

## The Holy Spirit's Work in the Unbeliever

### 1) The Holy Spirit **SANCTIFIES** the unbeliever:

*“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through **sanctification by the Spirit** and belief in the truth”*  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:13....NKJV)

\*The word “sanctification” means “set apart.” In this verse we see the Holy Spirit’s work where He “sets people apart” BEFORE CONVERSION by convicting them of their lost and sinful condition so they are prepared to BELIEVE THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL for their salvation.

### 2) The Holy Spirit **SHINES** the light of the gospel into the heart of the unbeliever:

*“The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘LET THERE BE LIGHT’; and there was light”* (Genesis 1:2-3a)

*“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. For it is 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 IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:3-6)

\*The Holy Spirit used the WORD (“Let there be light”) to introduce LIGHT into the darkness so He could RESTORE HIS CREATION; the Holy Spirit uses the WORD to introduce the LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL into our dark, sinful hearts to MAKE US A NEW CREATION!

### 3) The Holy Spirit **SAVES** the unbeliever through the New Birth:

*“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be BORN AGAIN.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit”*  
(John 3:3-8)

\*We believe the “water” speaks of the WORD OF GOD. Can anyone quote scripture to prove this?

\*The Holy Spirit, like the WIND, cannot be seen. But just as we see the EFFECTS OF WIND, we can see the EFFECTS OF HIS WORK in souls.

>Let me tell you about a man named Bob Pierce!

**Now let's take a closer look at the Holy Spirit's work in the unbeliever. He wants to show the sinner THREE THINGS:**

**1) Their LOST CONDITION and the PENALTY their sins deserve**

*"And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of SIN, and of RIGHTEOUSNESS and of JUDGMENT" (John 16:8)*

\*The Holy Spirit has always convicted men of sin and judgment to come:

*"And the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years" (Genesis 6:3)*

>QUESTIONS: What time is this referring to and how did "the Spirit strive with man?"  
(see 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18-20 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:5)

>Today the Spirit strives with man by PREACHING THROUGH US! *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8)*

\*Just as Noah preached to the ungodly in his day of their sin, God's holiness and coming judgment, we must be faithful in warning the wicked of their LOST CONDITION and COMING JUDGMENT.

*"God commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge this world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31)*

**2) The BLESSINGS they can have through Christ (PICTURED for us in Genesis 24)**

*"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43)*

*"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39)*

*"I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:17-18)*

**3) The FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST**

*"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-16)*

The moment one believes on Christ for salvation, they are **SEALED by the Holy Spirit**. See Ephesians 1:13