

**Sunday School Lesson # 29.....The Work of the Holy Spirit: Topic – The Teaching of the Holy Spirit**

In our last lesson we began our Topic: The Teaching of the Holy Spirit in the series we started over seven months ago called THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Here in Lesson # 29 we begin our second of 3 lessons picking up with the:

**THE SPIRIT APPLIES KNOWLEDGE TO THE HEART**

- *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things” ( John 14:26).*

How urgently each of us need a Divine Teacher! A natural and notional knowledge of Divine things may be obtained through men, but a spiritual and experimental knowledge of them can only be communicated by God Himself. I may devote myself to the study of the Scriptures in the same ways as I would devote them to the study of some science or the mastering of a foreign language. By diligent application, persevering effort, and consulting works of reference (commentators, etc.), I may steadily acquire a comprehensive and accurate acquaintance with the letter of God’s Word and become an able expositor thereof. But I cannot obtain a heart-affecting, a heart purifying, and a heart-molding knowledge by those means. None but the Spirit of truth can write God’s Law on my heart, stamp God’s image upon my soul, and sanctify me by the Truth.

Conscience informs me that I am a sinner; the preacher may convince me that without Christ I am eternally lost; but neither the one nor the other is sufficient to move me to receive Him as my Lord and Savior. One man may lead a horse to the water, but no 10 men can make him drink when he is unwilling to do so. The Lord Jesus Himself was *“anointed to preach the Gospel” ( Luke 4:18)* and did so with a zeal for God’s glory and a compassion for souls such as none other ever had; yet He had to say to His hearers,

- *“Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life” ( John 5:40).*

What a proof is that that something more is required above and beyond the outward presentation of the Truth. There must be the inward application of Godly Knowledge to the heart with Divine power if the will is to be moved.

And that is what the teaching of the Spirit consists of: it is an effectual communication of the Word which works powerfully within the soul. This becomes more and more difficult for the Holy Spirit as more and more knowledge is revealed by an ever-widening source of knowledge is made available to the human mind. Consider in the last century the increase in sources of knowledge:

- The First Television March 25, 1925
- The First Computer 1942
- The Internet Invented 1969 (for private use and military use)
- The Internet Released to Public 1983 (at a price)
- Artificial Intelligence 1956 (Public exposed to unknowingly)

After all the Word *is the same yesterday, today, and forever more*. The world is bombarding our brains with so much new information from so many different sources.

So that is why is it that so many professing Christians change their view so easily and quickly! That is the reason there are so many thousands of unstable souls who are “*tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive*” ( *Ephesians 4:14*)? That is that this year they sit under a man who preaches the Truth and claim to believe and enjoy his messages; while next year they attend the ministry of a man of error and heartily embrace his opinions? It must be they were never taught of the Spirit. “*I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it*” ( *Ecclesiastes 3:14*).

What the Spirit writes on the heart remains: “*The anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you* ” ( *1 John 2:27*), and neither man nor devil can efface it.

Why is it that so many professing Christians are unfruitful? Month after month, year after year, they attend upon the means of grace and yet remain unchanged. Their store of religious information is greatly increased, their intellectual knowledge of the Truth is much advanced, but their lives are not transformed. There is no denying of self, taking up their cross, and following a despised Christ along the narrow way of personal holiness.

There is no humble self-abasement, no mourning over indwelling sin, no mortification of the same. There is no deepening love for Christ, evidenced by a running in the way of His commandments (after all there are only Two of Christ commandments):

- *Matthew 27:37-40* Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

As people we are “*ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*” ( *2 Timothy 3:7*), i.e. that “knowledge” which is vital, experimental, affecting, and transforming. Knowledge taught of the Spirit.

Why is it in times of temptation and death that so many despair? Because their house is not built upon the Rock. Hence, as the Lord Jesus declared, “*the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and itself*” ( *Matthew 7:27*). Folks aren’t being taught Knowledge of the Spirit!

Knowledge not taught of the Spirit could not endure the testing: when trouble and trial, temptation and tribulation came, its insecure foundation was exposed. And note the particular character Christ there depicted: “*Everyone that heareth these sayings of Mine, (His precepts in the much-despised “Sermon on the Mount”) and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand*” (v. 26). Men may go on in worldly courses, evil practices, sinful habits, trusting in a head-knowledge of Christ to save them; but when they reach “*the swelling of Jordan*” ( *Jeremiah 12:5*) they will prove the insufficiency of knowledge not taught of the Spirit.

A saving knowledge is not a knowledge of Divine things, but is a Divinely-imparted knowledge. It not only has God for its Object, but God for its Author. There must be not only a knowledge of spiritual things, but a spiritual knowledge of the same. The light which we have of them must be answerable to the things themselves: we must see them by their own light. As the things themselves are spiritual, they must be imparted and opened to us by the Holy Spirit. Where there is a knowledge of the Truth which has been wrought in the heart by the Spirit, there is an experimental knowledge of the same, a sensible consciousness, a persuasive and comforting perception of their reality, an assurance which nothing can shake. The Truth then possesses a sweetness, a preciousness, which no inducement can cause the soul to part with it.

**WHAT THE SPIRIT TEACHES** Now as to what it is which the Spirit teaches us, we have intimated, more or less, in previous lessons.

First, He reveals to the soul *“the exceeding sinfulness of sin”* ( *Romans 7:13*), so that it is filled with horror and anguish at its baseness, sins revelation by the Spirit leaves with no excuses. It is one thing to read of the excruciating pain which the gout, a kidney or gall stone will produce, but it is quite another thing for me to experience the well-nigh unbearable suffering of the same. In like manner, it is one thing to hear others talking of the Spirit convicting of sin, but it is quite another for Him to teach me that I am a rebel against God and give me a taste of His wrath burning in my conscience. The difference is as great as looking at a painted fire and being thrust into a real one.

Second, the Spirit reveals to the soul the utter futility of all efforts to save itself. The first effect of conviction in an awakened conscience is to attempt the rectification of all that now appears wrong in the conduct. A diligent effort is put forth to make amends for past offenses, painful penances are readily submitted to, and the outward duties of religion are given earnest attendance. But by the teaching of the Spirit the heart is drawn off from resting in works of righteousness which we have done ( *Titus 3:5*), and this, by His giving increasing light, so that the convicted soul now perceives he is a mass of corruption within, that his very prayers are polluted by selfish motives, and that unless God will save him, his case is beyond all hope.

Third, the Spirit reveals to the soul the suitability and sufficiency of Christ to meet its desperate needs. It is an important branch of the Spirit’s teaching to open the Gospel to those whom He has quickened, enlightened, and convicted—and to open their understanding and affections to take in the precious contents of the Gospel. *“He shall glorify Me” said the Savior, “for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you”* ( *John 16:14*).

This is His prime function: to magnify Christ in the esteem of *“His own.”*

The Spirit teaches the believer many things, but His supreme subject is Christ: to emphasize His claims, to exalt His Person, to reveal His perfections, to make Him superlatively attractive. Many things in Nature are very beautiful, but when the sun shines

upon them, we appreciate their splendor all the more. Thus it is when we are enabled to view Christ in the light of the Spirit's teaching.

The Spirit continues to teach the regenerate throughout the remainder of their lives. He gives them a fuller and deeper realization of their own native depravity, convincing them that in the flesh there dwells no good thing, and gradually weaning them from all expectation of improving the same. He reveals to them "the beauty of holiness," and causes them to pant after and strive for an increasing measure of the same. He teaches them the supreme importance of inward piety.

- *Mark 8:36-37 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

In Lesson # 30 we have our finally lesson (#30) on the Teaching of the Holy Spirit.