

THEOLOGY 101 – FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The AFES Doctrinal Basis

The AFES upholds the fundamental truths of the Christian faith, including...

- **The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.**

8. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit

- A. As we saw last week, the Holy Spirit is the one who brings us to faith and repentance by opening us to the truth of Jesus Christ as the word of God is spoken. Having begun by the Spirit, the Christian now goes on living by the Spirit of God (Gal. 3:3.) We do not progress from the Spirit's work in us to our own, independent work. Another way of saying this is that we never move away from the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Christian sanctification is not "our part of the contract" but is also the gift of God through the Holy Spirit to us.
- B. It is clear that the Holy Spirit *indwells* both individual believers and the body of Christ as a whole. John 14:17 – "[The Spirit of truth] ... lives with you and will be in you." 1Corinthians 6:19 – "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God." By the Holy Spirit's indwelling, we are also indwelt by Christ Himself and also by the Father – John 14:20, 23. When God indwells us we are secured in the love of God for us.
- C. Jesus taught that when he gave the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit would teach us (John 14:26) and guide us into all truth (John 16:13.) The Holy Spirit does not "speak on his own", and so his teaching is not additional to the full revelation that has come in Christ (Heb. 1:1–3), but rather will be the opening up to us of all the truth that is in Jesus. (See 1Cor. 2:12ff.)
- D. The Holy Spirit works in the church and in believers. He is the One who empowers the people of God for the ministry of proclaiming and witnessing to the gospel, given to them by Christ (Luke 24:49, John 20:21–22, Acts 1:8.) In this empowering, the Holy Spirit also acts as director and leader of the ministry, often in quite surprising ways (e.g. Acts 13:2–4, 9, 16:6–7, 20:23, 21:11.) All human planning must be subjected to the Spirit's directing. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are all with a view to the church being strong and effective in our witness in the world (see Eph. 4:7–16, Rom. 12:1–8, 1Cor. 12–14, Pet. 4:10–11.)
- E. The Holy Spirit works to sustain us in the gospel, and in its freedom, and to mature us in the new life to which Christ has brought us. The Holy Spirit gives us love and hope (Rom. 5:1–5, 15:13), along with faith – and so the things that remain (1Cor. 13:13) are begun in us now by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills us with joy (1Thess. 1:6, Gal. 5:22, Rom. 14:1, 15:13)! The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our future inheritance (Eph. 1:13–14.) As we suffer in this age, the Holy Spirit focuses us on Christ and teaches us to pray (Rom. 8:22ff.) Through the Spirit we know that we have access to the Father, and so he leads us in prayer (Eph. 2:18, 6:18) The Holy Spirit sets our minds now on the will of God (Rom. 8:ff) and so leads us in sanctification; as temples of the Spirit we seek to honour God by holiness of life (2Cor. 7:1, Eph. 4:30, 5:18.)