

The Spirit and Prophecy

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Pastor Cody Page

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

1.) Who Is the Holy Spirit?

A.) A Definition

- The Holy Spirit is God, The Third Person of the Trinity

"we believe in the Father, the ruler of the universe and in Jesus Christ our Redeemer, In the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete..." –Epistula

"The Church, though dispersed throughout the whole world, even to the ends of the earth, has received from the apostles and their disciples this faith: She believes in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are in them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who became incarnate for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit, who proclaimeth through the prophets the dispensations of God, and the advents, and the birth from the virgin, and the passion, and the resurrection from the dead, and the ascension into heaven in the flesh of the beloved Christ Jesus our Lord..." –Irenaeus

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets" –The Nicene Creed

B.)The Work of the Holy Spirit

"the activity of the divine spirit is precisely that of extending God's presence into creation in such a way as to order and complete what has been planned in the mind of God."–Sinclair Ferguson

- The Holy Spirit applies to God's people the accomplished work of Jesus Christ, conforming and transforming them into His very image.

C.) What's at Risk?

"God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth." –2 Thessalonians 2:13

2.) What is Prophecy?

A.) Prophecy is the Speaking of God's Word, That the Prophet Might Communicate God's Truth to People.

"knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." –2 Peter 1:20-21

"Old Testament prophets...were able to speak and write words that had absolute divine authority. They could say, 'Thus says the Lord,' and the words that followed were the very words of God." –Wayne Grudem

"Thus says the Holy Spirit..." –Acts 11:21

B.) Prophecy, in Our Day, is No Longer Needed

i.) The Finality of the Revelation of Jesus Christ According to the Scriptures.

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" –Hebrews 1:1-2

"having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" –Ephesians 2:20

"...which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" –Hebrews 2:1, 4

"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you" –2 Timothy 1:13-14

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." –2 Timothy 2:2

"Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior" –2 Peter 3:1-2

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you" –1 John 1:1, 3

"...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

ii.) The Sufficiency of the Revelation of Jesus Christ According to the Scriptures

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." –2 Timothy 3:16-17

"18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." –1 Timothy 1:18

"New Revelation, be it in the form of tradition or the golden tablets of Joseph Smith, principally undermines the sufficiency of Scripture, and becomes defect the dominant factor, at least at certain points, in the canon by which individual lives. Is it not, therefore, special pleasing on the part of evangelicals to claim that prophecies received by them function in an altogether different way? While it is denied that additions are being made to the canon of Scripture, it is nevertheless implied that an actual addition is being made to the canon of the living." –Sinclair Ferguson

iii.) The Evidence of Church History