

CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

- A. True worship of God demands the work of the Holy Spirit as seen in John 4:16-24
1. Jesus raises the issue of worship with a Samaritan woman.
 - a. Jesus, in exposing her sinful past, shows the woman that He is a prophet (16-19). *Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.*
 - b. The woman questions Him concerning the validity of the Jewish to the Samaritan system of worship (4:20), *Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.*
 2. Jesus responds that now is the time when neither system of worship will be valid 21-24
 - a. Jesus notes that the Jewish system was the valid system but now the place of worship is no longer important 21-22
 - b. Jesus states that the important thing is that God be worshiped in spirit and in truth 23-24
 3. Some say that spirit refers to the human spirit which reaches out to God.
 - a. It is better to understand the spirit as the Holy Spirit.
 - b. He indwells every believer and directs worship.
 - c. Too often, mention of the Holy Spirit separates believers.
 - d. A proper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit is essential.
- B. True worship of God is centered in truth.
1. Most evangelicals agree that the truth is important for true worship.
 2. Darrell Bock, *...we need to do our theology with humility. And if we emphasize what Scripture emphasizes, we are going to have a better chance of getting it right...*
 3. The study of theology must spur us on to know God better so we can obey Him more fully.
 4. It takes truth tied to the indwelling Holy Spirit to make us worshipers God seeks.

A BRIEF STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. He is our confirmation
1. Regeneration
 - a. To worship God in spirit, one must be born again.
 - b. John 3:3, *Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
 - c. John 5:24, *Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.*
 2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Biblical position of every believer
 - 1) It is the act by which God places every believer into the body of Christ.
 - 2) 1 Corinthians 12:13, *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*
 - 3) Spiritual baptism takes place at the time when a person passes from death to life.
 - b. Spiritual gifts given to every believer for the benefit of the Body of Christ
 - 1) Romans 12:6-8, *And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*
 - 2) God has gifted me in ways that are not natural to me.

3. Indwelling

- a) He is the divine Helper, John 14:14-17, *If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.*
- b) God the Spirit resides in every believer
 - 1) Romans 8:9, *But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
 - 2) Isaiah 48:16, *Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit.*
 - 3) He is omnipresent.

4. Sealing

- a. We know we are saved because the Spirit of God confirms it.
- b. It takes place at salvation, Ephesians 1:13, In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.
- c. We can know it, Romans 8:16, The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.
- d. One of the greatest motivators to true worship and service is not works but grace.

C. He gives direction

1. Illumination - 1 Corinthians 2:13, *which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*
2. Instruction, John 14:26, *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*
3. Guidance
 - a. Galatians 5:16, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*
 - b. Galatians 5:25, *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*
4. Conviction
 - a. Ephesians 4:30, *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
 - b. Remember it is God the Spirit Who indwells us.

D. He provides contentment

1. What should the norm be for Christians? John 7:37-38, *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"*
2. Is that normal for me?
 - a. It is a choice, let him come to Me and drink.
 - b. Ephesians 5:18, *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*

CONCLUSION

- A. Worship that pleases God is truth tied to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Every Christian has the power to please God through worship.
- C. Spiritual worship is a choice which demands obedience.