

The Holy Spirit V

Most people in the general religious world think that the Holy Spirit does his work through miraculous means, directly and supernaturally bringing his influence to bear on human beings. The Bible affirms that the Spirit is active in the salvation of the alien sinner and also in the sanctification of the saint (1 Corinthians 6:11; II Thessalonians 2:13; 5:23). The usual misunderstanding of these passages is that the Spirit does this in a direct way. The fact is, these two activities of the Spirit (salvation of the alien sinner and sanctification of the saint) are accomplished through the Word and only through the Word of God. The truth of this position is demonstrated in the following Scripture. In John 16: 7-11, the Spirit is said to do several things. One, he is to REPROVE the world of SIN. There is no doubt that he does this very thing, but HOW does he do it? This is the proper question. He does this through the Word and specifically he did this through the preaching of the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost. Peter states in Acts 2:23, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." He also states in Acts 2:36-37, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" The reproofing was done through the message. Second, back in John 16, the Spirit is said to reprove the world of righteousness. This was done by Peter's pointing out that Jesus was innocent of any wrong doing. Third, the Spirit also is to reprove the world of judgment. This has to do with the overturning of the false judgment pronounced upon Christ by his enemies. Peter states in Acts 2:23, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." He also states in Acts 2:36-37, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

The work of the Spirit that was described in John 16:7-11 was accomplished through the message of truth he gave through inspired men. There is nothing mysterious about this. Many people today think that the Spirit, his identity, his nature and his work are mysterious. Consequently, they interpret his work as being mystical and miraculous, thinking that the primary means by which he operates in our world is through the supernatural. This belief is false. Lee

