

Th123 A Study of the Holy Spirit

Th123-4 The Creative Spirit

A Pentecostal pastor was once challenged by a non-Pentecostal colleague. “The problem with you Pentecostals,” he said, “is that you don’t believe that anything can happen until the Spirit moves!”

“That’s true,” the Pentecostal pastor admitted. “In fact nothing in all history happened before the Spirit moved over the face of the waters, as is recorded in Genesis 1:2. Had the Spirit not moved, the world would not even exist.”

In the last lesson, you learned that the Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of Missions.” One of His roles as the Spirit of Mission is that He serves as “Executive of the Godhead.” By this, we mean that the Spirit is that member of the Trinity who is responsible to put God’s plans into effect. In this lesson, we will look at two ways in the Old Testament that the Holy Spirit fulfilled God’s plan. You will learn about the Spirit’s work in creating the universe and in creating and inspiring the Bible.

The first way that the Spirit went about fulfilling the plan of God was that He joined with the Father and the Son in creating the universe. The first verse in the Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The very next verse tells us how the Holy Spirit took part in this mighty work: “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Gen 1:1-2). Centuries later, in the New Testament, John reveals that Jesus—whom he called “the Word”—also participated in creation (John 1:1-3). Thus, the Spirit was there at the beginning, working with the other members of the Trinity to create everything.

The Holy Spirit also took part in the creation of mankind. In Genesis 2 the Bible says that “the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (v. 7). Job reveals that it was the life-giving Spirit of God who gave Adam life. He explains, “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 33:4).

Further, the same Holy Spirit, who participated in the creation of the universe, and the creation of humans, is also part of their *re-creation*. When Adam and Eve sinned, the loving fellowship they had with God was broken, and their natures were corrupted. They died spiritually. Since then, in order to be reunited with God, people need to be spiritually re-created. On the night of His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples in an upstairs room. He then “breathed on [or ‘into’] them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:22). At that moment, they were re-created from the inside out. Jesus called this experience being “born again.” He told Nicodemus “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.... Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit” (John 3:3-6).

The Holy Spirit regenerates us and gives us new life in Christ. Paul wrote, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2Cor 5:17). To experience this new birth one must come to Christ. They must repent of their sins and put their

faith in Christ alone for salvation. Have you done that? If not, you can do it right now. Sincerely pray this prayer:

Father, I come to You. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and that He rose again on the third day. I know that I am a sinner, and apart from faith in Christ, I am eternally lost. Jesus, please forgive me of my sins and become my Savior and Lord. Come into my heart and be Lord of my life. God, I now forsake all my sins. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The second way that the Spirit went about fulfilling the plan of God was that He created the Bible. He did this by moving on the prophets and the apostles, giving them the thoughts and words they wrote. Their Spirit-inspired words are what is found in our Bibles today.

Thus, the Holy Spirit is the true Author of the Bible. Peter explained it like this: "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2Peter 1:20-21). Note how "men spoke" as they were "carried along" by the Holy Spirit. Though the writers of Scripture used their own words, they did so under the Spirit's inspiration and oversight. Therefore, Paul could write, "All Scripture is God-breathed [meaning Spirit-inspired] and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2Tim 3:16). Because the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit, it has power like no other book. It has power to open the heart, enlighten the mind, and convert the soul.

While the Holy Spirit did, indeed, inspire the Word of God, He does even more. He comes to Christians and helps them to understand what is written. What a wonderful privilege! The very Author of the Bible will come to us and help us to understand the words He inspired.

The night before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples that He would go away. However, He promised them that He would send the Holy Spirit in His place to be with them forever. Then He promised, "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

The Spirit of Truth will do the same for us today. Paul wrote the Christians in Corinth and explained to them, "We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us" (1Cor 2:12). He then explained, "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (v. 14). The Scriptures can only be fully understood with the help of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, when we read Scripture, we would be wise to pray. We should ask the Spirit to fill us and help us to understand what we are reading.

This lesson is **important** because it shows you that the Holy Spirit helped to create the universe and all that is in it. You have further learned that He created the Bible by inspiring the prophets and apostles, telling them what to write.

The **main truth** we learn from this lesson is that the Holy Spirit, who created the heavens and the earth, will also re-create us and make us new creations in Christ. We must first put our trust in Him and follow Him as Lord and Savior.

Let's **review** some important truths we have learned from this lesson.

1. According to the Bible, what part did the Holy Spirit have in the creation of the world?

[PAUSE]

A. If you answered that the Holy Spirit worked with the Father and the Son in creating the world, you answered correctly.

2. The lesson taught that the Spirit re-creates—or regenerates—repentant sinners and gives them new life in Christ. Why do all people need to be regenerated? [PAUSE]

A. If you answered that all people need to be regenerated because, since Adam and Eve sinned, human nature has been corrupted and all people without Christ are spiritually dead, you are right.

3. What do we mean when we say that the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible? [PAUSE]

A. If you answered that the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible because He inspired the prophets and apostles to write the Bible, guided them, and oversaw what they wrote, you answered correctly.

4. How does the Holy Spirit help us to understand the Bible today? [PAUSE]

A. If you answered, "The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Bible by opening our minds as we read and study Scripture," you are correct.

Your **assignment** is to re-listen to this lesson several times until you can teach it to others. Memorize the following verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2Cor 5:17).