

## YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

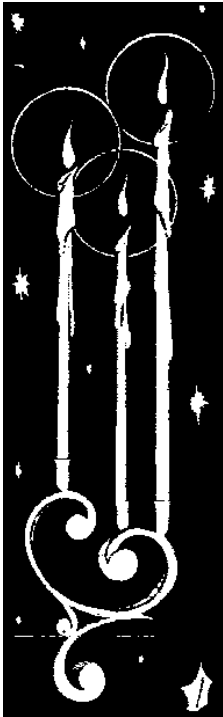
### LESSON 13: THE HOLY SPIRIT

### ENLIGHTENS ME WITH HIS GIFTS

#### Opening

- What does *sanctification* mean?
- What is the first part of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification?
- What is the next part of the Spirit's work, according to Luther's explanation of the third article (p. 135)

#### The Holy Spirit: Enlightens Us



What were we like before the Holy Spirit called (converted) us?

Ephesians 5:8 (765)

What does it mean when we say the Holy Spirit has *enlightened* us?

2 Corinthians 4:5 (764)

- See also the definition of *enlighten* on p. 141 in the catechism.
- Unbelief is like walking around in the darkness. We cannot see how much God loves us. We do not know all the wonderful things He does for us. We do not have nor appreciate His blessings. When the Spirit brings us to faith in Jesus, that is like walking in the *light*. Then we *can* see how much God loves us. We *do* know the wonderful things He does for us. We *do* receive His blessings and learn to appreciate them.
- The Holy Spirit opens the understanding and heart to understand the Scriptures and to give heed to the Word (*Formula of Concord*).

#### The Holy Spirit: Causes Us To See and Appreciate God's Gifts

What are some of the gifts we now have as believers *enlightened* by the Spirit?

- See passages 767-774 in the catechism.

- Additional gifts of the Spirit include:

1 Corinthians 6:11

1 Corinthians 3:16

Ephesians 1:3-5

Romans 8:28

Galatians 5:24<sup>1</sup>

- Besides the gifts given to all Christians (the ones mentioned under the two previous bullets), there were some special gifts that the Holy Spirit gave to **certain Christians** in the New Testament. What were those gifts and to whom were they given?

Bible Reference	Gift(s) of the Spirit	Given To:
Mark 16:17-20		
Acts 2:4		
Acts 3:6-7		
Acts 5:12		
1 Corinthians 12:4-11		

- Some spectacular gifts were given in the days of the apostles as signs to accompany their teaching. These spectacular gifts did not continue. For example, the Lutheran Reformation was accomplished by Word and Sacraments alone, without any spectacular signs. Today there are many (Pentecostals or charismatics in all the denominations) who claim that the Holy Spirit is again giving spectacular gifts such as tongue-speaking and healing. But since those who claim to have these gifts are at the same time teaching contrary to the Bible, it is clear that their so-called gifts are not gifts of the Holy Spirit at all but products of their own emotions or even works of the devil. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).
- The modern Pentecostal movement began in 1900 when a pastor prayed that a certain Agnes Ozman would receive the Holy Spirit, and there came from her lips a flow of syllables which neither of them could understand. The Pentecostal denominations and groups are now growing rapidly.

## In Your Catechism

- Study questions 181-182 (pp. 140-141).
- Study the Third Article of the Creed with Luther's explanation (p. 135).

**1 Regarding the power to fight and win over sin:** "As soon as the Holy Ghost, through the Word and holy Sacraments, has begun in us His work of regeneration and renewal, it is certain that through the power of the Holy Ghost we can and should cooperate, although still in great weakness. But this cooperation does not occur from our natural powers, but from the new powers and gifts which the Holy Ghost has begun in us in conversion" (*Formula of Concord*). Faith may at times be so weak that the believer hardly dares to make grace his own, but even such weak faith has full salvation. Weak faith is true faith when it carries with it hatred of sin (Rom 7:15), longing for grace in Christ (Mk 9:24), and love to the brethren (1 Jn 3:14).