

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

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CHAPTER FIVE -

The HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN OUR REDEMPTION

GOD the Father so loved sinners that He gave His only begotten SON. GOD the SON so loved sinners that He left the bosom of the Father, came to earth's sorrow, and willingly laid down His life that we hell-deserving sinners might have life. But there is a Third Person who has a very definite part in our redemption:

Ephesians 1, verses 13 and 14: **"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, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."**

There could be no salvation apart from the HOLY SPIRIT. I am so thankful that GOD loved us, I am so thankful that JESUS died for us - but I am also thankful that He, the HOLY GHOST, came into the world, to **"reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged"** (John 16:9-11).

JESUS instructed the disciples that it was imperative that He go away, and that if He did not return to Heaven the Spirit would not come; but if He departed He would send the COMFORTER; and when the COMFORTER (which is the HOLY GHOST) was come, He would reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. The HOLY GHOST, is the Third Person of the Trinity, convicts us of sin; and certainly there could be no conversion minus HOLY SPIRIT conviction.

The third chapter of John's Gospel gives us the interview between JESUS and Nicodemus. Nicodemus was an outstanding religionist, but he had a hungry heart. He sought out JESUS, and began his conversation by saying:

"We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him. JESUS answered and said unto him, . . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus asked, **"How can a man be born when he is old?"** JESUS answered, **"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."**

The water is the Word (John 4:10, 14; Ephesians 5:26-27; John 15:3; I Peter 1:23). The water is

the Word - it is not the river Jordan nor a lovely baptistry in your church building. The SPIRIT in John 3:5 is, of course, the HOLY SPIRIT. Let me point out the part the HOLY SPIRIT has in our redemption:

- GOD the Father planned our salvation in the eternity behind us.
- GOD the SON provided and purchased our salvation in the fulness of time.
- The SPIRIT OF GOD applied our salvation. The HOLY GHOST persuaded us to accept salvation. **"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."** No person could ever believe or receive the Word of GOD apart from the power of the HOLY SPIRIT.

JESUS said concerning the Spirit, **"When He is come... He shall not speak of Himself... HE SHALL TAKE OF MINE, AND SHALL SHEW IT UNTO YOU!"** (John 16:13-15).

The HOLY GHOST is in the world during this Dispensation of Grace, to point men to the LAMB of GOD. He is not in the world to magnify Himself; He is in the world to make known the gift of GOD: Salvation through the shed Blood of the Lord JESUS CHRIST.

In John 6:44 we find, **"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."** Sinners are drawn to GOD through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:7-9). When the sinner hears the Word of GOD, the HOLY SPIRIT through and by the Word of GOD opens the eyes of understanding. **"If our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"** (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

The SPIRIT opens the eyes of the mind, the understanding of the heart, and makes known to us the glorious fact that JESUS finished salvation, and that it is only through faith that we can become the possessor of the gift of GOD. This is the initial work of The HOLY GHOST in our salvation.

In Romans 10 Paul gives us a clear outline of salvation: **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"** (Romans 10:13ff.).

- GOD calls preachers.
- GOD's preachers preach the Gospel.
- The Gospel is the light. JESUS said, **"I am the light of the world."** In Psalm 119:105 we read, **"Thy Word is a lamp"** Psalm 119:130 tells us, **"The entrance of thy Words giveth light."**
- The HOLY GHOST, through the Word, opens the darkened intelligence - the mind that is blinded by the devil; and when the poor sinner sees his lost condition and in the same instant sees the sacrifice JESUS made to save sinners, through the enlightening power of the HOLY GHOST that sinner is drawn to the gift of GOD.

The HOLY GHOST draws sinners to Jesus - then, seeing the glorious gift of GOD, the sinner desires the gift of GOD. Therefore, the HOLY GHOST sees to it that faith enters the heart, and

the sinner calls, "**Lord, remember me,**" or "**God be merciful to me a sinner,**" or "Lord JESUS, I receive you now as my Saviour." The words are not what counts - it is what happens in the heart that is important.

When we receive from the heart the Word of GOD, the Word is the seed that brings the new birth. But the Word will never enter the heart until the heart is made ready by the enlightening power of The HOLY GHOST.

The HOLY GHOST first draws us to Jesus (John 6:44). The HOLY GHOST then "borns" us into the family of GOD (John 3:5).

- We are baptized into the Body of CHRIST by the HOLY GHOST (I Corinthians 12:13).
- The HOLY GHOST takes up His abode in our heart (Romans 8:9).
- The HOLY SPIRIT leads us (Romans 8:14).
- The HOLY SPIRIT assures us (Romans 8:16).
- The HOLY SPIRIT seals us until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 1:14).

The HOLY SPIRIT has a future part in the completion of our redemption. We will be quickened by the Spirit when the Rapture occurs (Romans 8:11). JESUS is the Lord of the quick (the living) and the dead, and through the power of the Spirit the bodies of the saints who have died will be raised, and the bodies of the saints who are living when the Rapture occurs will be changed in a moment . . . "**in the twinkling of an eye.**"

There is no such thing as salvation apart from the Spirit OF GOD. A person who does not possess the HOLY SPIRIT is not a child of GOD. There is much ignorance - yea, gross ignorance - concerning the ministry of the Spirit in this Dispensation of Grace. All born again persons possess the HOLY SPIRIT. It is true that not all born again persons are filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, as we will learn later in this Epistle; but there is no spiritual birth apart from the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD. Birth by the HOLY SPIRIT is the only entrance into the kingdom of GOD.

Anything short of the spiritual birth through the power of the HOLY GHOST in connection with the precious Word of GOD is not salvation. All that GOD the Father has done, all that GOD the Father has sacrificed, all that JESUS has done, all of the agony and suffering through which He passed, cannot save - apart from the gracious work of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Let me sum it up in these words:

The salvation planned by GOD the Father and purposed for us, the salvation purchased for us by the SON of GOD through His Blood, is made over to us personally, and becomes our personal possession by the power of the Spirit.

In closing this section, let me remind you that our redemption was settled in the eternity behind us (I Peter 1:18 ff). Redemption purchased by the Blood of JESUS CHRIST continues through the eternity that lies ahead of us. The gracious work of redemption has been provided from eternity through eternity, by the Trinity. In the eternity behind us, GOD the Father chose (or elected) us to be His very own . . . the church, the Body of CHRIST, made up of born again

believers.

The SON of GOD purchased us with His own precious Blood. JESUS willingly gave His life that we might be saved, and the HOLY SPIRIT persuaded us (those of us who are saved) to believe the record GOD has given of His SON. The HOLY SPIRIT enlightened our blinded minds, opened our hard hearts, and worked the miracle of the new birth through the seed of the Word (I Peter 1:23).

For those of us who are born again, this is in the past. What does redemption present to us today? GOD the Father has given to us the position of sons NOW. We are born sons of God, we are the adopted sons of GOD, we enjoy every privilege of an adult son. The Lord JESUS CHRIST reveals to us His intimate mind and will. We have the mind of CHRIST through the indwelling SPIRIT.

The HOLY SPIRIT NOW seals us and guarantees to us that we are GOD's very own. We are sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT of promise - NOW!

But what about redemption in the future? GOD the Father will receive us and accept us because of the price paid in the Blood of His only begotten SON. He will say to us in the future, "**Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.**" The SON of GOD, the Lord JESUS, will inherit us in the body - the Church - when we are presented to Him without spot or wrinkle or any such thing (Ephesians 5:26) and we will be displayed in the heavenlies to show the exceeding riches of GOD's grace (Ephesians 2:6-7).

In the future the Spirit will claim us, along with the Father and the SON, because He (the HOLY SPIRIT) is co-equal with the Father and the SON in our redemption.

~ end of chapter 5 ~

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