

# The Holy Spirit, 2

John 16:7–14

by Charles B. Hodge Jr.

*“... when He, the spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you” (16:7–14).*

We are not to *use* the Holy Spirit; He is to *use* us. The power of the New Testament church was the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5–8). The difference in Acts 1 and Acts 2 is the Holy Spirit. We keep trying to live Christianity under our own power. Only the Spirit can save us from the ups of giddy optimism and the downs of fatalistic pessimism. Our problem is the age-old problem of Deism: God created the world and then left; Jesus died on the cross and then left; the Spirit revealed the Bible and then left. We want to have what they had and do what they did without their power. This will not work.

## I. DO NOT REDUCE THE SPIRIT TO THE BIBLE

The Spirit inspired the Word but is not the Word (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:15–17). If any member of the Trinity is the Word, it is Jesus (the *logos*). The Spirit uses the sword (Ephesians 6:17) which is the Word. The soldier is not the sword. The Catholics try to make the Lord’s Supper a sacrament; they teach it literally becomes divine. This doctrine is transubstantiation and is error. But some take the Spirit and reduce Him to a Bible, saying, “I have the Spirit right here in my pocket.” Bibliolatry is idolatry. The Bible is the Word of God, but it is not God. Do not buy more

than you can pay for!

If you have the Spirit without the Word, you blow up.  
If you have the Word without the Spirit, you dry up.  
If you have both the Spirit and the Word, you grow up.

All the Trinity are limited to the Word (the Gospel in Conversion).

## II. THE INDWELLING

It has been said that many are more afraid of the Spirit than they are of Satan. Do not allow your faith to become reactionary. Tongue-speaking, miraculous healings, the direct operation of the Spirit in conversion, and hallucinations in religion today are wrong. This must be exposed. However, there is more to truth than exposing error. The Spirit indwells every believer! We must think; we must allow mystery. There is a time and place for the subjective. Christianity must never be reduced to a pat formula.

*Acts 2:38!* Read this Scripture carefully. There are two commands and two promises here. The two promises are remission of sins and the Holy Spirit. We promote one while neglecting the other. Sinners are to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18–20). This is enough. Some then add, “For the remission of sins.” Why not also add, “To receive the Holy Spirit”? In the Greek and English, the tense cannot be detected. The Holy Spirit is either (1) the giver or (2) the gift. It is “one or the other.” If He is the giver, what does He give? Does He do it apart from the Bible? The

Spirit is the gift! At the point of baptism the Spirit is given! The Word does not give the Spirit. God does (Acts 5:32; Galatians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Ephesians 1:3, 11–14; 4:30; Romans 8:26, 27; 1 John 3:24; 4:4, 13). The Holy Spirit indwells Christians (2 Timothy 1:14). The Spirit is given, not acquired. There is no clearer truth than Christians are indwelled by the Spirit.

*Objection!* Some say, “This would fragment the Holy Spirit.” Be honest. If the Spirit can be in Bibles why can He not be in people? He was in twelve apostles! Objection overruled!

In Jerusalem there was a Gentile porch (court). Greeks went there in John 12 seeking Jesus. They saw a sign which said, “Go no further.” If they did go beyond that point, they would be stoned. God was in that temple (in the Holy of Holies), but the Gentiles were denied access. They were without God and without hope in the world (Ephesians 2:10–12). Now, in Christ, the Gentiles not only can go where God is, but God resides in them! Christians are the temple, the body, and the family of God! The only sanctuary God has today is in the consecrated Christian heart. The incarnation of Christ continues in His body, the church!

### III. CHRIST

Return to “square one.” The Spirit does only one thing: He glorifies Christ. The Spirit is sent by Christ to represent Christ. He reveals, promotes, and focuses upon Christ. He works in the background. He is without name (“Holy Spirit” is not a name). We are not commanded to love Him. Any doctrine that promotes the Spirit is error! Any idea that the Spirit glorifies *us* is error! This little fact separates “the men from the boys.” Be wary of any group promoting the Spirit. The more of the Holy Spirit one has, the more of Jesus one has. The ultimate work of the Spirit is to plant Jesus in men’s hearts.

All the promises of Christ are localized in the Spirit. This is internal, within, not without. The body of a believer is the temple of the Spirit. The tragedy is this: Those who do not know the Spirit are content not to know Him. The Spirit came into the world once and for all in Acts 2 on Pentecost. He is available to all who would believe.

### CONCLUSION

If you have the wrong criterion for spirituality, you will follow the wrong people.

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