



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 14: THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES ME AND KEEPS ME IN THE FAITH

Opening

- What does it mean that the Spirit has *enlightened* us?
- What gifts has the Spirit given to *all* Christians?
- Why were some believers given special gifts?
- If someone claims to have special gifts of the Spirit now, how can you test such a person to see if the gifts were from God?

The Holy Spirit: Sanctifies Us

To **sanctify** is to set something aside for a holy purpose. The Holy Spirit sanctified us when He:

- **Called us out of unbelief to faith**
(Set us apart from unbelievers by changing our hearts)
- **Enlightened us with His gifts**
(Set us apart from unbelievers by giving us special blessings)
- _____
(Set us apart from unbelievers with respect to our way of life)

It is this third part of sanctification that is the focus of this lesson. Sometimes when the Bible talks about our *sanctification*, it is only talking about this third part (e. g. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8). Other times, the Bible uses the word *sanctification* to mean *all* the work of the Holy Spirit (e. g. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).

The Holy Spirit: Helps Us To Grow In Holiness

God does not *count our sins against us* because of faith in Jesus, but that does not mean we do not sin. The Apostle Paul in Romans 7:18-25 talked about the struggle each Christian faces against sin and evil. Every Christian daily battles against the devil's temptations. The Holy Spirit helps us in this battle. He works in us so that we grow in holiness, do what is right, and lead lives that are pleasing to God.

The Holy Spirit carries out this part of sanctification in us by:

- _____ John 17:17 (1129)
Romans 12:1-2 (78)
- _____ Romans 8:5-9
- _____ Colossians 3:9-10 (991)
- _____ Romans 7:6
- _____ Titus 2:14 (780)

The good works that we do are also called *fruits of faith* because we do them as a result of our faith in Jesus (like an apple tree produces apples as a result of its being an apple tree). We do not do good works in order to earn favor with God and work our way to heaven.

- *Good works* can be defined as the works which the Holy Spirit leads believers to do according to God's will for the glory of God and the welfare of their neighbor.
- Only works which flow from faith in Jesus are considered *good* in God's sight. Unbelievers cannot do such good works before God. Without faith and the work of the Holy Spirit in them, their good deeds ultimately flow from selfishness rather than a love for God (e. g. they might work hard at their jobs, but only to gain money for themselves, not because God has asked them to work hard according to the Fourth Commandment). See Genesis 4:3-5 and Hebrews 11:4, 6.
- Works done *before faith* are worthless. Works done *after faith* are precious. Martin Luther: "Faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works constantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them . . .

Good works
should be
done and must
be done, not
that we are to
rely on them to
earn grace but
that we may
do God's will
and glorify
Him
(*Augsburg
Confession*)

Bible History: Sanctification and Fruits Of Faith



Read Luke 19:1-10. How did Zacchaeus show growth in holiness?

Read Matthew 12:41-44. How did a poor widow show growth in holiness?

Read Acts 16:33-34. How did the jailer show his faith through good works?

The Holy Spirit: Keeps Us In the True Faith

- The Holy Spirit also works to keep us in the true faith. See catechism Questions 186-187 (pp. 144-145). Finally when we die, we will be entirely free from sin (1 Corinthians 15:42-43).