

The Holy Spirit and the Word

Raccoon John Smith had a problem

1. If the **elect** do not believe, would they be saved?
2. If **non-elect** believe, would they be saved?

Every Bible believer knows . . .

1. Holy Spirit works in conviction and conversion of sinners; illuminates; leads Christians (Ro.8:14).
2. Issue: does He act directly or indirectly? ... by means (**Word**) or independently (**direct**)?

I. Holy Spirit activity in Old Testament

Holy Spirit sometimes acted directly on people

- Samson [not to save, illuminate him...]

Holy Spirit also worked through words

- Hb.1¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets...
- 2 Pt.1²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. [2 Sm.23:2]

I. Holy Spirit activity in Old Testament

**II. Holy Spirit activity
in New Testament**

Biblical principle

- Whenever an action is effected by both a person and an instrument, the action is performed by the person through the instrument.
- George Washington – cherry tree – with axe
- Eight saved (2 Pt.2:5) – by water, 1 Pt.3:20-21
- Holy Spirit – salvation – by word

Biblical principle

- Everything the NT credits to Holy Spirit (Person) in conviction, conversion, and illumination, it also credits to the Word (instrument).
 - ▶ Holy Spirit works by means of Word.

Spirit	Action	Word
Jn.3:5	New birth	1 Pt.1:22-23
Jn.6:63	Makes alive	Jn.6:63
Jn.16:7-8	Convicts	2 Tim.4:2; Ac.2
Tit.3:5	Saves	Ja.1:21
1 Pt.1:2	Sanctifies	Jn.17:17; 2 Th.2:13
1 Pt.1:22	Cleanses	Ep.5:26

The way it's done – Lk.8:4-8

⁴ ...He spoke by a parable: ⁵ A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

The way it's done – Lk.8:11-14

11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. **12** Those by the **wayside** are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. **13** But the ones on the **rock** are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. **14** Now the ones that fell among **thorns** are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

The way it's done – Lk.8:15

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Illustrated – Lydia (Ac.16:13-15)

Ac.26:16-18, Paul commission: open eyes

“Heart”: organ of understanding (Lk.8:15)

Lord opened heart to heed what Paul spoke, 13-14

[Ac.2:37, cut to heart; 26:18, Paul's commission.]

[How did Lord open her heart (15)?? (Cf. 2:41)]

I. Holy Spirit activity in Old Testament

II. Holy Spirit activity in Testament

III. Biblical objections to direct operation of Holy Spirit

Based on false concepts

1. Total hereditary depravity

- Heart is so depraved that it requires a direct operation of Holy Spirit to reach him.
 - “God spoke to me”
- Lk.8:15, honest and good heart...
- Ac.10:2, 22, Cornelius: devout, just, God-fearing before Spirit did anything to him

2. Calvinism: sovereignty of God

- God *is* sovereign, but not as Calvinism demands [if we do one thing in obedience to God to be saved, we rob God of His sovereignty]
- If God must do it all, God responsible for the lost
 1. God's direct power is irresistible. Nu.22-24, donkey. 1 Sm.19, Saul
 2. If we can resist direct power of God, we are more powerful than God. Ac.7:51. Mt.21
 3. God is impartial. Ac.10:34-35; 2 Pt.3:9 – His direct power upon all = universal salvation or partial God

Direct power never changed one's character

- Saul, 1 Sm.19
 - Did he become better?
- Judas, Mt.10
 - Did miraculous gifts change his heart?

No heathen was saved apart from the preached Word

- Mt.12⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here
- Mt.28¹⁸⁻²⁰ – why preach gospel to all nations if Holy Spirit saves directly?

Direct operation makes satan more powerful than God

- Adam and Eve began totally righteous – no sin.
- If we are born in sin, in need of direct operation of Holy Spirit, why didn't satan need direct operation to bring Adam and Eve into sin?
- Satan destroyed Eve with words. Eve believed his lies, left state of righteousness
- Is satan's word more powerful than God's?
[God can't use words to save...but satan can use them to destroy??]

It denies the all-sufficient Word

- 2 Pt.1³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue

The all-sufficient Word (1)

- Produce certainty of Lord's actions / teachings, Lk.1:3-4.
- Furnish all necessary things Jesus did, producing belief / life in Him, Jn.20:30-31.
- Furnish all necessary things that Jesus taught, Ac.1:1-2.
- Reveal mysteries, Ro.16:25-26; Ep.3:3-5.
- Give us commandments of the Lord, 1 Co.14:37.
- Furnish us with all we need for every good work, 2 T.3:16f.

The all-sufficient Word (2)

- Record teaching of apostles/prophets through HS, 2 Pt.1:15, 21.
- Bestow joy that is full, 1 Jn.1:4.
- Protect against sin, 1 Jn.2:1.
- Provide standard for recognizing true prophets, 2 Jn.9-11.
- Reveal what will come to pass, Rv.1:1.
- Impart blessings of God, Rv.1:3.

If Holy Spirit operates directly . . .
what will He do that the Word does not?