

Part 4 – The doctrine of Christ - section 5 The Work of the Holy Spirit + revision of sections 1- 4

Introduction:

When talking about the doctrine of Christ or Christology, most traditional Systematic Theologies such as those by Berkhof or Hodge have just four sections: The Person or Names and Nature of Christ, The Atonement, The States of Christ and the Offices of Christ. But Grudem adds a section called “The Work of the Holy Spirit”. The reason for including this section is



because in these Last Days the Holy Spirit has again been “*poured out upon all flesh*” just as He was at Pentecost. We believe we are coming to the end of the age when Christ will return. God will be seen to be on the move in a spectacular way, while at the same time evil will increase across the face of the earth. The Church will rise up and take

centre stage on the landscape of daily human activity. The Gospel will be preached to every person and signs and wonders will abound, confirming the word. So an inclusion of the moving of the Holy Spirit in His Church is highly appropriate.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Grudem defines the work of the Holy Spirit as follows: “The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church”

The Holy Spirit was active in creation and in Genesis we read: “The spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters”. However it is in the New Testament that we learn how the Holy Spirit moves through Jesus in a miraculous way, and this is something for us to imitate today. Jesus said: “When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the

Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.” All activity of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus and confirm the truth of His Word.

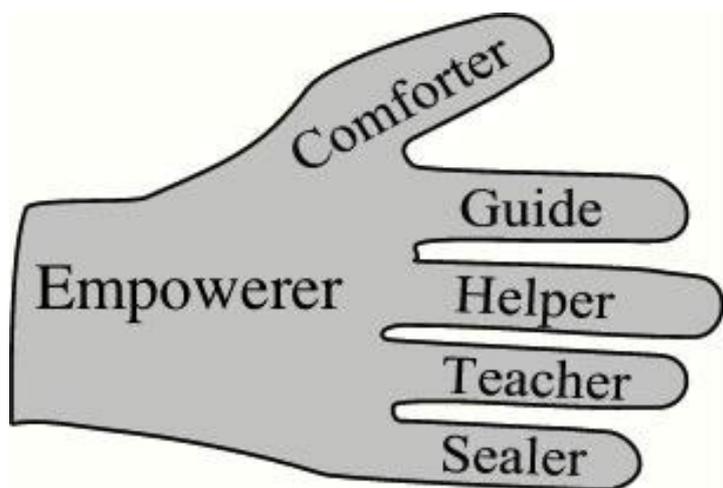
Now that Jesus has ascended the Holy Spirit is the primary manifestation or the presence of the Trinity among us.

Even in the Old Testament Isaiah prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be outpoured and the result would be marvellous: *“The fortress will be abandoned..... till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.” Isa 32:14-18.*

Empowering and changing us:

1. He Gives Life: The Spirit breathes life at creation: “When You sent forth Your spirit they were created” (Ps 104:30). Conversely if God “should take back His spirit to Himself, and gather to himself his breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust (Job 34:14-15).

Thirdly the Holy Spirit gives us eternal life when we are born again. Jesus said to Nicodemus: That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of Spirit is Spirit. John 3:6-7.



The Holy Spirit is a person. Once we have confessed our sins and asked Jesus to fill us, He comes to live in us in us and ministers to us.

2. He gives power for service: In the Old Testament Joshua, Gideon, David, Samson and many others were empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” when he went into the wilderness to be tempted (Lk 4:1). We also need the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome; Jesus said that in John 14:17 “you know him for he lives with you and will be in you” In Acts 1:8 Jesus said: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses....” It’s the work

and power of the Holy Spirit working in us, purifying our hearts, revealing truths, working miracles and turning us into a loving, peaceful and patient people. It's His activity within us that makes us a witness to those around us and causes us to bear fruit.

Unifying us: Finally the Holy Spirit unites us. This is His ultimate goal toward which He works with all His might: to glorify Jesus by presenting us as the Bride of Christ, a radiant church, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and blameless (Eph 5:27)

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Revision questions for Christology sections 1-4:

Section 1 – The nature and names of Christ:

- 1 What is the nature of Jesus? In what way does understanding Jesus' nature help us in our daily lives?
- 2 Why was it necessary for Christ to have this nature?
- 3 What proof is there that Jesus had both natures?

- 4 What are the main names of Jesus and what do they signify?
- 5 What name does Jesus use for Himself? Why is this?
- 6 What does the name "Lord" signify and who used it?

Section 2 – the Atonement

- 1 What does Atonement mean?
- 2 What was the "moving cause"? (Why was it necessary?)
- 3 What should our response be and how does understanding it affect our preaching of the gospel?
- 4 How is Christ's vicarious atonement prefigured in the OT?
- 5 What was the extent of the atonement? Explain the terms "Universal" and "Limited".

Section 3 – The States of Christ

- 1 What are the two main states of Christ? What stages are included in each state?

2 What took place at the incarnation?

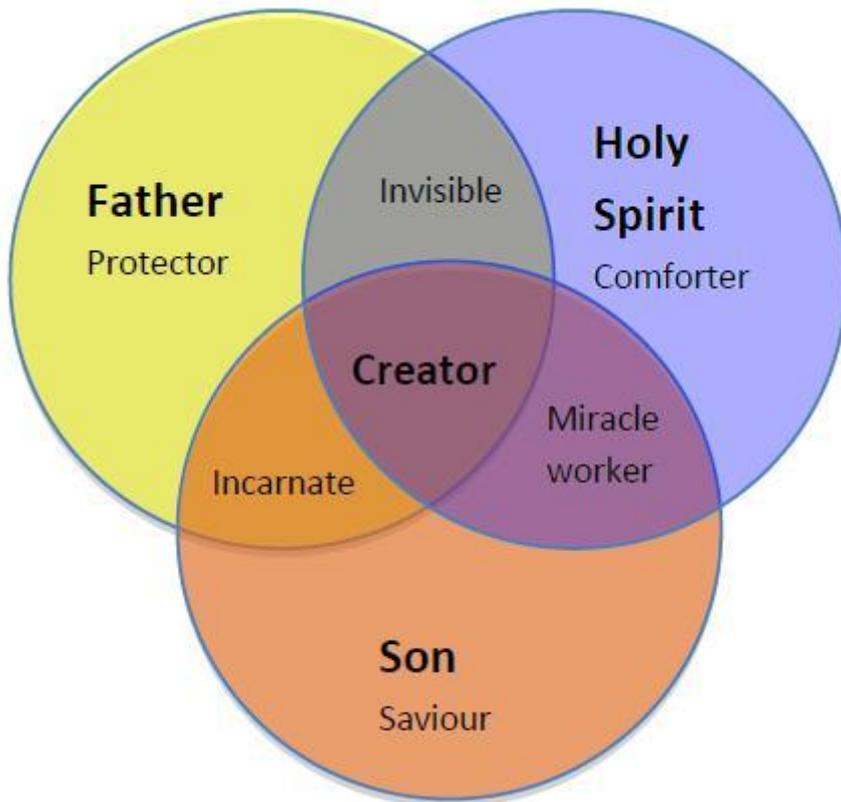
3 Were the sufferings of Christ limited to the end of His life?

4 To what extent do we identify with the various stages He went through?

5 In what state and stage will Jesus return?

6 What probably took place in the descent into Hades?

7 How will Christ return?



Section 4 – The offices of Christ

1 What threefold office has Christ?

2 What is a prophet and how was Christ prefigured in this office?

3 What did Christ do as a

priest?

4 What is Christ's Kingdom?

5 To what extent do we share His offices and what does this mean in practice?

Conclusion:

in these sessions, part 4 of Systematic Theology, we have looked at the Doctrine of Christ and the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this has not been to fill ourselves with knowledge for its own sake and it does not qualify us for any position in the Church. It's the outworking of these truths in our lives that counts: the daily changes that take place in our hearts as we seek to prayerfully imitate Him. In first place it should turn our hearts to gratitude, praise and worship for who He is, our supremely loving Lord and saviour, who will one day return for us!

Songs:

In Christ Alone, Above all powers, All Hail the power of Jesus' Name
Crown Him with many crowns, No other Name, Jesus name above all names