And D B Caldwell said this. He is a wise old man. He said, "Any experience, whatever you call it, that eclipses salvation is not of God. The greatest thing in the world that can happen to a man is not to be speak in tongues, is not to receive a second work of grace, the greatest thing that can happen to a man is to come to know Christ. And anything better than that is not of God. And anything that eclipses that is not of God.

I hear people say, “Well, you are saved, but where do you get this?”

Wait a minute now. You mean, there is something better than Jesus Christ? You mean there is something better than coming to know God? You mean there is something better than being brought from death to life? You mean there is something better than being translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God’s dear Son?

The Scripture says Christ is all. The Scripture says you are complete in him. If I am complete in him I don’t need something out here that you give me by the laying on of your hands. If I am complete in Christ I am complete and nothing needs to be added to me. I grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I progress in sanctification. I grow in the knowledge of God’s Word. I grow in the fruits of the Spirit. But Christ is still all in all.

And then, thirdly, where the Holy Spirit is there will be holiness of life and conversation. He is called in the Bible the Spirit of holiness. He is called in the Bible the Spirit of truth. People who have the Holy Spirit don’t lie. They speak truth.

He is called the sanctifying Spirit. He takes away that hard, worldly, selfish, carnal heart and gives us a tender heart that delights in the law of God. He is called in the Scripture the Spirit of prayer, the Spirit of grace and supplication, Zechariah 12:10.

Then in the fourth place, where the Holy Spirit is there will be a love and a reverence for this book, for the Word of God.

Turn to 1 Peter chapter two. Wherever you have the Holy Spirit you will have a love for the Word of God, because we are born of the Word of God. That is how the Holy Spirit brings us into the kingdom of God is through the Word. That is the seed of the Spirit.

And then in 1 Peter 2:1, “Wherefore laying aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envy and evil speaking, as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby if so be you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

And then turn to Psalm one. Let me read you a couple of verse over here, Psalms chapter one verse two, verse one and two. Psalms one verses one and two.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, the Word of the Lord. And in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

Now one other verse and I will close. Psalm 119. I want you to turn to this. Psalm 119 verse nine.

Where the Holy Spirit is there will be a conviction of sin. Where the Holy Spirit is there will be a sincere faith in Christ, his person and work. Where the Holy Spirit is there will

be honesty and holiness of character and conversation. Where the Holy Spirit is there will be a love for this book.

In Psalm 119 verse nine listen. Psalm 119 verse nine.

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his ways? By taking heed thereto according to thy Word. With my whole heart have I sought the... Oh, let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, oh Lord. Teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes. I will not forget thy Word. I will not forget thy Word.”

Last of all, where the Spirit of God is there are spiritual desires.

Let me read you a verse over here in Romans eight verse five. Where the Spirit of God is there are spiritual desires.

“For they that are after the flesh do mind or are interested in the things of the flesh. But they that are after the Spirit they are interested in the things of the Spirit.”

The general tone and tenor and direction of the mind and heart of the person who has the Holy Spirit, is in favor of spiritual things. Where the Spirit of God is men do not serve God by fits and starts, but habitually. They love Christ first.

There is a conflict between the old and the new nature. But where the Spirit of God is there is a direction of holiness and righteousness.

Our Father, bless the Word that we have studied this evening. Make it profitable in our experience. We know that these words are dead letter without the Holy Spirit quickening them, giving them life, illuminating our minds and our hearts, giving us, first of all, a desire for spiritual things, a thirst and a hunger for righteousness and for knowledge. And then the Holy Spirit teaching and leading us. We pray for thy Spirit. We pray, oh Lord, that thy Spirit would enable us to exalt and magnify the person of him who loved us and gave himself for us. We ask it in the name of Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.