The Holy Spirit

The Spirit in the Life of a Christian – Part 2 Lesson 8

I. Introduction

A. The Scriptures clearly teach that the Holy Spirit is active in the scheme of redemption for mankind (for example, Acts 2:38-39).

B. The Holy Spirit is active in, and on behalf of, the faithful followers of Christ from the moment of their redemption to their deaths:

1. Romans 8: 9 - "You, however, are controlled not by the flesh but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you."

2. Galatians 4: 6 - "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"

3. Ephesians 1: 13 - "... Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

4. Ephesians 6: 18 - "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions."

C. This study will look at some of the ways in which the Spirit is active in our lives.

II. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness (Romans 8: 26-27).

A. Definition of words in these verses:

1. "helps"

a. "Signifies to take hold with at the side for assistance; hence, to take a share in, help in bearing, to help in general" (W. E. Vine, p. 214).

b. "Properly the Greek word signifies, I bear together with another, by taking hold of the thing borne on the opposite side, as persons do assist one another in carrying heavy loads" (MacKnight, p. 99).

2. "weakness" (Infirmities)

a. "lit., a want of strength...weakness, indicating inability to produce results..." (Vine, p. 257).

b. The "weakness" under consideration in this verse would seem to be prayer. "We do not know what we ought to pray..."

3. "Groanings"

a. These groanings are our groans, not those of the Holy Spirit (the whole point of this passage is the Spirit's competence in communicating our needs to the Father).

b. "They are the deep, real wants of human souls, born for time and eternity" ( H. Leo Boles, p. 257).

B. The Spirit's help (in this text) is intercession.

1. "The fact of the Spirit's intercession is taught in the Bible. We may not know much more than the fact of it, but we may believe the word of God. The Spirit helps our weaknesses. He makes intercession for the Saints. We cannot know all about how or when He does this, for to be able to do so we would know what the Spirit knows; thus having no weakness we would not need His aid" (Elmer L'Roy, p. 91).

2. Consider the meaning of "intercession:" “To plead in behalf of another.” “The act of interceding between persons; entreaty in behalf of others.” (Webster’s Concise Dictionary, 2003)

III. Other areas the Spirit helps in the life of an individual Christian:

A. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God (Romans 8: 16-17).

B. The Holy Spirit helps change us into the image of Christ (II Corinthians 3: 18).

C. The Holy Spirit strengthens the inner man (Ephesians 3: 14-19).

D. The Holy Spirit comforts us (Acts 9: 31).

E. The Holy Spirit seals us (Ephesians 1: 13, 4: 30).

F. The Holy Spirit is given as a "down payment" (Ephesians 1: 13-14; II Corinthians 1:21-22).

G. The Holy Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies in the resurrection (Romans 8: 11).