

Hebrews 6.4-6

Partaking of the Spirit Falsely

We come this morning to the centerpiece around which this whole discussion pivots. How can a man be said to be a partaker of the Holy Spirit and still be apostate? It is this question which must be settled or the whole passage is canted off center. The argument is not constructed in a true linear fashion. It is built around this point, and the center position is given for a reason of offering a hub rather than simply a point. Every other piece that is mentioned can only be experienced in any fashion by the working of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible for anyone to have even a brush with truth apart from the intervention of God through His Spirit. Thus, the 2 preceding and the 2 following, shows that this is the root and animating principle of the whole discussion. So let's unpack this a bit, considering that as a starting point and then consider just how it is that some might partake of the Spirit in a fashion that does not necessarily communicate saving grace, although on the outside it might look like it to the casual observer. Then we will consider how to guard against this...

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SOURCE

a. Nothing spoken about can be had in any form apart from the working of the Holy Spirit.

b. No one EVER seeks God on their own

Romans 3.9-23

c. God is the only source of Truth, which can only be known through the person of Jesus Christ

John 14.6

d. Since the Spirit is the gift of Christ, His graces and His gifts must necessarily flow from His person, and cannot exist apart from His action.

II. EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT

The Spirit can be experienced without being known

a. He may be received, or partaken of, in 2 ways -

- i. personal indwelling
 - ii. mere spiritual operations
- b. The world cannot receive Him in the first way, for it is opposed to all true believers

John 14:17

17 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.

- c. Anyone who possesses any portion of the items in this passage, has them because the Spirit of God was pleased to give it to them... they are all mercies, they are all graces
- d. There are those who do not belong to Christ and have no indwelling power of the Holy Spirit who yet may partake of His gifts or operations for reasons that please God and which He is under no obligation to explain.

e. This is grievous sin against them to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in such dramatic manner and yet still remain hostile to the God who so graciously works through them.

III. PERSONAL INTEREST

a. Many are made partakers of the Spirit in His gifts, who have been allowed powerful displays and powerful speech... but who never are partakers of Him in His saving graces

Matthew 7.21-23

b. They all have a personal interest in them, each one had a benefit, and endowment from them, and were better off for having them, yet they turn away from the truth of God.

IV. DISCERNING TRUTH FROM LIE

a. By its fruit

Matthew 7.15-20

b. By the knowledge of Christ

Matthew 7.21-23

c. By Enduring Chastening

Hebrews 12.7-11

d. By enduring to the end

Hebrews 3:14

For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

e. By the growth of the life and character of Christ in you

2Peter 1.2-8

f. By the practice of self-checking your life and practice against what the scripture says. This must be done with extreme prejudice...

absolutely ruthless in its pursuit. The stakes are simple too high to play with.

2Peter 1.9-11

g. Resist the temptation to pound the broken into powder, or to comfort the wicked too quickly

Ezekiel 13:22

“Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.

V. Repentance is Still Everything

1John 1.5-10

