

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

A Supplement To The Exposition Of The Book Of Ruth

There is much talk concerning the Holy Spirit in these days and much of it is completely unscriptural. Someone claims to have this experience with healing or an individual reports that she has spoken with a special Holy Spirit language until at last a whole movement called the charismatic movement has sprung up in America and around the world. It has a great deal of money, fame, talent, and organization-it is in fact rivaled only by Islam as the fastest growing religious movement in the world today. But it was conceived in the mind of Satan, born in the gutters of hell, and propagated by the forces of the antichrist. Rather than pointing man to God and His word, the charismatic movement points men to the Holy Spirit and away from God and His word. But I learned long ago if you really want to know the difference between truth and error, it is best to look at the truth first. After you handled money as long as I have at Stone and Thomas, Geico, and in the business of the Lord, you develop a feel for real money and you rather instinctively and instantly know when you find a counterfeit. It is, then, necessary to consider the true doctrine of the Holy Spirit in order to refute the false doctrine of the charismatic movement. The single richest book in God's word concerning this topic is the book of Ephesians and it is the purpose of this paper to consider the truth about the Holy Spirit from the book of Ephesians.

First however, let's consider some background. In three thousand BC the city of Ephesus was founded-

- the name Ephesus means "desirable"
- the city known by the apostle Paul was actually the third to bear the name Ephesus
 1. the first was built along the Castros River which eventually silted up which led to the death of the first city
 2. the second city was rebuilt along the Aegean Sea but became run down, and Alexander the great ended up closing the city by filling the sewers with concrete

The Truth About the Holy Spirit from the Book of Ephesians

3. the city of the apostle Paul knew was filled with beautiful marble buildings, wide paved streets, fountains that overflowed onto the streets to cool them down on hot days
 - the city was the home to a small community of Jews
 - it was the center of the worship of Diana
 - and it was a city that knew the footfalls of Paul, Timothy, and John the apostle all of whom served as pastors in the city

When we think of the city of Ephesus, our minds should immediately go to two great occasions on which the Holy Spirit figures prominently in the book of Acts (19,20).

1. Paul met the disciples of John the Baptist here and ask if they had received the Holy Spirit.
2. Paul performed “special miracles” in Ephesus. Miracles were intended for the Jews, but in this heart of the cultic Diana worship God desired to verify his own work and words.

It is said that the letter to the Ephesians carries more systematic doctrine than any other book with the exception of the Epistle to the Romans. We would, therefore, naturally expect to find a great deal about the Holy Spirit contained within the book of Ephesians and in fact we find the Holy Spirit mentioned twelve times in a short Epistle of only one hundred and fifty-five verses. These references fall under six general headings.

1. The first major truth about the Holy Spirit is that He is the agent of inspiration of the Scripture. Ephesians 3:5 “Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is the fountainhead of all the Word of God. He is the Prime Mover and Superintendent of the Scriptures. Our Book stands sure due to its Divine Authorship by the Holy Spirit of God.
2. The second major truth about the Holy Spirit is that He is the source of our introduction to God the Father. Ephesians 2:18 “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” The word access is a translation of the Greek word *προσάγω* “prosago” which in turn is derived from pros = two, or toward and ago = I lead; thus the word itself means “I lead to or toward.” In other words, the Holy Spirit leads us or introduces us to God. How does He do this?

The Truth About the Holy Spirit from the Book of Ephesians

- a. Conviction-that is he tells us who God is and who we are, or rather who we were before we came to know Him!
- b. Conversion he invites us to turn to God from idols or self and draws us to Him through His Word.
- c. Access- presents us to God on the merits of Christ according to God's Word.

The way then to God stands open!

3. The third major truth about the Holy Spirit is that He imprints or seals the believer. Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," and Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." This is an extremely rich vein of truth and has many facets:
 - a. "ye were sealed"... This is in the Aorist tense, which means it occurs at a point of time in the past-when? The Scripture gives answer-" after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation" - that is, at the point of salvation, the very moment of conversion.
 - b. The word sealed implies:
 - i. The seal on the title of the stating the transaction has been officially completed. Jeremiah 32:9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. 10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. 11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:" This is nothing short of a title deed -the symbol of the completed transaction. Re: "it is finished" and the seven sealed book in the Revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. Something in the Ephesians would have been very familiar with: the identifying mark on a tree indicating Imperial ownership. Ephesus was the terminus of a great lumber working operation. The trees harvested by the Imperial

The Truth About the Holy Spirit from the Book of Ephesians

Forrester's were thus marked before being floated down the river to the city of Ephesus. It indicated ownership by the King.

- iii. The seal or mark on a cultist which identified he\she as a member of the cult. A form of tattoo used in pagan days to the identification of members of a cult like the cult of Diana. One reason Christians should avoid the contemporary practice of wearing tattoos.
 - iv. The seal also indicates security as in the seal on the tomb of the Lord Jesus Christ. This was Pontius Pilate's way of "guaranteeing" the integrity of the tomb of the Lord Jesus Christ. This refers to Ephesians 4:30: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." More secure is no one ever, then the loved ones of the Savior, not the star on high abiding, nor the bird in home nest hiding!
4. The fourth major truth about the Holy Spirit is that He unifies the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:3 "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." Should we all attempts to get together to start a one world church? No! We can never create unity. It is God's Holy Spirit who creates the unity we are talking about. This is not the dream of a group of wild eyed ecumenists trying to create an artificial unity where none exists. In the church of the Lord Jesus Christ all people are equal in the sight of God, but some think that they are more equal than others. Christ says, don't get even, be even-being in unity and harmony! Where the Holy Spirit is there you will find a great oneness and in the believers and great divisions and warfare among the unbelievers.
 5. The fifth major truth about the Holy Spirit is that He endues or empowers the believers. Ephesian 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" we make an artificial distinction between the normal Christian walk and being filled with the Spirit. Nowhere in the Scriptures do we ever read that we are to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit. We should be constantly filled with the spirit: at church, in the pulpit, at home, at work, on vacation etc. If we are not under the influence of God's Spirit, then we are simply no good

The Truth About the Holy Spirit from the Book of Ephesians

to God and under the influence of Satan or self. But how can we be filled?

- a. We must be first strengthened in the inner man. Ephesians 3:14
“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” By the application of Christ’s love which takes root in your so and that Christ be settled down in your heart = dwell means to feel completely at home. THIS BRINGS A YIELDEDNESS TO HIS WILL AND A YEARNING FOR HIS WORD.
 - b. We must then become fruit bearing believers. Ephesians 5:8
“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)”
 - i. Goodness- to admire as a painting “a life that men desire to look at”
 - ii. Righteousness-imputed holiness, applied to our account
 - iii. Truth-absolute and loving honesty
6. The sixth and final major truth about the Holy Spirit is that He is our portion, strength, and victory in the daily Christian warfare. Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
- a. Our sword is the spirit-breathed, spirit-empowered Book of God.
 - b. Our line of communication in battle is the spirit enhanced prayer of the believer.