

# ***The Work of the Holy Spirit***

*Stan Crowley*

## Lesson 3:

# *The Holy Spirit as a Revealer of God's Message to Man*

# The Revelation of God's Will

- ◆ Revelation from God to man is essential.
  - | From the creation we can conclude the 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 Revelation of God's Will

- ◆ In a two-lesson sequence we will look at:
  - | The Holy Spirit as a revealer (*this lesson*).
  - | The Holy Spirit as a confirmer.

# The Revelation of God's Will

◆ This lesson will cover four areas.

- ① Revelation was to prophets (by the miraculous gift of prophecy).
- ② Revelation was through the Holy Spirit.
- ③ Revelation was in words.
- ④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

*Revelation was to prophets, through the Holy Spirit, in words, into man's mind.*

# The Revelation of God's Will

- ◆ Paul gives a detailed description of the revelation process in I Cor. 2.

(1 Cor 2:9 NKJV) But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

*Revelation was to prophets, through the Holy Spirit, in words, into man's mind.*

# The Revelation of God's Will

(1 Cor 2:10 NKJV) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

(1 Cor 2:11 NKJV) For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

(1 Cor 2:12 NKJV) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

***Revelation was to prophets, through the Holy Spirit, in words, into man's mind.***

# The Revelation of God's Will

(1 Cor 2:13 NKJV) These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

*Revelation was to prophets, through the Holy Spirit, in words, into man's mind.*

# The Revelation of God's Will

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① Revelation was to prophets (by the miraculous gift of prophecy).

- ◆ Paul wrote to the Ephesians about his ...
  - | (Eph 3:4-5 NKJV) ... knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:
- ◆ Knowledge was revealed to prophets (including Apostles) by the Spirit.
- ◆ Prophecy was a spiritual gift (I Cor. 13:2, “gift of prophecy”; I Cor. 14:1, “desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy”) **so was limited to miraculous age.**

① Revelation was to prophets (by the miraculous gift of prophecy).

- ◆ The ones to whom God's message had been revealed ("us" of verse 10) had received the Holy Spirit ("we" of verse 12).
  - | (1 Cor 2:10 NKJV) But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit ...
  - | (1 Cor 2:12 NKJV) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

*These verses also refer to the prophets "receiving" the Holy Spirit, Who revealed God's message to them.*

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## ② Revelation was through the Holy Spirit.

### ◆ Paul emphasized the role of the Holy Spirit in revelation.

- | (1 Cor 2:10 NKJV) But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit ...
- | (1 Cor 2:12 NKJV) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.
- | (1 Cor 2:13 NKJV) These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches ...

*This is another example of “receiving the Holy Spirit” referring to miraculous abilities.*

## ② Revelation was through the Holy Spirit.

### ◆ Peter wrote about ...

| (1 Pet 1:12 NKJV) ... things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven ...

### ◆ Jesus promised the Apostles that the Holy Spirit would be “sent” to teach.

| (John 14:26 NKJV) “... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

## ② Revelation was through the Holy Spirit.

### ◆ John writes of a “teaching” process.

- | (1 John 2:20 NKJV) ... you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.
- | (1 John 2:27 NKJV) But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and ... the same anointing teaches you concerning all things ...

## ② Revelation was through the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ Note the similar descriptions of Paul, Peter, and John about the sending/receiving of the Holy Spirit to teach.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Action</u>	
I Cor. 2	H. S. received	revealed/taught
I Pet. 1	H. S. sent	reported
John 14	H. S. sent	taught
I John 2	anointing received	taught

*All refer to the miraculous gift of prophecy.*

# The Revelation of God's Will

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### ③ Revelation was in words.

- ◆ Paul describes the mechanism by which God gave His messages to man: words.
  - | (1 Cor 2:12-13 NKJV) ... that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches ...
- ◆ Observe: They (the prophets) were taught things in words that they could then speak.

*Instructions given through the Holy Spirit were always in words.*

## ③ Revelation was in words.

- ◆ There are many references to the Holy Spirit communicating in words.
  - | (1 Tim 4:1 NKJV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith ...
  - | (Acts 13:2 NKJV) ... the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
  - | (Acts 8:29 NKJV) Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”
  - | We can read what the Holy Spirit says to the churches (Rev. 2 and 3).

## ③ Revelation was in words.

- ◆ There are no recorded instances of the Holy Spirit:
  - | Directly implanting thoughts,
  - | Directly causing feelings, or
  - | Directly affecting the decision-making powers of man.

***Instructions given through the Holy Spirit were always in words.***

# The Revelation of God's Will

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*God has always influenced man through his five senses.*

*Hear / See / Smell / Touch / Taste*



*Man's intellectual capabilities*

④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

*The  
Creation*



*The Words of  
Revelation*



*The  
Miracles*



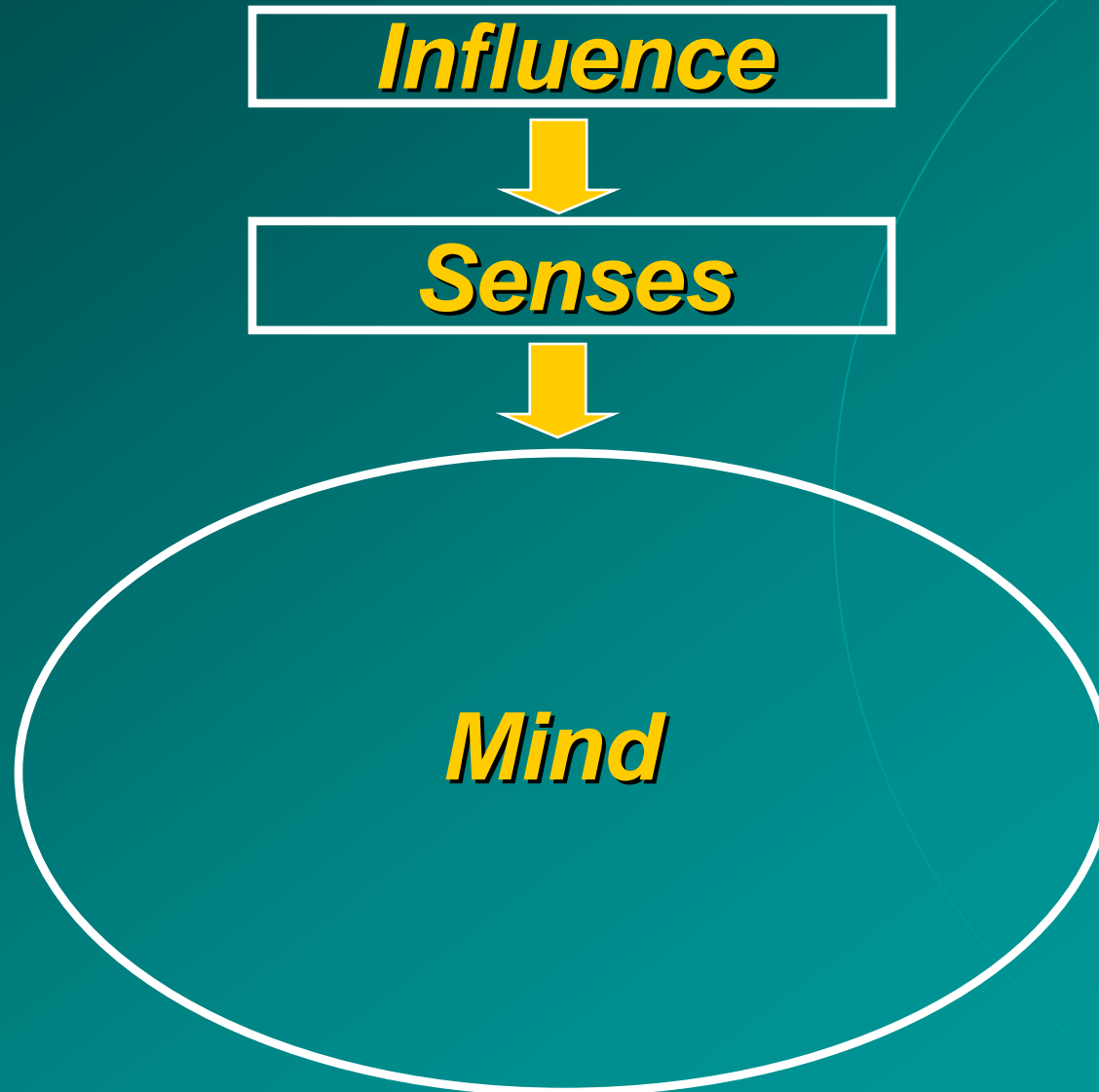
*Hear / See / Smell / Touch / Taste*



*Man's intellectual  
capabilities: mind*

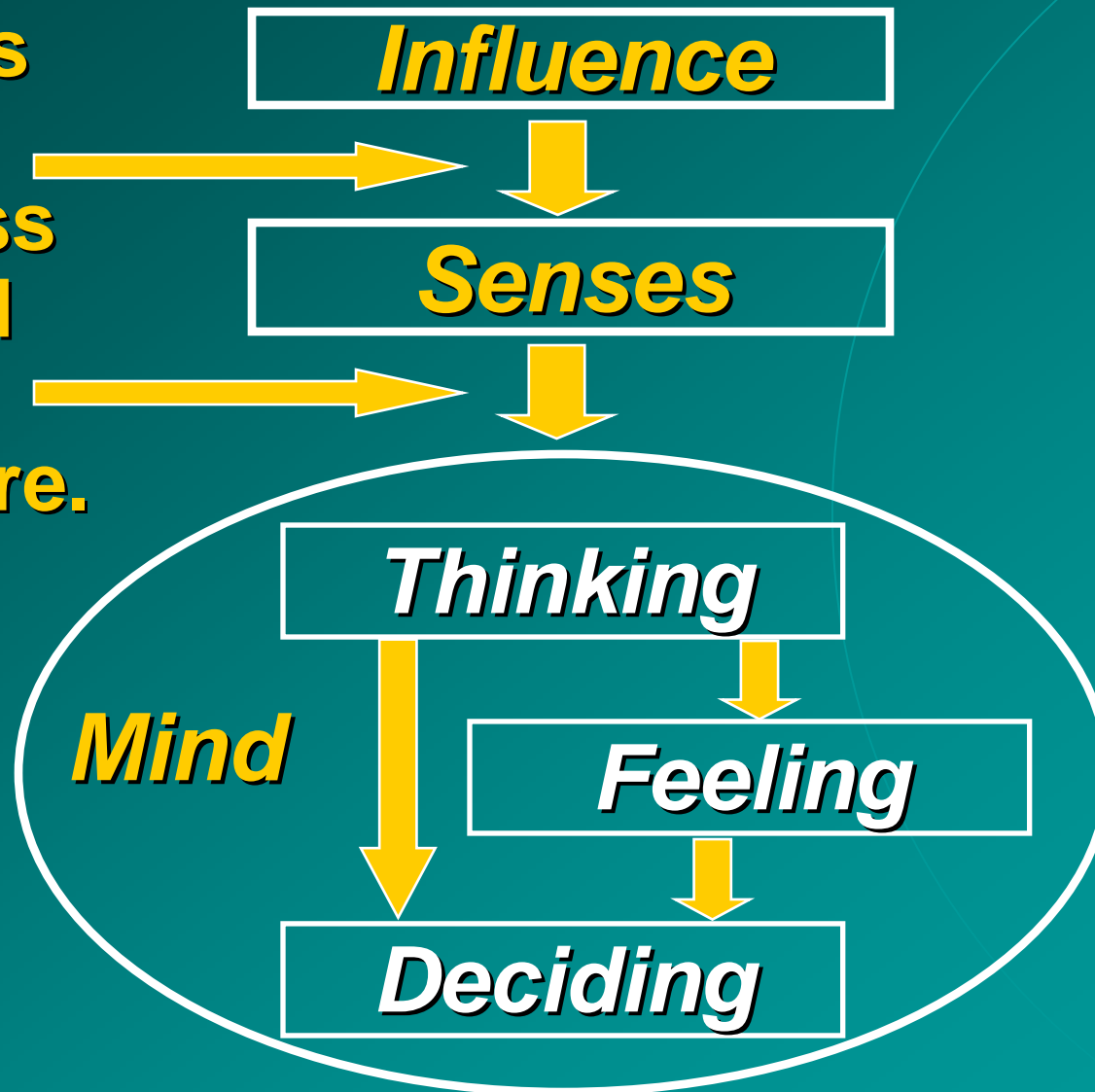
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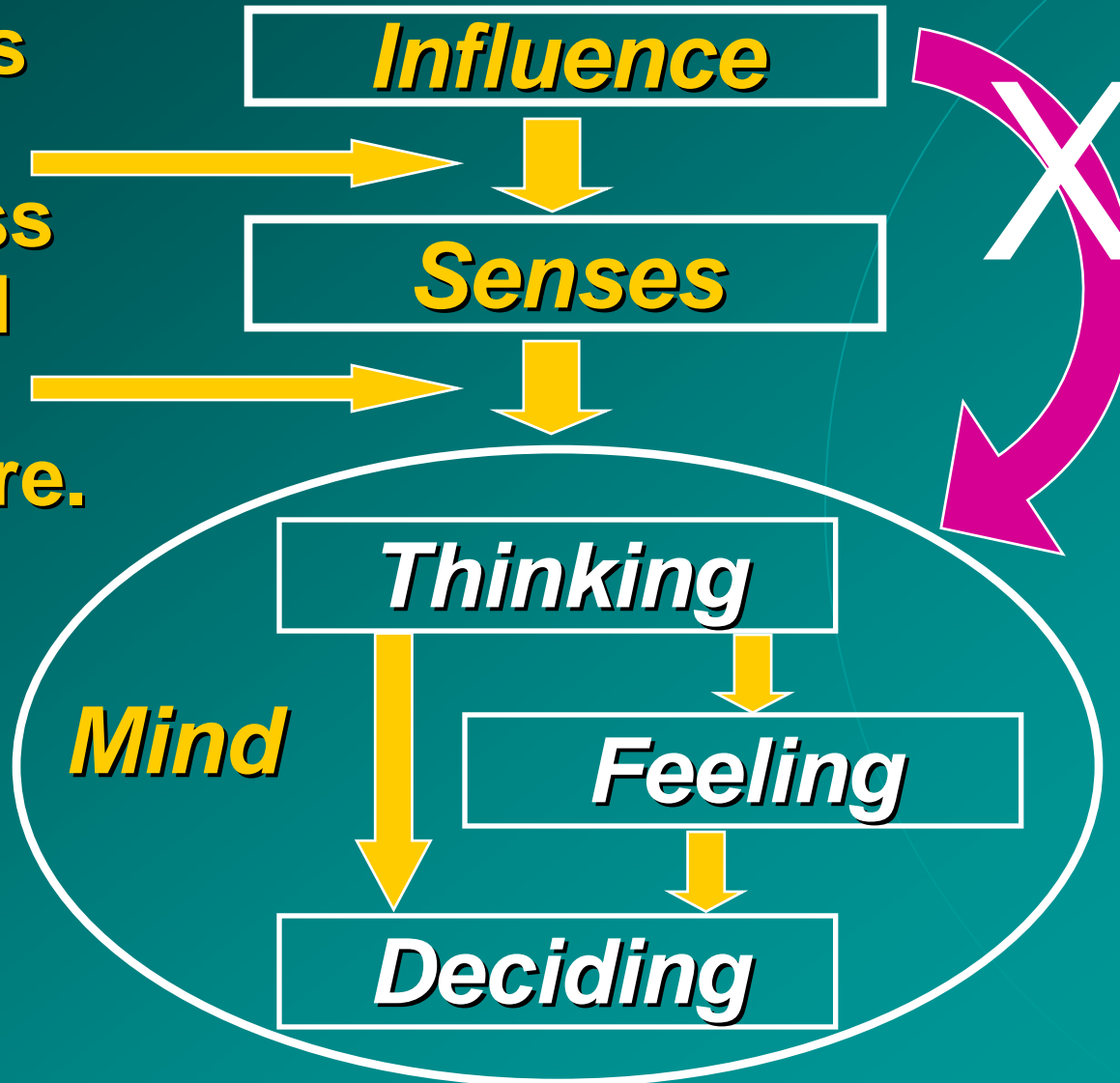
This is the process found in Scripture.



God affects man's will by what He says and shows to man.

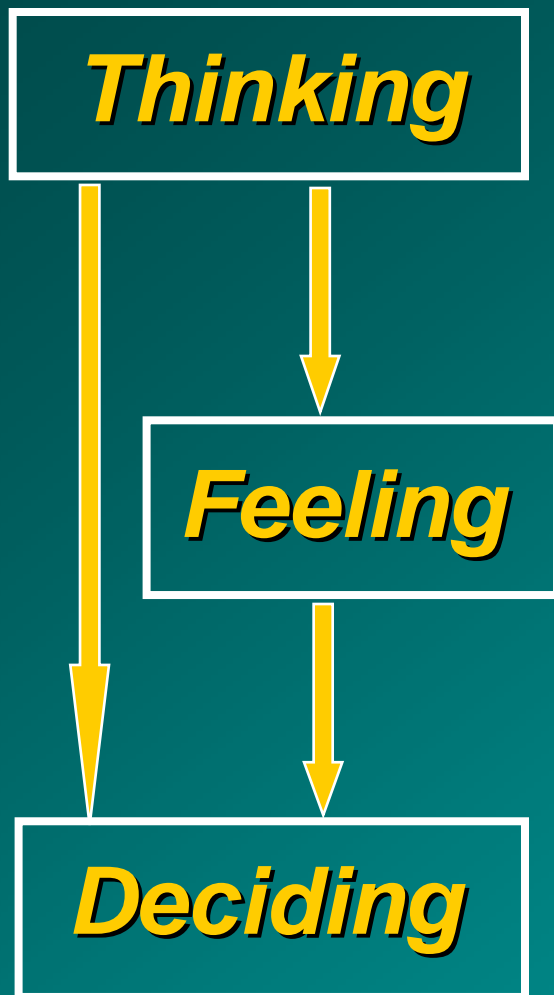
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This is the process found in Scripture.



Never do we find God directly affecting man's thinking, feeling, or will.

## ④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").



- ◆ If He directly affects our thoughts, why are we told to bring every thought into captivity (II Cor. 10:5)?
- ◆ If He directly affects our feelings, we should listen to those who "feel" something is wrong.
- ◆ If He directly affects our decisions, then to the extent that He does we are not responsible.

## ④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

- ◆ God's has always influenced man's mind through man's senses.
- ◆ We do not find examples of:
  - | Directly implanting thoughts,
  - | Directly causing feelings, or
  - | Directly affecting the decision-making powers of man.

*Those who teach that God operates directly on man's MIND (e.g., through the Holy Spirit) are teaching a method nowhere found in the Scriptures.*

④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

*Influence*



*Senses*



*Thinking*



*Feeling*



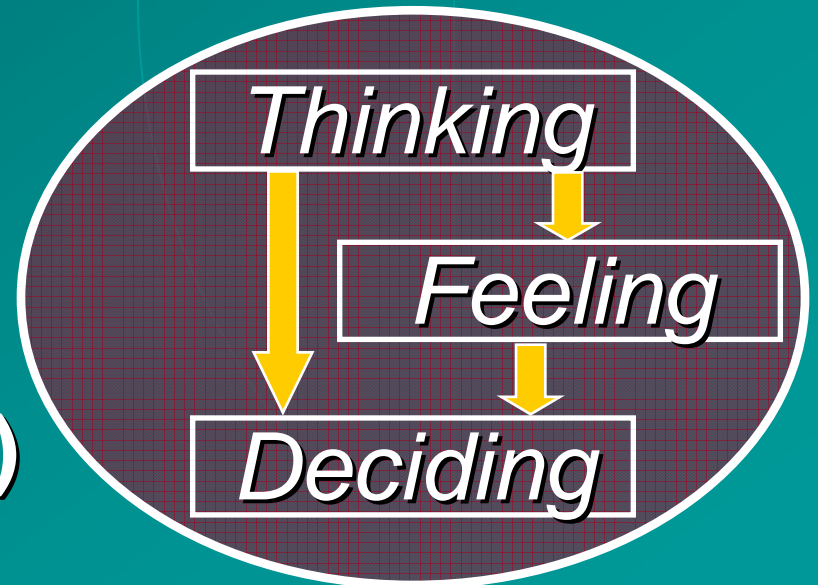
*Deciding*

*We call  
this  
man's  
mind.*

*The  
Scriptures  
often call  
this man's  
heart.*

## ④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

- ◆ In the Scriptures, "heart" is:  
*"The inner self that thinks, feels, and decides. In the Bible the word heart has a much broader meaning than it does to the modern mind."* (Nelson's Bible Dictionary via PC Study Bible Software)
- ◆ Examples:
  - | Thinking (Pr. 23:7)
  - | Rejoicing (Ez. 25:6)
  - | Concluding (Ps. 14:1)



④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

◆ Knowledge not previously in man's heart was revealed to man (in words).

| (1 Cor 2:9-10 NKJV) ... Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit ...

| (1 Cor 2:12-13 NKJV) Now we have received ... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know ... These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches ...

***Prophets "received" the Holy Spirit to be able to teach "into the heart of man."***

***H.S. given/received=miraculous abilities.*** 31

④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

◆ Other verses indicate that the message went into "the heart."

| "God" shined in the heart; God shined the message (of the gospel) into the heart to give knowledge.

(2 Cor 4:4-6 NKJV) ... the light of the gospel ... should shine on them. ... For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God ...

## ④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

- ◆ The Holy Spirit poured (the message of) God's love into the heart.
  - | (Rom 5:5 NKJV) ... the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- ◆ Note that this verse does not say:
  - | The Holy Spirit is "in our hearts."
  - | The Holy Spirit is "given" to all Christians.
- ◆ Statement is written by a prophet "us" who had received miraculous abilities.

④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

◆ Compare I Cor. 2:9-13 with Romans 5:5.

| (1 Cor 2:9-13 NKJV) ... entered into the heart of man ... God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. ... Now we have received ... the Spirit ... we also speak ... in words

| (Rom 5:5 NKJV) ... poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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*These passages speak of miraculous abilities possessed by Apostles and prophets.* 35

④ Revelation was into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

**Influence**



**Senses**



**Thinking**



**Feeling**



**Deciding**

*We call  
this  
man's  
mind.*

*The  
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**Those who teach that God operates DIRECTLY on man's HEART (e.g., through the Holy Spirit) are teaching a method nowhere found in the Scriptures.**

# The Revelation of God's Will—Summary

- ◆ God's message for mankind was:
  - ① Revealed to prophets (those with the miraculous gift of prophecy that was available only in the early church age).
  - ② Revealed through the Holy Spirit,
    - who was sent/received/given and
    - who taught.
  - ③ Revealed in words (only means of instruction found in the N.T.).
  - ④ Revealed into man's intellectual capabilities (mind or "heart").

# Signs, Wonders, and Miracles— Additional Observations

- ◆ **Some teach the Holy Spirit is still giving instructions or insights today.**
  - | **Providing a better understanding of a passage is providing information that changes what a person will think or do.**
  - | **Any information from God that supplements what has previously been provided is new revelation—it should be recorded and shared as “Scripture.”**
  - | **Any revelation from God involves “prophecy,” implying that there are miracles today.**

# Signs, Wonders, and Miracles— Additional Observations

- ◆ The New Testament is filled with language about the work of the Holy Spirit in revealing God's message.
  - | We must examine “Holy Spirit” passages in light of this revealing work of the Holy Spirit.
  - | Many passages, when understood in this context, do not apply to Christians today.

***A text taken from its context  
becomes a pretext.***