



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 12: THE HOLY SPIRIT

WHO CALLS ME BY THE GOSPEL

Opening

- According to the first article, what is the special work of God the Father?
- According to the second article, what is the special work of God the Son?
- What do you know about God the Holy Spirit? Bible passages? Bible lessons?

The Holy Spirit: Third Person of the Trinity



Read the Bible account of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13-17.

- In this lesson we see the Holy Spirit along with the other two persons of the Trinity (the Son and the Father).
- Matthew 28:19 also names the three persons of the Trinity together.
- The Holy Spirit is true God together with the Father and the Son. See Acts 5:3-4 (724) and 1 Corinthians 2:10 (727). See also Question 174 (pp. 136-137) in the catechism.



JESUS' BAPTISM

He Calls Us to Faith

The special work of the Holy Spirit is called **SANCTIFICATION**.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (735)

To Sanctify means _____

- The Holy Spirit *sets us apart* from the unbelieving world *by calling us to faith in Jesus*.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (761)

- Do we need the Holy Spirit to call us to faith?

Romans 8:7-8

Ephesians 2:1-3, 12

- Without faith in Jesus, can a person be saved?

Mark 16:15-16

- We need all three persons of the Trinity:

God the Father

God the Son

God the Spirit

As little as a dead body can quicken itself to bodily, earthly life, so little can man, who by sin is spiritually dead, raise himself to spiritual life (*Formula of Concord*).

Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in Him and take Him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit . . . (Luther's *Large Catechism*).

He Calls Us by the Gospel

What are some words used in the Bible for this calling to faith by the Holy Spirit?

Acts 11:21 (744)

John 3:3 (751)

Ephesians 2:1 (753)

What does the Holy Spirit use to do His work of bringing us to faith in Jesus?

1 Corinthians 4:15

Romans 1:16

In spoken form

Romans 10:17

(739)

In written form

2 Timothy 3:15

(740)

In the sacraments

Titus 3:5

(752)

- These ways by which the Holy Spirit gives forgiveness and works faith in that forgiveness are called the *means of grace*.
- The Bible also describes our calling to faith by the Holy Spirit like being invited to a banquet. See Luke 14:15-24.

- NOTE: Sometimes the word *call* in the Bible means the same as *invite*, for example, in the sentence: "Many are called, but few are chosen." But usually the word *call* means not only to invite, but also to bring about the acceptance of that invitation. When we say that the Holy Spirit has *called us by the Gospel*, we do not only mean that He has asked (invited) us to believe but that He has also *caused* us to believe (as in Rom 1:7 and 1 Cor 1:2).

God Wants All To Believe

How many people does the Holy Spirit want to be saved?

1 Timothy 2:4 (1153)

Why is it then that some people do not believe in Jesus?

Is it the gospel's fault?	...	Romans 1:16	...
Is it God's fault?	...	2 Peter 3:9	...
Whose fault is it?	...	Matthew 23:37 Acts 13:46	...

Therefore ...

If a person believes and is saved, it is all God's doing.
If a person does not believe and is lost, it is all his fault.

- All we can say is that those saved are saved by grace (free gift from God). God gets *all* the credit for their salvation. The lost are lost by their own fault. God gets *none* of the blame for their damnation.

We cannot answer the questions, "Why are some saved and not others? Why do some come to faith and some do not?" If we try to reason out answers to these questions, we end up in false teaching.

- *Synergism* is the teaching that conversion (faith in Jesus) is *not* brought about by the grace and power of God alone, but along with our cooperation. Synergists say that those who are saved are those who made a decision to accept Christ. This is a false teaching because the unbeliever does not have the power to decide for himself to believe in Jesus.
- *Calvinism* teaches that God does not want to convert and save everyone and that is why some do not believe. This is a false teaching because the Bible tells us plainly that God wants everyone to believe and be saved.

Review Questions

True or False

1. ____ The Holy Spirit has a body like Jesus.
2. ____ The Holy Spirit is God.
3. ____ Conversion means to “run away”.
4. ____ The Holy Spirit makes us Christians.
5. ____ Some people will go to heaven and some will go to hell.
6. ____ If you believe in Jesus, it is because God chose you to be a believer.
7. ____ The Holy Spirit brings us to faith by showing us our sins.
8. ____ Blind people cannot believe in Jesus because they cannot read the Bible.
9. ____ Baptism works faith in the heart.
10. ____ We are saved because we made a decision to believe in Jesus.
11. ____ Some are lost because God decided not to choose them to be saved.

In Your Catechism

- Study questions 173-180 (pp. 135-140).
- Review the Third Article of the Creed with Luther's explanation (p. 135).