

The Holy Ghost, Yours, Mine (and Theirs?)

Sept. 9, 2012



Synopsis:

The Holy Ghost is a controversial person in the Holy Trinity, as are all three. These days the identification of the Holy Ghost is made as doing his work through cultural movements, fads within the church, individual charisms that cause people to be awe-filled and amazed, as well as in such mundane and unexciting events such as a the preaching of a sermon or the water of Baptism. As the Apostle, under the Spirit's inspiration and the Lord's Command, exhorts the church of all ages to "test the spirits (1 John 4) to see if they are from God. This class will be designed to help ever student "test the spirits" and in doing so will examine the spirits that claim to be the Holy Spirit against Christ's Words of what the Spirit would do. We will look at actual writings and examine the spirit and office of Anti-Christ that obscures the recognition of the Holy Spirit's work in heterodox bodies and clearly point to the true work of the Holy Spirit manifested by the Word of Christ in every Christian denomination, heterodox or not.

Goals:

- To understand the Work of the Holy Spirit promised by Christ.
- To understand the relation between the Holy Spirit and Christ/the Gospel.
- To identify clearly where the Holy Spirit can be "spotted" and what his goal and work is.
- To test the Lutheran Confession of faith (Catechism) by this standard.
- To test the various other Protestant identifications of the Spirit's work.
- To test the Roman Catholic teaching on the Spirit.
- To see how this doctrine impacts authority of Scripture and authority structures in the church.

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What does Christ say of the Holy Spirit, that we can use to test the spirits?

- John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
- John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.
- John 16:8-11 “And when He has come, He will **convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment:⁹ of sin, because they do not believe **in Me**;¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you **see Me** no more;¹¹ of judgment, because **the ruler of this world is judged**.”
- John 16:14-15 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.
- John 3:34-36 “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.³⁵ The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
- John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are Spirit, and they are life.”
What’s meant by “flesh”? Where do you find the Spirit by Jesus’ Words here?
- John 20:22-23 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”
- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. – Sanctification; how?
- Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
- Titus 3:4-8 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.
- Etc.