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The Holy Spirit—Our Helper

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, May 8, 2011

The Deity of The Spirit

Among the ways that God dignifies humanity is this: God the Holy Spirit has been sent to inhabit those that God the Father has chosen and that God the Son has redeemed; so that redeemed people truly are the dwelling place of God on earth.

In our last study, we established that the Holy Spirit is a Person. What follows is an effort to establish of what kind of Person He is. The Triune Godhead--that is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit--exists eternally. But the doctrine of the Deity of the Holy Spirit--as is also true of the doctrine of the Trinity itself--is something that is revealed 'inductively' rather than 'expressly' in Scripture. It is revealed to us . . .

I. THROUGH THE ATTRIBUTES HE IS SAID TO POSSESS.

The things that are said to be true of the Holy Spirit are inherently such as can only be said of Someone who is God:

- A. He is said to be omniscient with respect to the things of God--searching even the deep things of God and knowing them (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).
- B. He is said to be omnipresent--in such a way that there is not a place anywhere that anyone can go and *not* be in His presence (Psalm 139:7).
- C. He is said to be omnipotent with respect to the workings of God--so that what God says He does is said to be done by His Spirit (Zechariah 4:6).

II. THROUGH THE ACTS HE IS SAID TO PERFORM.

Some of the works that the Holy Spirit are said to perform are works that can only be done by Someone who is Himself truly God:

- A. He was involved in the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2; see also Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30).
- B. It was by the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of Mary (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35). Only God can conceive the Son of God.
- C. Scripture--which is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)--was given by the direct agency of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 2 Peter 2:21).

III. THROUGH THE NAMES TO WHICH HE IS CONNECTED.

This is demonstrated in at least two notable ways:

- A. The same Person is called either "the Lord" or "God" and "the Holy Spirit" in the same immediate context (Acts 5:2-4; 16:6-10; John 14:16-18).
- B. Things said by God in the Old Testament are said to be spoken by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (compare Exodus 17:2-7 with Hebrews 3:7-9; Isaiah 6:8-10 with Acts 28:25-27; and Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17).

IV. THROUGH THE RELATIONSHIPS TO WHICH HE IS ASSOCIATED.

The Holy Spirit is presented in 'tri-unity' with the Father and the Son:

- A. The Holy Spirit was present with the Father at the Son's earthly baptism (Matthew 3:16-17).
- B. It is in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that believers are to be baptized (Matthew 28:19).
- C. It is by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that Paul offered a blessing to the saints (2 Corinthians 13:14).
- D. It is through the work of the Father (Ephesians 1:3-6), the Son (vv. 7-12) and the Holy Spirit (vv. 13-14) that Paul says salvation is accomplished.