

the Old and New Testaments are the product of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit's Work in Confirmation

To confirm means "to make valid by formal approval; ratify, verify." Not only did the Spirit reveal God's will, but He also confirmed the fact that His message was God's word by performing signs, wonders, and mira-

cles. These signs were performed in the life of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:38, Matthew 12:28), as well as in the work of the apostles. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" (Hebrews 2:3-4).

The word of God has been revealed in its fullness (Jude 3) and has been confirmed. Thus, this two-fold work of the Spirit (revelation and confirmation) has been completed.

[To be continued in next issue. Entire article is available online at

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The Work of the HOLY SPIRIT

by Heath Rogers

There is much confusion and ignorance in the religious world regarding different aspects of the Holy Spirit. While we have an understanding of the work that is done by the Father and the Son, we are not always as clear about the role and function of the Holy Spirit.

There are some things about the Godhead that will remain a mystery to us. However, we can know those things that have been revealed in Scripture concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. Understanding these things can strengthen our faith, give us a greater appreciation for the Holy Spirit, and equip us to teach

others.

The Spirit's work can be divided into the following categories:

The Spirit's Work in Creation

The Old Testament teaches that the Holy Spirit worked with the Father and the Son

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in the creation of the world. "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2). Creation was not finished until the third member of the Godhead did His work.

The Spirit's role in creation appears to be that of organization. God created the elements, but they were "without form, and void." After the Spirit is mentioned, God's creation begins to take shape. The elements are organized into working systems and laws are enacted which govern the universe.

Job tells us that the stars and other celestial bodies were created by the Spirit: "By His Spirit He adorned the heavens" (Job 26:13).

The Holy Spirit was also involved in the creation of

man: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). God was not speaking to His angels when He made this statement, for there is no indication in Scripture that angels created man. God the Father was speaking to the Son and the Spirit concerning the creation of man.

The Spirit's Work in Revelation

The Holy Spirit's work continued as God began to slowly reveal His will to mankind.

"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor

have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:9-12).

Only the Spirit knows the mind of God. This qualified Him to reveal God's will to man through the apostles and prophets. "How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of

Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets" (Ephesians 3:3-5).

God could have produced manuscripts of His word and given them to man, but instead He chose to use men as a means of delivering His will to mankind. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16). The word "inspiration" literally means to "breathe in" or "to be influenced by another." When used in this passage in reference to the unique and authoritative nature of the Bible, the word means "God breathed."

The Old Testament

The Holy Spirit revealed divine truths to the prophets of old (1 Peter 1:10-12). These prophets did not write their own ideas, opinions, or interpretations.

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"
(Hebrews 2:3-4)

They wrote the things that the Holy Spirit told them to write. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21). These prophets were "moved" or "carried along" by the Holy Spirit as they wrote.

The New Testament

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all truth and told them of things to come.

"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 things that I said to you" (John 14:26).

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come" (John 16:12-13).

The Old Testament contains the writings of the inspired prophets. The New Testament contains the writings of the apostles and other inspired men. Thus, both