

## THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JUSTIFICATION

PRESENTED BY

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GREEN LAWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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IN OUR STUDIES OF BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES, WE ARE TURNING NOW TO THE THIRD MEMBER OF THE GODHEAD. WE HAVE SPOKEN OF THE FATHER, WE HAVE SPOKEN OF THE SON, AND NOW WE COME TO SPEAK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT MAY BE TRUE THAT WE ARE SKIPPING A LESSON WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED DEALING WITH THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ESTABLISHING THAT HE IS IN REALITY A PERSONALITY, A MEMBER OF THE TRINITY. BUT RATHER THAN SPEND A LESSON WITH THIS, I AM GOING TO ASSUME THAT IT IS ACCEPTED IN THIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE, AT LEAST, AND SEEING NO PARTICULAR NEED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WE ARE GOING THEN TO MOVE TO THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THERE ARE TWO AREAS IN WHICH THE SPIRIT IS WORKING. ONE OF THESE AREAS IS REFERRED TO AS JUSTIFICATION, OR THAT WHICH THE SPIRIT DOES IN CONVERTING THE ALIEN SINNER. THE OTHER IS REFERRED TO AS SANCTIFICATION, OR THAT WHICH THE SPIRIT DOES IN PERFECTING THE CHILD OF GOD. NOW THE ONE THAT WE SHALL DISCUSS TONIGHT, THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN JUSTIFICATION, IS NOT CONTROVERSIAL SO FAR AS OUR BROTHERHOOD IS CONCERNED. WE SHALL NOT BE SO FORTUNATE WITH THE ONE WE SHALL DISCUSS NEXT LORD'S DAY EVENING DEALING WITH THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN SANCTIFICATION, A PART OF WHICH WILL BE A DISCUSSION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THE SPIRIT DWELLS OR LIVES IN THE CHILD OF GOD. BUT TONIGHT, AS WE LOOK AT THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN JUSTIFICATION WE WANT FIRST OF ALL TO SAY THAT THERE IS A BASIC AREA OF AGREEMENT AMONG ALL RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. THAT IS THE FACT THAT THE SPIRIT DOES HAVE A WORK IN JUSTIFICATION. NOW WHAT THAT WORK IS AND PARTICULARLY HOW THE SPIRIT PERFORMS THAT WORK HAS, I SUPPOSE, EVER BEEN AND IS TONIGHT A RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY. THE QUESTION IN WHICH WE MUST BE MOST INTERESTED IS NOT SIMPLY DOES HE WORK, BUT HOW DOES HE WORK? FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE METHOD OF THE WORKING OF THE SPIRIT HAS CAUSED NO LITTLE RELIGIOUS CONFUSION IN THE WORLD. IN FACT, MOST RELIGIOUS ERROR THAT IS PROMINENT IN THE WORLD TODAY CAN BE TRACED, I THINK, TO A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN JUSTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN BELIEVING THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A LATTER DAY REVELATION. AND SO BEFORE WE ANSWER THE QUESTION, "HOW DOES THE SPIRIT WORK?" PERHAPS THERE IS A QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ASKED PRIOR. AND THAT QUESTION IS SIMPLY THIS, "HOW CAN THE SPIRIT WORK?" TO THE QUESTION, "HOW CAN THE SPIRIT WORK?" THERE ARE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE ANSWERS. THERE ARE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN WORK IN ACHIEVING JUSTIFICATION OR IN SAVING THE SINNER. THE FIRST OF THESE WAYS IS REFERRED TO AS THE IMMEDIATE OR THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, MEANING WITHOUT ANY MEDIATION OR WITHOUT ANY INSTRUMENT BETWEEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT OF MAN, THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATES DIRECTLY UPON THE SPIRIT OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IT IS DIRECT, IT IS MECHANICAL, IT IS AN IMMEDIATE INFLUENCE, AND IN THIS OPERATION THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPLETELY DOMINATES, THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES POSSESSION OF, THE WILL AND THE FEELINGS OF THE INDIVIDUAL UPON WHOM HE OPERATES SO THAT IN REALITY THE INDIVIDUAL IS SO COMPLETELY DOMINATED THAT IT IS NO LONGER HE, BUT RATHER THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE MOVER IN THE SITUATION. NOW THERE IS NO DISAGREEING WITH THE FACT THAT THE SPIRIT HAS IN SOME AREAS OF HIS WORK, WORKED IMMEDIATELY UPON INDIVIDUALS. JESUS SAID IT WOULD BE SO. IN MARK 13:11 WE READ, "BUT WHEN THEY SHALL LEAD YOU, AND DELIVER YOU UP, TAKE NO THOUGHT BEFOREHAND WHAT YE SHALL SPEAK, NEITHER DO YE PREMEDIATE; BUT WHATSOEVER SHALL BE GIVEN YOU IN THAT HOUR, THAT SPEAK YE; FOR IT IS NOT YE THAT SPEAK, BUT THE HOLY GHOST." NOW HERE IS AN IMMEDIATE, HERE IS A DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD UPON AN INDIVIDUAL, SO MUCH SO THAT THE SPIRIT HAS TAKEN CHARGE AND SO



MUCH SO THAT THAT WHICH IS SAID IS ATTRIBUTED NOT TO THE INDIVIDUAL, BUT IS ATTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD. THE SAME THING IS TRUE IN ACTS 2:4 WHERE WE READ, "AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE." HERE AGAIN IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD SO COMPLETELY DOMINATING THE PERSONALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL THAT IT IS THE SPIRIT WHICH IS DOING THE SPEAKING.

THE SECOND WAY BY WHICH THE SPIRIT WORKS IS THE MEDIATE WAY. THE FIRST IS THE IMMEDIATE OR DIRECT OPERATION, AND SECOND IS THE MEDIATE, OR INDIRECT, WHICH SIMPLY SAYS THAT THE SPIRIT USES SOME INSTRUMENT THROUGH WHICH OR BY WHICH HE OPERATES UPON THE INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE WISHES TO INFLUENCE. IT MAY BE DEFINED AS "A RATIONAL, MORAL INFLUENCE EXERTED BY IDEAS IMPRESSED UPON THE MIND BY TEACHING AND WORDS THAT REPRESENT IDEAS." NOW THE SPIRIT HAS ALSO USED THIS METHOD, WHILE HE USED THE IMMEDIATE METHOD ON THE APOSTLES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST SO THAT THEY SPAKE AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE, HE USED THE MEDIATE METHOD UPON THE HEARERS OF THE DISCIPLES AND INFLUENCED THEM THROUGH THE IDEAS THAT THE APOSTLES PROCLAIMED AS THEY PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

NOW THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH THIS MEDIATE INFLUENCE OR INDIRECT INFLUENCE CAN BE EXERCISED. ONE OF THEM IS BY PHYSICAL POWER, AND THE OTHER IS BY MORAL PERSUASION. NOW WHICH OF THESE DOES THE SPIRIT USE IN HIS MEDIATE, OR INDIRECT OPERATION UPON THE SPIRIT OF MAN. I THINK NECESSARILY WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT THE SPIRIT MUST USE MORAL PERSUASION, FOR WHILE I MAY APPLY A PHYSICAL FORCE TO YOUR BODY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO APPLY A PHYSICAL FORCE TO YOUR SOUL OR TO YOUR SPIRIT. THAT IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY. I CANNOT COERCE THE SPIRIT BY A PHYSICAL FORCE. THE ONLY INFLUENCE THAT THE SPIRIT OF MAN CAN BRING TO BEAR OR MAKE TO OPERATE UPON THE SPIRIT OF ANOTHER MAN IS THE ARGUMENTS THAT HE MAY PRESENT BY WHICH HE HOPES TO PERSUADE THE INDIVIDUAL TO ACT IN A CERTAIN WAY. AND SO AS ALL OF THE MORAL PERSUASION THAT THE SPIRIT OF MAN CAN BRING TO BEAR UPON THE SPIRIT OF ANOTHER MAN IS IN THE ARGUMENTS, THE WORDS, THE IDEAS THAT HE PRESENTS, SO THE SPIRIT OF GOD, WHEN IT SEEKS TO OPERATE IN A MEDIATE CAPACITY UPON THE SPIRIT OF MAN, MUST DO SO BY THE IDEAS, OR THE ARGUMENTS, OR THE WORDS THAT ARE PRESENTED. IN ESSENCE, WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THAT IN THE MATTER OF CONVERSION THE ONLY WAY THAT THE SPIRIT OPERATES UPON THE INDIVIDUAL IS INDIRECTLY OR MEDIATELY THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD, OR THROUGH THE PREACHED OR THE PROCLAIMED WORD. WE ARE STATING THAT ALL OF THE CONVERTING POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS TO BE FOUND IN THE WORD OF GOD, AND THAT BEYOND THE WORD OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT EXERCISE ANY INFLUENCE IN CONVERTING. IN SHORT, IF A MAN IS GOING TO BE CONVERTED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, HE MUST BE CONVERTED BY THE WORD OF GOD. WHAT THEN ABOUT THE PASSAGES WHICH WE HAVE READ WHICH SHOW THE SPIRIT OPERATING DIRECTLY, SUCH AS THE APOSTLES SPEAKING WITH OTHER TONGUES AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE, SO THAT WHEN THEY SPAKE IT WAS NOT THEY, BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT. WHAT OF THESE PASSAGES? TO READ THEM VERY CAREFULLY YOU WILL SEE THAT THEY DO NOT APPLY TO CONVERSION. THE INDIVIDUALS BY WHOM THIS WAS BEING DONE WERE MEN WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN CONVERTED. THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS (CORNELIUS) AND WE SHALL NOTE IT IN THE COURSE OF THE LESSON.

NOTE WHAT WE HAVE SAID: THE SPIRIT OPERATES INDIRECTLY, THE SPIRIT OPERATES THROUGH THE WORD, AND IN CONVERSION ALL OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRIT IS EXERTED THROUGH THE WORD. THE QUESTION IS, WILL THE SCRIPTURE SUSTAIN THIS POSITION? HAVE WE JUST COME TO A CONCLUSION, OR IS THIS THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORD OF GOD? IT IS NOT SO SIMPLE AS TO SAY, "WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE MATTER?" FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE MATTER MIGHT BE MANIFESTLY WRONG! THEREFORE, WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS "TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY" TO SEE WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN CONVERSION. TURN FIRST TO ROMANS 1:16, "FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: FOR IT (SPEAKING OF THE GOSPEL) IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION, TO EVERYONE THAT BELIEVETH; TO THE JEW



FIRST, AND ALSO TO THE GREEK." NOW WHEREIN IS THE POWER OF GOD? PAUL SAID THAT THE POWER OF GOD IN CONVERTING MEN, THE POWER OF GOD TO SAVE MEN BOTH JEW AND GREEK, AND THAT SIMPLY MEANS ALL MEN, IS TO BE FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OR IN THE WORD OF GOD. TURN TO ACTS 17:11,12, "THESE WERE MORE NOBLE (SPEAKING OF THE BEREANS) THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, IN THAT THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL READINESS OF MIND, AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO. THEREFORE (AND HERE IS AN IMPORTANT WORD)—NOW NOTICE WHAT HAS PRECEDED—THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL READINESS OF MIND, THEY SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES, THE WORD, DAILY TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT THESE THINGS WERE SO), THEREFORE, MANY OF THEM BELIEVED." NOW TO WHAT IS THE CONVERTING POWER, THE POWER TO TURN THEM FROM UNBELIEF TO BELIEF, TO WHAT IS THAT ATTRIBUTED? IT IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE WORD OF GOD. TURN TO I CORINTHIANS 4:15, "FOR THOUGH YE HAVE TEN THOUSAND INSTRUCTORS IN CHRIST, YET HAVE YE NOT MANY FATHERS: FOR IN CHRIST JESUS I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU (WHERE IS THE POWER) THROUGH THE GOSPEL." JAMES 1:18, "OF HIS OWN WILL BEGAT HE US WITH THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE SHOULD BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF HIS CREATURES." NOW HOW WERE WE BEGOTTEN? WITH THE WORD OF TRUTH. MATTHEW 13:15, "FOR THIS PEOPLE'S HEART IS WAXED GROSS, AND THEIR EARS ARE DULL OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED; LEST AT ANY TIME THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART, AND SHOULD BE CONVERTED, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM." NOW UPON WHAT WAS THE CONVERSION DEPENDENT? BEING CONVERTED WAS DEPENDENT UPON HEARING, BEING CONVERTED WAS DEPENDENT UPON UNDERSTANDING, BEING CONVERTED WAS DEPENDENT UPON SEEING, AND WITHOUT THESE THINGS THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO CONVERSION. IN FACT THAT WAS WHAT JESUS SAID. HE SAID, "THEY WON'T SEE, THEY WON'T HEAR, THEY WON'T UNDERSTAND, LEST I SHOULD CONVERT THEM." AS WE WILL SEE IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, IF THE THEORY OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WERE TRUE THEY WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER. GOD WOULD GIVE THEM, IN THE LANGUAGE OF ONE OF THESE MEN, "THE SEEING EYE, AND THE BELIEVING EAR." THEY COULD NOT DISBELIEVE, AND THEY COULD NOT FAIL TO SEE. NOW ALL OF THESE PASSAGES, AND WE COULD ADD A NUMBER OF PASSAGES TO THEM DID TIME PERMIT AND WERE IT NECESSARY, SHOW THAT THE CONVERTING POWER OF GOD IS CENTERED IN THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL AND THAT IT WAS THE POWER OF THAT MESSAGE THAT TURNED MEN TO GOD.

BUT WITH THIS DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT, AS WITH SO MANY FALSE DOCTRINES, THERE ARE PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE WHICH MAY BE PERVERTED, WHICH MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, WHICH MAY BE ARRAYED AGAINST OTHER PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE, WHICH CAN MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE BIBLE TEACHES THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT, AND I THINK WE WOULD BE MOST UNFAIR IF WE WENT THROUGH A LESSON LIKE THIS WITHOUT LOOKING AT SOME OF THE PASSAGES WHICH ARE USED TO SUBSTANTIATE THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. LET'S LOOK AT SOME. ONE OF THEM IS IN ACTS 16:14. YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS CONTEXT. IT SPEAKS OF GOD'S OPENING THE HEART OF LYDIA. LET'S READ THE 14TH VERSE VERY CAREFULLY AND SEE HOW IT WAS OPENED—WHETHER BY A DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD OR THROUGH THE WORD. "AND A CERTAIN WOMAN NAMED LYDIA, A SELLER OF PURPLE, OF THE CITY OF THYATIRA, WHICH WORSHIPPED GOD, HEARD US: WHOSE HEART THE LORD OPENED, THAT SHE ATTENDED UNTO THE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN OF PAUL" WHEN WE SEE THAT THE HEART OF LYDIA WAS OPENED, WE OUGHT NOT TO JUMP AT THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS OPENED BY A DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, FOR THE TEXT SAYS THAT IT WAS OPENED WHEN SHE HEARD AND SHE ATTENDED UNTO THE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN. JOHN 14:16,17, "AND I WILL PRAY THE FATHER, AND HE SHALL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER, THAT HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER; EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH; WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE IT SEETH HIM NOT, NEITHER KNOWETH HIM: BUT YE KNOW HIM; FOR HE DWELLETH WITH YOU, AND SHALL BE IN YOU." IN OTHER WORDS, HERE IS PROMISE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD SHALL COME AND SHALL OPERATE DIRECTLY UPON PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS AND



WITH THIS I HAVE NO ARGUMENT BECAUSE IT IS THE TEACHING OF THE PASSAGE. BUT THE QUESTION IS TO WHOM WAS THE PROMISE MADE? IF YOU WILL CHECK THE CONTEXT YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT THE PROMISE IN THIS PARTICULAR PASSAGE WAS TO THE APOSTLES AND TO THE APOSTLES ALONE. I HEAR SOME OF MY BRETHREN SOMETIMES TALKING ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A COMFORTER FOR CHRISTIANS, BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE ONLY TIME THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS EVER PROMISED AS A COMFORTER WAS TO THE APOSTLES AND THE APOSTLES ALONE, AND WHEN WE USE THE PASSAGE TO SAY THAT CHRISTIANS TODAY HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A COMFORTER IN THE SENSE THAT IT WAS PROMISED TO THE APOSTLES, WE ARE MISAPPLYING THE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE. BUT THEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS IS THE FACT THAT CONVERSION IS NOT EVER UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE CONTEXT AND IT WOULD BE TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO DISCOVER HOW THE SPIRIT IS GOING TO OPERATE IN CONVERSION WHEN YOU ARE NOT READING A PASSAGE THAT EVEN DEALS WITH CONVERSION. 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6, "I HAVE PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED; BUT GOD GAVE THE INCREASE." THE CONCLUSION DRAWN IS THAT THE WORD IS PREACHED, SOMEONE ELSE MAY HELP, BUT WHETHER OR NOT A MAN IS CONVERTED DEPENDS UPON A DIRECT OPERATION OF GOD. "I PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED, GOD GAVE THE INCREASE." BUT AGAIN THIS IS A VERSE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT FOR WHAT PAUL IS SPEAKING OF HERE IN 1 CORINTHIANS 3 IS THE CHURCH AT CORINTH, AND PAUL IS SAYING, "I FOUNDED THE CHURCH, APOLLOS DID SOME WORK THERE, BUT THANKS BE UNTO GOD THAT THE WORK WAS PROSPEROUS AND THE WORK GREW." HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE CONVERSION OF AN INDIVIDUAL, HE IS TALKING ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH. ACTS 10:44, "WHILE PETER YET SPAKE THESE WORDS, THE HOLY GHOST FELL ON THEM WHICH HEARD THE WORD." HERE, OF COURSE, IN THE CONTEXT WE HAVE THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, AND WHILE PETER WAS SPEAKING, THE SPIRIT OF GOD DID OPERATE DIRECTLY UPON CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD SO THAT THEY SPOKE IN TONGUES. HERE IS THE ONLY EXAMPLE IN SCRIPTURE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD OPERATED DIRECTLY UPON AN UNCONVERTED MAN. NOW THE QUESTION IS, DID THE SPIRIT OF GOD COME UPON CORNELIUS IMMEDIATELY, DIRECTLY, IN ORDER TO CONVERT HIM, OR FOR SOME OTHER PURPOSE? THERE IS NO ARGUMENT BUT THAT THE SPIRIT CAME DIRECTLY, THE QUESTION IS WHY? WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO LET THE BIBLE ANSWER QUESTIONS LIKE THIS. IF THE SPIRIT CAME UPON THEM IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT BE CONVERTED THEN THE APOSTLE PETER DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE SIGN, BECAUSE IN THE ELEVENTH CHAPTER OF THE BOOK OF ACTS AND IN THE FOURTEENTH VERSE OF THAT CHAPTER HE SPOKE OF THE COMMAND GIVEN TO HIM TO PREACH WORDS UNTO CORNELIUS WHEREBY HE AND HIS HOUSE SHOULD BE SAVED. SO PETER UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS NOT TO BE THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT, BUT THAT IT WAS TO BE THE WORD THAT HE PROCLAIMED OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH WAS GOING TO SAVE CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD. THEN WHY DID THE SPIRIT COME IF NOT TO CONVERT? I THINK VERSES 17 AND 18 CAN TELL US. PETER SAID HE COULDN'T RESIST GOD WHEN THEY HAD RECEIVED THE SAME GIFT AS THE APOSTLES. AND THEN THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT GOD HAD GRANTED UNTO THE GENTILES ALSO REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE. THERE IS WHY THE SPIRIT APPEARED, THAT IS WHY THE SCRIPTURE SAID THE SPIRIT CAME. HE DID NOT COME TO CONVERT, BUT HE CAME TO CONVINCE PETER AND THE JEWS THAT THEY OUGHT THROUGH PREACHING TO CARRY OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE, BOTH JEW AND GENTILE. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:14, "BUT THE NATURAL MAN RECEIVETH NOT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD; FOR THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM; NEITHER CAN HE KNOW THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED." THE NATURAL MAN DOESN'T RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD, BUT THE DIRECT OPERATION COMES UPON OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND BY THIS HE IS SAVED. IS THAT WHAT PAUL IS TEACHING HERE IN 1 CORINTHIANS 2:14? AGAIN THE CONTEXT SHOWS THAT CONVERSION IS NOT UNDER DISCUSSION. HE IS TALKING ABOUT INSPIRATION, AND THE NATURAL MAN HERE IS NOT THE UNCONVERTED MAN. THE NATURAL MAN IS THE UNINSPIRED MAN, AND THE NATURAL MAN IN THIS CONTEXT MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN A CHRISTIAN WHO WAS NOT INSPIRED DIRECTLY BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD. ACTS 5:31, "HIM HATH GOD EXALTED WITH HIS RIGHT HAND TO BE A PRINCE AND A SAVIOR,



FOR TO GIVE REPENTANCE TO ISRAEL, AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS." NOW THIS VERSE, THEY SAY, TEACHES US THAT REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS SOMETHING THAT IS GIVEN US OF GOD. GOD GIVES IT, GOD GIVES THE SPIRIT. BUT WHEN DOES GOD GIVE IT? AND UPON WHAT CONDITIONS? I THINK WE OUGHT TO GO ON AND READ THE 32ND VERSE. "AND WE ARE HIS WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS; AND SO IS ALSO THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM GOD HATH GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM." AND SO THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS NOT GIVEN TO CONVERT, BUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO ARE CONVERTED. AND THEN FINALLY JOHN 6:44, A VERSE THAT IS OFT QUOTED IN THIS DISCUSSION AND ONE THAT IS JUST AS OFT MISUSED. "NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY." HERE, THEY SAY, IS A DIRECT OPERATION OF GOD, AND NO MAN CAN COME, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO COME, THERE IS AN INABILITY IN THIS SINNER WHO IS SINFUL BY HIS VERY NATURE AND HE CANNOT COME TO GOD, EXCEPT THERE BE A DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT ON HIS HEART. THEN, HE CANNOT RESIST. HE MUST COME TO GOD. HERE AGAIN, I THINK WE NEED TO READ ANOTHER VERSE, FOR NOT ONLY DOES JOHN 6:44 TALK ABOUT THE FACT THAT "NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM," BUT THE 45TH VERSE DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE DRAWING PROCESS. LISTEN TO IT. "IT IS WRITTEN IN THE PROPHETS, AND THEY SHALL BE ALL TAUGHT OF GOD. EVERY MAN THEREFORE THAT HATH HEARD, AND HATH LEARNED OF THE FATHER, COMETH UNTO ME." SO THE DRAWING PROCESS IS NOT SOME MYSTERIOUS, BETTER-FELT-THAN-TOLD DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE DRAWING PROCESS IS THE HEARING AND THE BELIEVING OF THE PROCLAIMED GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS NO EXAMPLE IN ALL OF THE WORD WHERE ANY MAN WAS EVER CONVERTED TO JESUS CHRIST APART FROM THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL. THERE IS NO EXAMPLE WHERE ANY MAN WAS EVER SAVED IN ANY WAY APART FROM THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. SOME MIGHT ASK WHAT ABOUT SAUL OF TARSUS WHO WAS SAVED ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS? HERE IS A MAN WHO HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE AND HE WAS SAVED. I THINK WE NEED TO READ OUR NEW TESTAMENT MORE CAREFULLY, FOR YOU SEE SAUL OF TARSUS WAS NOT SAVED BY HIS RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. THE REASON THAT CHRIST APPEARED UNTO SAUL OF TARSUS WAS IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT BE QUALIFIED TO BE AN APOSTLE, WAS IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT BECOME THE CHOSEN VESSEL TO CARRY THE GOSPEL BEFORE KINGS AND GENTILES (ACTS 26:15-18.) BUT HE WASN'T SAVED THERE, FOR IF HE WAS SAVED THERE, HE WAS SAVED WITHOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF HIS SINS. WHEN HE CAME INTO THE CITY OF DAMASCUS, ANANIAS CAME AND SAID, "SAUL, WHY TARRIEST THOU? ARISE AND BE BAPTIZED AND WASH AWAY THY SINS CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD (ACTS 22:16)." WHEN HE GOT TO DAMASCUS, THEN, HE STILL HAD HIS SINS, FOR ANANIAS TOLD HIM TO GET THEM WASHED AWAY. IF HE WAS SAVED ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS, THEN, HE WAS SAVED WITHOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF HIS SINS, AND IF HE WAS SAVED WITHOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF HIS SINS, HE WAS SAVED WITHOUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST. AND IF HE CAN BE SAVED WITHOUT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THEN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IMMEDIATELY BECOMES NOT THE VICARIOUS ATONEMENT, BUT BECOMES A COMPLETE NON-ESSENTIAL WHICH IS NOT NECESSARY TO THE SALVATION OR THE FORGIVENESS OF THE SINS OF MAN.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DENIES SEVERAL BASIC NEW TESTAMENT TEACHINGS. IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS DOCTRINE DENIES THE FREE MORAL AGENCY OF MAN. THE DOCTRINE IS CALLED BY THOSE WHO TEACH IT, THE DOCTRINE OF "IRRESISTABLE GRACE," WHICH MEANS SIMPLY THAT WHEN THIS ACT OF GRACE COMES TO OPERATE UPON THE SINNER, MAN CANNOT RESIST IT. THEREFORE, IT DENIES MAN'S FREE MORAL AGENCY. NOW THAT WE NOT MISREPRESENT THESE MEN AND THEIR TEACHING, I WANT TO READ FROM THEIR WORKS. ONE WRITES, "THIS SPECIAL CALL IS NOT MADE TO ALL SINNERS, BUT IS ISSUED TO THE ELECT ONLY. THE SPIRIT IS IN NO WAY DEPENDENT UPON THEIR HELP OR CO-OPERATION FOR SUCCESS IN HIS WORK



OF BRINGING THEM TO CHRIST." MAN DOESN'T HAVE ANY PART TO PLAY, YOU SEE. HE IS NOT EXERCISING HIS FREE MORAL AGENCY, BUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS EXERCISING UPON HIM SO THAT HE CANNOT HELP HIMSELF. HE HAS NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER. IT DENIES THE FREE MORAL AGENCY OF MAN.

IN THE SECOND PLACE THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO BRING THE ALIEN SINNER TO CHRIST DENIES THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE WORD. HEAR THEM AGAIN. ONE WRITES, "IT IS A NO LESS OBVIOUS CONCLUSION THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRIT ACTS IMMEDIATELY ON THE SOUL. ALL EFFECTS IN THE ORDINARY DEALING OF GOD WITH HIS CREATURES ARE PRODUCED THROUGH THE AGENCY OF SECOND CAUSES. IT IS ONLY IN MIRACLES AND IN THE WORK OF REGENERATION THAT ALL SECOND CAUSES ARE EXCLUDED. TRUTH MAY ACCOMPANY OR ATTEND THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT, BUT IT HAS NO CO-OPERATION IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE EFFECT." IN OTHER WORDS, THE TRUTH MAY HAVE BEEN PREACHED, BUT IT HAS NO PART TO PLAY IN BRINGING THE SINNER TO JESUS CHRIST. SO IMMEDIATELY WE ARE TOLD THAT MAN DOESN'T CO-OPERATE IN IT. IT IS IRRESISTABLE GRACE. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE WORD DOES NOT CO-OPERATE IN IT, AND ANOTHER ONE WRITES ON THIS WISE: "THEREFORE, THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ORDER TO BRING GOD'S ELECT TO SALVATION EXTENDS TO THEM A SPECIAL INWARD CALL IN ADDITION TO (NOTICE THE INSUFFICIENCY OF THE WORD) THE OUTWARD CALL CONTAINED IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. THROUGH THIS SPECIAL CALL THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS A WORK OF GRACE, WITHIN THE CENTER, WHICH INEVITABLY BRINGS HIM TO FAITH IN CHRIST. THE INWARD CHANGE WROUGHT IN THE ELECT SINNER ENABLES HIM TO UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE SPIRITUAL TRUTH." IN OTHER WORDS, HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT THIS SPECIAL ACT OF GRACE ENABLED HIM TO UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE SPIRITUAL TRUTH. IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM HE IS GIVEN THE SEEING EYE AND THE HEARING EAR. NOW WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS SIMPLY THE FACT THAT THE SINNER NEEDS SOME ASSISTANCE TO BELIEVE. BUT BEFORE WE ACCEPT THE DOCTRINE THAT THE ALIEN SINNER NEEDS SOME ASSISTANCE TO BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME OTHER QUESTIONS THAT NEED SOME ANSWERING. NUMBER 1, WHAT SORT OF HELP DOES HE NEED? NUMBER 2, HOW MUCH HELP DOES HE NEED? THERE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS THE SPIRIT CAN DO FOR MAN IN THIS CAPACITY. ONE IS TO GIVE HIM A NEW POWER THAT HE DIDN'T POSSESS BEFORE, AND THE OTHER IS TO CORRECT SOME BROKEN POWER THAT HE HAD HAD, BUT LOST. NOW HOW IN THE WORLD CAN THE SPIRIT ASSIST A MAN IN BELIEVING? WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE ONLY WAY THE SPIRIT OPERATES IS THROUGH MORAL SUASION AND IF THE SPIRIT IS GOING TO OPERATE THROUGH THIS METHOD OF MORAL PERSUASION PRESENTING ARGUMENTS IN WRITTEN OR ORAL WORD TO MOVE MEN TO JESUS CHRIST, HOW CAN HE ASSIST THEM IN BELIEVING? IF HE ENABLES MEN TO UNDERSTAND, THEN HE MUST ENABLE THEM TO UNDERSTAND SIMPLY BY MAKING IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND. HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO PRESENT SOME MORE ILLUSTRATIONS. HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO PRESENT SOME ANALOGIES. HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO USE SOME SIMPLER LANGUAGE. AND THROUGH THESE PROCESSES OF SIMPLIFYING AND EXPLAINING ENABLE OR ASSIST THEM TO BELIEVE. IF HE IS GOING TO MAKE THE GOSPEL MORE POWERFUL THEN HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO PRESENT SOME MORE POWERFUL ARGUMENTS. EITHER WAY YOU WIND UP WITH A LATTER DAY REVELATION, AND IT IS THE FACT OF LATTER DAY REVELATION THAT CAUSES THE MAJORITY OF OUR RELIGIOUS CONFUSION. THE MAN WHO HAS HAD A LATTER DAY REVELATION DOESN'T NEED TO DEPEND UPON THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE HE HAS HAD SOMETHING TO SUPERSEDE IT. HE HAS HAD SOMETHING THAT GOES BEYOND IT. AND IF A MAN CAN HAVE A LATTER DAY REVELATION IN THIS AREA, THEN HE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO ARGUMENT WITH JOSEPH SMITH AND MARY BAKER EDDY OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO WANTS TO CLAIM THAT HE HAS RECEIVED AND THEN WRITTEN DOWN A LATTER DAY REVELATION. THE DOCTRINE OF THE LATTER DAY REVELATION OF THE SPIRIT DENIES THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE WORD.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD UPON THE ALIEN SINNER DENIES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAN AND IN DENYING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAN IT MAKES GOD RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOST, FOR YOU SEE GOD CREATED MAN WITHOUT THE CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND, OR SIN, PUT MAN IN THIS CONDITION. EITHER WAY, MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE



CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND ANYMORE. IT TAKES A DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT TO REMOVE THE SCALES AND TO CLEAN THE EARS AND GIVE HIM THE SEEING EYE AND THE HEARING EAR. BUT THIS COMES ONLY TO THE ELECT. THEREFORE, THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELECT ARE LOST AND WHY ARE THEY LOST? THEY ARE LOST SIMPLY BECAUSE GOD ARBITRARILY CHOSE NOT TO GIVE THEM THE SEEING EYE AND THE HEARING EAR. BUT THIS COMES ONLY TO THE ELECT. THEREFORE, THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELECT ARE LOST AND WHY ARE THEY LOST? THEY ARE LOST SIMPLY BECAUSE GOD ARBITRARILY CHOSE NOT TO GIVE THEM THE SEEING EYE AND THE HEARING EAR. NOW IF THEY COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED WITH IT, BUT THEY ARE NOT SAVED WITHOUT IT, AND ONLY GOD CAN GIVE IT, THEN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR BEING LOST? IT IS NOT MAN. THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT DENIES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAN AND PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY BOTH FOR SALVATION AND DAMNATION UPON GOD. AGAIN, LET US READ THEIR WRITINGS. "SIMPLY STATED (IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE GETTING DOWN TO THE BASICS NOW) THIS DOCTRINE ASSERTS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT NEVER FAILS TO BRING TO SALVATION THOSE SINNERS WHOM HE PERSONALLY CALLS TO CHRIST." THE SPIRIT DOESN'T KNOW ANY FAILURES, AND SO ANYBODY WHO IS LOST IS LOST BECAUSE THE SPIRIT DID NOT OPERATE UPON THEM. IN THE FOURTH PLACE, THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD DENIES THE NECESSITY OF EXECUTING THE GREAT COMMISSION FOR IT DENIES THE NECESSITY OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL. AGAIN LET'S READ. "IT IS NO LESS CLEAR THAT EFFICACIOUS GRACE IS NOT OF THE NATURE OF MORAL SUASION. (IN OTHER WORDS, THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT BEING DONE THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF ARGUMENTS IN WRITTEN OR SPOKEN WORD.) BY MORAL SUASION IS MEANT THE INFLUENCE EXERTED BY ONE MIND OVER THE ACTS AND STATES OF ANOTHER MIND. BY THE PRESENTATION OF TRUTH AND MOTIVES BY EXPOSTULATIONS, IN TREATY, APPEALS, ETC. (HE JUST COVERS THE FIELD AND EXCLUDES IT ALL). UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS KIND OF MORAL POWER THE MIND YIELDS OR REFUSES. ITS DECISION IS PURELY ITS OWN AND WITHIN ITS OWN POWER. THERE IS NOTHING OF ALL THIS IN THE EXERCISE OF OMNIPOTENCE." SO WHY DO WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT PREACHING THE GOSPEL? IT ALL DEPENDS UPON THE SPIRIT OF GOD. YOU CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL UNTIL YOU ARE BLUE OR GREEN IN THE FACE AND IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD WITHOUT THE OPERATION OF GOD'S SPIRIT, AND WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THAT THE OPERATION OF GOD'S SPIRIT DOESN'T DEPEND UPON THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL. SO WHY SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT PREACHING THE GOSPEL? IT DENIES THE NECESSITY OF PREACHING THE STORY OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE ALIEN SINNER IS CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING THAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT MAN, HIS FREE MORAL AGENCY, AND HIS FULL RESPONSIBILITY. THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD UPON THE ALIEN SINNER IN JUSTIFICATION IS CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US OF GOD IN HIS WORD, FOR IT DENIES THE GRACIOUS INVITATION, "WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM COME."

ALL OF THE CONVERTING POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS EXERTED THROUGH THE WORD. NOW WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? THIS MEANS THAT IF YOU HAVE HEARD THE WORD, AND IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORD, THEN YOU HAVE COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE CONVERTING POWER OF GOD. I DO NOT SAY ALL OF THE CONVERTING POWER, FOR THERE MAY BE THINGS IN THE SCRIPTURE YOU HAVE NOT SEEN AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND, BUT IF YOU HAVE HEARD, AND THROUGH HEARING YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN YOU ARE READY TONIGHT TO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION OF JESUS CHRIST. AND TO SAY I AM WAITING FOR A FEELING THAT IS BETTER FELT THAN TOLD, TO SAY I AM WAITING UNTIL I CAN HAVE THAT CERTAIN FEELING THAT THIS IS MY TIME, IS TO WAIT UPON SOMETHING THAT GOD IS NOT GOING TO SEND, FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN WORKING TO CONVERT YOU TO JESUS CHRIST IS OPERATING TONIGHT THROUGH THE WORD. NOW IT MAY BE THAT IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS THERE MAY BE SOME FEELINGS INVOLVED AS THE PREACHER PRESENTS THE MESSAGE IN AN EMOTIONAL FORM AND IT MAY BE THAT YOUR EMOTIONS ARE STIRRED, BUT STILL PRECEDING THAT IF YOU



ARE GOING TO RESPOND AND THAT RESPONSE BE MEANINGFUL TO THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL, IT DEPENDS NOT UPON YOUR BEING MOVED BY EMOTION, BUT UPON YOUR HAVING HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD AND RESPONDED TO THAT WHICH YOU KNOW TO BE TRUE. SO IF YOU HAVE HEARD THE WORD OF GOD TONIGHT AND YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S SON AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU NEED TO REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND TO CONFESS THE NAME OF JESUS AND YOU UNDERSTAND THE PLACE OF BAPTISM IN GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION, THEN WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS TO COME IMMEDIATELY, RESPONDING TO THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF THE STORY OF JESUS, AND BECOME GOD'S CHILD. IF YOU HAVE DONE THIS, AND YOU HAVEN'T LIVED ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS OF THE SPIRIT, "FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THESE ARE THE SONS OF GOD," THEN YOU NEED TO COME BACK AND PLANT YOUR FEET ONCE MORE IN THE SPIRIT LED PATH BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE WALKING IN ANY OTHER WAY, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED.