

Soteriology Part 1

The Application of Saving Grace

Recap of *Theology* and *Christology* so far:

God is the Covenant Maker – Covenant of Law and Covenant of Grace

Christ is Redeemer – His person & work in real human history = Promise Fulfilled

What is a Christian? “One who, by the grace of God, can declare that he justly deserves the wrath of God, save for the mercy of Jesus Christ alone. He casts aside all hope in his self-righteousness and puts away all pride in his own goodness. One who is glad to be regarded as spiritually bankrupt, a poor sinner, saved by the free grace and righteousness of Christ and, with a grateful heart, yields in allegiance to Him alone as LORD and sovereign. In a word, one who ‘glories in Christ Jesus and has no confidence in the flesh.’”¹

- **How are believers made partakers of the redemption, which has been purchased by Christ?**

The Holy Spirit makes believers partakers of the redemption, purchased by Christ, by effectually applying Christ’s work to all who believe.

The Holy Spirit *applies* Christ’s work to sinners through spiritual renewal.

Titus 3:3-7 – For **we** ourselves were **once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves** to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in **malice and envy, hated** by others and **hating** one another. **But** when the goodness and loving kindness of **God** our Savior appeared, **he saved us, not because of works done by us** in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **so that** being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of [promise of] eternal life.

Question: According to this passage, God is motivated to save sinners by what?

¹ http://www.reformationtheology.com/2013/05/what_is_a_christian.php

The Holy Spirit baptizes sinners, thereby bringing them into Christ's body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in **one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and **all were made to drink of one Spirit.**”

Ephesians 4:4-7 – “There is one body and one Spirit—just as **you were called to the one hope** that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace **was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.**”

Question: According to these passages, how many Christians are baptized *in or by* the Holy Spirit?

- **How does the Holy Spirit apply this to believers, the redemption purchased by Christ?**

The Holy Spirit applies Christ's work of redemption to believers by working faith in them and uniting them to Christ through His effectual calling.

The Holy Spirit always works faith in believers through the Gospel message.

Romans 10:17 – “So **faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word** of Christ.”

Galatians 3:2 – “Did you **receive the Spirit by** works of the law or by **hearing** with faith?”

Question: Based on the passages above, how important is it that Christians tell others the story of Jesus?

The Holy Spirit grants faith to and works faith in all believers.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 – “Now **we have received** not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, that** [or so that] **we might understand** the things freely given us by God.

And **we impart this in words** not taught by human wisdom but **taught by the Spirit**, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The **natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit** of God, for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand** them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Ephesians 2:8-10 – “For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**. And this is **not your own doing**; it is the **gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast**. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Question: According to these passages, who is it that gives faith as a gift to sinners?

The Holy Spirit effectively calls and perfectly unites all believers to Christ.

John 15:5 – I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 – I give thanks to my God always for you because of the **grace of God that was given you** in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **will sustain you to the end**, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 1:11-14 – In him [Christ] we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it**, to the praise of his glory.

Question: What comfort may the Christian have in knowing that God’s Spirit has called, united, and sealed him/her in Christ Jesus?