

The Work of the Holy Spirit

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Lesson 4:

The Holy Spirit as a Confirmer of the Revealed Message

The Holy Spirit as a Confirmer

- ◆ Revelation from God to man is essential.
 - | From the creation we can conclude a Creator exists.
 - | We cannot know what He wants us to do unless He reveals instructions to us.
- ◆ Man must receive the instructions and know they are from God.
 - | We need revelation and confirmation.
 - | The Holy Spirit provided both.

The Holy Spirit as a Confirmer

- ◆ In our last lessons, we looked at:
The Holy Spirit as a revealer.
- ◆ In this lesson, we will look at:
The Holy Spirit as a confirmer.

The Holy Spirit as a Confirmer

- ◆ The miraculous gifts (miracles, signs, and wonders) through the power of the Holy Spirit:

- ① Authenticated the messengers and the message.

- ② Were evident through the five senses.

- ③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

① Miraculous gifts authenticated the messengers and the message.

◆ Signs, wonders, and miracles confirmed prophetic messengers and their messages.

| (Mark 16:20 NKJV) And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

| (Heb 2:4 NKJV) God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, ...

| I Cor. 2:4-5, I Thess. 1:5, Rom. 15:19

① Miraculous gifts authenticated the messengers and the message.

(Acts 5:32 NKJV) “And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

NOTE: *NKJV Interlinear* has “whom God gave to the ones obeying Him.”

- ◆ This verse is not a promise (future tense). It does not promise that God will “give the Holy Spirit” to all who obey Him.
- ◆ This verse speaks of the past. “We” (the Apostles now taking action) had been given “the Holy Spirit.”

① Miraculous gifts authenticated the messengers and the message.

(Acts 5:32 NKJV) “And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so also is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

◆ Two witnesses are referred to:

- | The Apostles were witnesses because they had heard, seen, and touched (I John 1:1).

① Miraculous gifts authenticated the messengers and the message.

(Acts 5:32 NKJV) “And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

◆ Two witnesses are referred to.

| The Holy Spirit (“received” by the Apostles) added His witness with the visible miraculous signs He enabled the Apostles to perform (Acts 5:12).

(Acts 5:12 NKJV) .. through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done ...

| Recall: Giving/sending/receiving H.S. often refers to miraculous abilities.

The Holy Spirit as a Confirmer

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② Were evident through the five senses.

- ◆ The confirming work by the Holy Spirit was effective ONLY because the Holy Spirit caused things to happen that could be perceived through the five senses (e.g., seen or heard).
- ◆ For example:
 - | (Acts 8:18 NKJV) ... Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given ...

② Were evident through the five senses.

- ◆ The confirming work of the Holy Spirit was perceived through the five senses.
- ◆ Proof must come through the senses.
 - | Proof/evidence must be “self-evident.”
 - | It must on its own be able to be seen, heard, etc.
 - | If it requires something else to prove its existence, then it is not proof!

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◆ Paul explains that God “established” His messengers with their audience.

| (2 Cor 1:21-22 ASV) Now he that establisheth us with you in Christ, ... is God

| Establish is from the same Greek word as “confirming” in Mark 16:20.

(Mark 16:20 NKJV) And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. ...

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◆ Paul explains that God “established” His messengers with their audience.

| (2 Cor 1:21-22 ASV) Now he that establisheth us with you in Christ, ...

◆ As discussed in a previous lesson, in II Cor. 1 Paul clearly identified “us.”

| (2 Cor 1:19 ASV) ... Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me, Silvanus, and Timothy ...

| “Us” refers to three who surely had miraculous abilities—not all Christians.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

◆ Paul explains HOW God “established” His authorized messengers:

| (2 Cor 1:21-22 ASV) Now he that establisheth us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also sealed us, and gave *us* the earnest of the Spirit ...

◆ God’s authorized messengers were:

| Given an anointing

| Given a seal

| Given an earnest

◆ We will look at each of these terms.



HOLY SPIRIT

REFERENCE SOURCE BOOK

An “anointing” (*cri'sma*) is a self-evident mark of assignment to a task/service.

37.107 *criw; cri'sma, ...* to assign a person to a task, with the implication of supernatural sanctions, blessing, and endowment ... (*Greek-English Lexicon of the N.T. based on Semantic Domains—Louw and Nida*)

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

◆ Anointing—An “anointing” is a (supernatural) endowment (gift) to authenticate the appointment to a task, office, or service.

◆ Seal

A “seal” (*sfragit'*) is a self-evident mark of authentication.

***sfragit'* (*sphragis*): a seal; a. the seal placed upon books; b. a signet-ring; c. the inscription or impression made by a seal; d. that by which anything is confirmed, proved, authenticated, as by a seal (*The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*)**

| The “seal” was a visible mark used to authenticate or prove authority.

(Mat 27:66 NKJV) ... made the tomb secure, sealing the stone (set a seal on the stone, NASB) and setting the guard.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

- ◆ Miraculous abilities through the Holy Spirit were the Divine “seal of approval” of God’s message to mankind.
- ◆ To propose an interpretation of the “sealing” process in which one must use the Scriptures to prove that man has “the Holy Spirit” as a seal reverses the meaning of the word “seal.”
 - | For example: the visible seal on an envelope proves the authenticity of the message inside; it is NOT the message that authenticates the seal.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

- ◆ **Anointing**—An “anointing” is a (supernatural) endowment (gift) to authenticate the appointment to a task, office, or service.
- ◆ **Seal**—A “seal” is a discernible, self-evident mark used to authenticate or prove the validity of something else.
- ◆ **Earnest**

An “earnest” (*ajrrabwn*) is a self-evident assurance of future benefits.

ajrrabwn (*arrabon*): a pledge, an earnest, down payment (*The New Englishman's Greek Concordance and Lexicon—Wigram-Green*)

- | The earnest is the tangible, discernible evidence of other things to come.
- | The “arrabon” must be self-evident, i.e., not dependent on other witnesses to prove its existence or validity, because it is the proof of other things.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

◆ Paul told the Corinthians that God gave “us” (those with miraculous abilities) the ...

(2 Cor 1:21-22 ASV) ... earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

◆ Some view the word “heart” in this verse as supporting the view that the Holy Spirit Himself literally dwells in the hearts of all Christians.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

◆ But, “heart” is clearly figurative.

◆ Recall the previous lesson:

| (2 Cor 4:4-6 NKJV) ... God ... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God ...

| (Rom 5:5 NKJV) ... the love of God has been poured out in our hearts ...

◆ The evidence goes into man’s intellectual capability (mind/heart).

◆ There cannot be a literal dwelling in a figurative place.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

- ◆ **Anointing**—An “anointing” is a (supernatural) endowment (gift) to authenticate the appointment to a task, office, or service.
- ◆ **Seal**—A “seal” is a discernible, self-evident mark used to authenticate or prove the validity of something else.
- ◆ **Earnest**—An “earnest” is a discernible, self-evident proof of other things.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

(2 Cor 1:21-22 ASV) ... he that establisheth us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also sealed us, and gave *us* the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

- ◆ God established His messengers with:
 - | An anointing, a seal, and an earnest
- ◆ All three terms refer to proofs that could be discerned through the senses.
- ◆ The miraculous abilities provided that confirming proof of God's message.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

◆ Now, we will see these definitions fit well other passages in which Paul uses the words “seal” and “earnest.”

| Ephesians 1:13

| II Corinthians 5:4-6

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

(Eph 1:13 KJV) ... after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

- | In Acts 19:1-7, twelve Ephesians were given the miraculous gifts **AFTER** they were baptized.

(Acts 19:5-6 NKJV) ... they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

- ◆ The “sealing” of the Ephesians occurred after, not when they believed.
- ◆ The sequence of events is important.
- ◆ This “sealing” cannot be something that the Ephesians (or all Christians) receive WHEN they are baptized.
- ◆ It is something (miraculous abilities) that the Ephesians received AFTER they were baptized (when an Apostle’s hands were laid on them).

③ Are described in the N.T. using terms that indicate their function.

(2 Cor 5:4 NKJV) For we who are in *this* tent groan, ... because we want ... that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

(2 Cor 5:5-6 NKJV) Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
So *we are* always confident ...

- | As in Eph. 1:14, the miraculous abilities through the Holy Spirit were the advanced assurance (guarantee, earnest, deposit, pledge) that they were on a course that led to heaven.

The Holy Spirit as a Confirmer

- ◆ The New Testament is filled with language describing the Holy Spirit's work of revelation and confirmation.
- ◆ Three key words are: anointing, seal, and earnest.
- ◆ They refer to miraculous gifts through the Holy Spirit that provided confirmation of the revealed message.
- ◆ Failure to recognize a Scripture as speaking of this miraculous era may result in trying to apply it to all Christians of all times.