

## THE MODES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Hebrews 1:1

"sundry times" an adverb "in many portions, i.e., variously as to time and agency."

"divers manners" an adverb "in many ways, i.e., as to method or form."

God spoke through the prophets in various portions, at various times, using various agencies or methods.

"Modes" of the Holy Spirit.

There are other methods used to communicate from God to man which are

in view in Hebrews 1:1;

1. God's appearing directly to the prophet
2. An angel of the Lord appearing to the prophet

These are beyond the scope of our subject, and, like the appearance on Mount Sinai, will have to be reserved for a different study.

But, how has the Holy Spirit operated upon man in the past, and how does he operate upon us now (if indeed he does).

There are at least four modes ("a manner, way, or method of doing or acting..." — American Heritage Dictionary ) of operation of the Holy Spirit.

We will now attempt to trace these out in the Scriptures.

I. Inspiration — in which a person is specially equipped and helped by the Holy Spirit to speak or write. 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21

- A. 2 Samuel 23:1-2 David claimed inspiration, and was inspired. Acts 2:30
- B. Virtually every prophet uses words like "the word of the Lord came to..."
  1. John the last prophet before Son - Luke 3:2-3; Matt 11:9
  2. Our text - Heb 1:1
- C. John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13 — the Lord's explicit promise to the apostles.
- D. Not all inspired beings were "saved beings" —
  1. Numbers 22:28 (?) See also 2 Peter 2:16
  2. 1 Samuel 10 and 1 Samuel 19 (particularly 19)
  3. John 11:51 — the high priest who crucified the Lord prophesied.
- E. From this, we can safely conclude that just because a person (being) was inspired by the Holy Spirit does not guarantee that he is saved.

II. Miracles — in which a person is specially used to suspend the natural laws and perform something extraordinary:

- A. Exodus chapters 4-11 and particularly Exodus 14 — Moses and the Red Sea.
- B. Elijah (1 Kgs 17, the widow of Zarephath) and Elisha (raises Shunamite woman's son - 2 KGS 4)
- C. Jesus - John 20:30-31; 21:25
- D. Mark 16:19-20
- E. Acts 8:14-18
- F. Hebrews 2:4
- G. Must be reminded again that miracles are not for a sign that the person is saved, necessarily. The donkey of Numbers 22:28ff and Hebrews 6:4ff.

III. Baptism of the Holy Spirit — in which the person is immersed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Joel 2:28-32 — the promise of such an event.
- B. Acts 1:8 — the promise reiterated by the Lord.
- C. Acts 2 — the initial fulfillment of that promise.
- D. Acts 10 — the finishing of that promise.
- E. It must be kept in mind again that the baptism of the Holy Spirit did not mark their salvation; the apostles had already been saved, and the Gentiles of the household of Cornelius, after receiving this baptism, still had to be baptized in water. Acts 2:38 says this is done in order to the forgiveness of sins.

IV. The "ordinary" or "word" measure of the Holy Spirit — which is promised to all, "everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." Acts 2:39

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:16 — direct statement that He dwells in us
- B. Romans 8:9 — without that Spirit in us, we are reprobate, useless.
- C. Romans 8:11 — it is that which identifies us as God's child and by which we will be resurrected to the glorified body.
- D. Galatians 3:2, 14 — this is passed to us through the word of God.
- E. See also Romans 10:17.