

How the Holy Ghost Operates on the Heart of Man (Spiritual Surgery Part 2)

I. Review:

- A. Basics about the Holy Ghost.
 - 1. He is a “person” not an “it” (**John 14:26**).
 - 2. He is a member of the godhead; i.e. He may rightfully wear the title God (**Acts 5:3-4; Luke 1:67-70; 2 Peter 1:21**).
- B. Most people in the religious world believe that the Holy Ghost works directly upon the heart of each and every man to either guide him in righteousness or convict him of sin.
- C. We do not find the type of direct operation that the denominationalists speak of. Instead, what we do find throughout the text is example after example of the Holy Ghost (or another member of the Godhead) working indirectly to lead men in the paths of righteousness and convict men of sin (**Ezekiel 2:1-7; Acts 13:1-5, et al**).
- D. *Are you people saying that the Holy Ghost has never directly worked upon a human heart?* No. (**Mark 13:9-11**), but he does not do so today.
- E. The way the Holy Ghost operates on all men today, to lead them in the paths of righteousness or convict them of sin and give them the information that leads to salvation today, is through Scripture.

II. New Material.

- A. “*What about Holy Ghost baptism?*”
 - 1. How many times can we clearly see from scripture that the baptism of the Holy Ghost happened?
 - 2. What was the one manifestation of Holy Spirit baptism that we know of for sure? (Granted, **Acts 9:17**)
 - 3. Who were tongues a sign for? (**1 Cor. 14:22**)
 - 4. Who were the unbelievers in the context of **Acts 2**? – The murderous Jews
 - 5. Who were the unbelievers in the context of **Acts 10-11:18**? – The Christian Jews
 - 6. If Holy Ghost baptism still happens today, Paul and Peter did not know it (**Ephesians 4:5; 1 Peter 3:20-21**).
 - 7. If Holy Ghost baptism happens today then the One who had them write **Eph. 4:5** and **1 Peter 3:20-21** made a mistake.
 - 8. If He made a mistake, what else did He make a mistake about; e.g. is heaven real?
- B. The Bible presents a great comparison between what the Spirit does and what the Word of God (scripture) does.
 - 1. Man is born again by the Spirit (**John 3:3-6**). Man is born again by the Word (**1 Peter 1:22-23**).
 - 2. Both are involved in the saving of our souls (**Titus 3:5; James 1:21**).
 - 3. Both are said to be that which silence sinners (**John 16:8; Titus 1:9**).
 - 4. Both are said to be a source of testimony (**Romans 8:16; John 5:39**).
 - 5. Both are said to be a source of hope (**Romans 15:13; 15:4; Psalm 119:49**).
 - 6. Both are involved in man’s sanctification (**2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 17:17**).
 - 7. Both are a source of comfort (**Acts 9:31; Romans 15:4**).
 - 8. We are to be filled with both and to allow both to dwell in us (**Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16**).
 - 9. Both give evidence that we are on the right path (**1 John 4:13; Psalm 119:105; John 8:31-32**).
- C. Let’s now note some consequences of this “direct operation” doctrine, if indeed it be true.
 - 1. Since the close of the New Testament times, one **must** conclude that scripture is insufficient (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).
 - 2. One **must** admit that we do not have to walk by faith (**2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17**).
 - 3. One **must** admit that the Holy Ghost will be in hell (**Galatians 1:6-9**).
 - 4. One **must** admit that miracles still happen today (**Mark 16:20; Jude 3**).
 - 5. One **must** admit that the Holy Ghost violates man’s free will and, thus, makes the Bible unreliable (**Rev. 22:17**).
 - 6. One **must** admit that the Holy Ghost is on the level of some sort of sadistic puppet master (**1 Tim. 2:4; Matt. 7:13**).
 - 7. One **must** admit, then, that the Holy Ghost is partial, and thus that the Bible is not to be trusted (**Romans 2:11**).
 - 8. One, then, **must** admit that the Holy Ghost is a sinner (**James 2:9**).
 - 9. One **must** admit that the Godhead is divided and, thus, demanding more of men (**1 Corinthians 1:10**) than they are willing to do themselves; thus, Jesus really was no better than the scribes and Pharisees that He rebuked (**Matthew 23:1-3**).
 - 10. One **must** admit that the other two members of the Godhead will be in hell because they have lied to man time and again in scripture (e.g. **Luke 8:11; Revelation 21:8**).
 - 11. One **must** admit that Paul was a false teacher and will be in hell (**1 Cor. 4:14-15; 2 Pet. 2:21-13**).
 - 12. One **must** admit that James, Peter, and John will all be in hell as well (**James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-23; John 20:30-31**).
 - 13. One **must** admit that there is no need for individuals to teach the lost (**2 Timothy 2:2**).
 - 14. One **must** admit that there is no need for the local church to advance the truth (**1 Timothy 3:15**).
 - 15. One **must** admit that there is never any further need for Bible classes or sermons (**Acts 20:32**).
 - 16. One **must** admit that one does not really have to study to be approved unto God (**2 Tim. 2:15**).