The Holy Spirit

The Spirit in the Church Today Lesson 12

I. Introduction

A. The Holy Spirit has been given to the church. The day of Pentecost marked the advent of the dispensation of the Holy Spirit (the fulfilment of John 14-15).

B. We recognize that an initial work of the Spirit in the church has been completed:

1. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles and writers of the NT to speak and write the Word of God (2 Tim 3: 16-17; 2 Pet 1: 21; Eph 3: 1-7; 1 Cor 2: 6-13).

2. The Word was confirmed by the miraculous gifts of the Spirit (Heb 2: 1-4). No need for the continuation of miracles. John argued that one could read the recorded signs about Jesus and believe and have life (Jn 20: 30-31).

C. However, Scripture speaks of work(s) of the Spirit that are ongoing in Christ's church today.

II. The Spirit is Still Active in Convicting, Saving, and Sanctifying

A. John 16: 8 -- The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.

B. Acts 2: 38-39 -- The salvation gift of the Spirit is given today just as it was then.

C. II Thess 2: 13; I Pet 1: 2; Rom 15:16 -- The Spirit sanctifies today just as He did in the 1st century.

III. The Spirit Still Gives Life to the Church

A. We have already seen that the Spirit is the giver and the sustainer of spiritual life (see Lesson 4).

B. I Cor 3: 16-17 -- The Spirit lives in Christ's church, the temple of God.

IV. The Spirit is Still Unifying the Church

A. Eph 4:1-4 -- Keeping "the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" is essential to remaining "one body."

B. Phil 2: 1 -- The Spirit gives us a "fellowship" to enjoy.

C. Jude 19 -- Those who are divisive "do not have the Spirit."

V. THE CHURCH CAN STILL "QUENCH THE SPIRIT"

A. I Thess 5: 12-22 -- Paul's instructions to the "brethren," a collective context.

1. "Quench" means to "put out" as one might put out a fire by pouring water on it.

2. Quenching suggests turning down or turning off the power of the Spirit in our hearts or in the church.

3. Quenching the Spirit in a local body of believers can happen in different ways, to different degrees, and with different results and ramifications.

B. Despising the Spirit of Grace

1. Heb 10: 26-29 -- deliberate, continual sin in the life of a believer will insult the Spirit of grace, ultimately resulting in forfeiting salvation.

2. Take careful note that "forsaking the assembly" is closely connected with this sin (Heb 10:25).

VI. THOUGHT QUESTIONS

A. Do you believe the Spirit has "free course" in this local body? Or do you believe the Spirit is being quenched in some way?

B. How does an individual Christian help (or allow) the Spirit to do His work of unifying a local fellowship?