

The Holy Spirit

Session 3 – The Inspired Word of God

1. Introduction: Once again, most of this material is based on The Lutheran Difference (TLD). The old nursery rhyme says, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”

- a. Are words really so powerless?
- b. How can words harm?
- c. How can words affirm and uplift?
- d. Have you seen or experienced bullying?
- e. Conversely, have you heard words that were shared in love and meant to help others in their moments of distress?

2. “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit**” (2 Peter 1:21).

- a. Christians rightfully place a great deal of value on God’s Word. Who does 2 Peter 1:21 say is the real author of the Bible?
- b. Since we believe the Holy Spirit inspired the entire Bible, what does this say about his importance?

3. Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

- a. What does it mean that God’s word is living and active?
- b. What does piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow mean?
- c. What does the piercing of soul and spirit result in?

4. Timothy 3:16-17, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

- a. Who is the source of the Bible (v16)?

b. Every time we say the Bible is authoritative or we turn to the Bible for guidance or use it to worship God we are trusting, using, and relying on the work of the Holy Spirit. How does that truth change your thinking about the centrality of the Holy Spirit in your life?

5. The TLD says, “The authors of the Old and New Testaments are in complete agreement: the heavens and the earth were created by God. They are also in agreement regarding the manner in which he created. ‘Out of nothing, God spoke the universe into being (Genesis 1).’”

a. Can mere words do such things?

b. Importantly, they are not “mere” words; they are God’s own words. They are living and active because they are from the Holy Spirit. For example:

1) Even Jesus gave commands to the apostles through the Holy Spirit. Luke tells us in Acts 1:1-2, “I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had **given commands through the Holy Spirit** to the apostles whom he had chosen.”

2) 1 Corinthians 2:12–13 adds, “We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom **but taught by the Spirit.**”

c. All Scripture is God-breathed and living and active. What does this tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in the writing of the Scriptures?

d. How does knowing the Holy Spirit breathed God’s word help us trust the Bible?

e. What does knowing that all scripture is God-breathed and **living and active** tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our daily experiences?

f. Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” So, how important is the Holy Spirit to our faith and, therefore, to our salvation?

g. How does knowing that the Holy Spirit hovers over creation, breathes out Scripture, and is therefore living and active in our everyday lives change your view of the importance of the Holy Spirit?

6. Your thoughts, questions, concerns?