

Searching the Scriptures / 33 / The Holy Spirit And The Bible / Part 3

In our time together today we want to look at the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Holy Scriptures. As we explore this idea throughout the Bible we want to delve into the following points:

1. The Author of the Bible
2. Two Types of Spirit
3. The Spirit and the Word at Work in Salvation
4. A New (Resurrected) Soul

The Author of the Bible

We find these words in 2 Pet 1:21, *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* It is important to understand that God the Holy Spirit is the Divine Author of the Word of God, the Bible. Eph 6:17 explains that the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit: *“... And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* Why would God use the illustration of a “sword”, the only offensive weapon in the list of the Christian’s armor? Heb 4:12 serves to help us with the answer: *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Indeed, God’s double-edged Sword has the power to either cause spiritual death or spiritual life.

Two Types of Spirits

As we study the Bible we see that the Bible speaks of two spiritual kingdoms – the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. These kingdoms are ruled by two distinct spirits – the Spirit of Truth (God and true believers) and the spirit of error (Satan and unbelievers), as 1 John 4:6 declares, *“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”* John 14:17 further states: *“... the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* Eph 2:2 describes the natural state into which we are all born and in which the vast majority of mankind dies as they travel the broad road that leads to destruction: *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”*

The Spirit and the Word at Work in Salvation

The Holy Spirit works through the words of Scripture as Rom 10:17 affirms; *“... faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* This is the means whereby a person receives the gift of salvation, or eternal life. This is what is in view in Luke 4:18 when Jesus spoke of being empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish the awesome task of saving His people from their sins: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...”*

This why John 3:5 proclaims: “... *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” John 6:63 further states, “*It is the spirit that quickeneth [make alive]; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*” In Eze 36:26 God vividly depicts the problem that man has brought upon himself, and the solution that only God can provide: “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*”

A New (Resurrected) Soul

What actually takes place in salvation? God uses many analogies in the Bible to describe how and where one is born from above, or becomes saved. One such picture is circumcision. God informs us that physical circumcision could accomplish nothing in and of itself, but was merely a sign pointing to a far greater spiritual reality, which Rom 2:29 addresses: “*But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*” When God refers to the “heart” and the “spirit” (as we read in Eze 36:26 above), He is speaking metaphorically of our soul, the invisible part of our personality that will exist forever. For this reason Php 3:3 adds, “*For we [believers] are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*” God often speaks of circumcision in terms that can only be properly understood to mean spiritual circumcision. Tit 3:5-7 depicts yet another spiritual portrait: “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*”