

The Holy Spirit Works Through The Word In Conversion

I. Reasons why it is false.

- A. It takes away man's free moral agency.
 - 1. You and I each have the ability to choose right or wrong.
 - 2. Mark 16:16; Joshua 24:15.
- B. If the Holy Spirit acted on men's hearts there would be no need for the Bible.
- C. God is not a respecter of persons.
 - 1. Acts 10:34.
 - 2. Romans 2:11.
- D. The Bible teaches that the one who obeys the gospel is the one who will be saved.
 - 1. Mark 16:16.
 - 2. Hebrews 5:8-9.

II. The book of Acts shows this idea to be false.

- A. Notice the first converts to Christianity.
 - 1. These people confused at what was taking place (2:6, 7 and 12).
 - 2. What cleared up their confusion?
 - a. Notice verses 14, 22, 36-38 and 40-41.
 - b. They heard words.
- B. Notice the conversion of the Samaritans.
 - 1. Philip preached Christ unto them.
 - 2. Notice verses 14-16 - why would the Bible say these people were saved but they had not received the Holy Spirit?
 - 3. The Holy Spirit was present but did nothing directly to the hearts of those that heard the gospel and obeyed it.
- C. Cornelius and those Gentiles in his house had the Holy Spirit poured out on them.
 - 1. Were they saved at that point?
 - 2. Peter still treated them as being lost (10:47-48).

III. The Holy Spirit works through the word in conversion.

- A. Every conversion recorded in Acts was converted after hearing words.
- B. The Holy Spirit dwells in us as does the word (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16).
- C. The Holy Spirit converts as does the word (John 16:7-8; Psalm 19:7).
- D. The Holy Spirit leads as does the word (Romans 8:14; Psalm 119:105).
- E. "Ye are clean through the words which I have spoken" (John 15:3).

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