

Name: _____



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Advanced Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 20: God the Holy Ghost

LORD'S DAY 20

Q.53. WHAT DOST THOU BELIEVE CONCERNING THE HOLY GHOST?

ANSWER: FIRST, THAT HE IS TRUE AND CO-ETERNAL WITH GOD THE FATHER AND THE SON (A); SECONDLY, THAT HE IS ALSO GIVEN ME (B), TO MAKE ME BY A TRUE FAITH, PARTAKER OF CHRIST AND ALL HIS BENEFITS (C), THAT HE MAY COMFORT ME (D) AND ABIDE WITH ME FOREVER (E).

(A) I JOHN 5:7, GENESIS 1:2, ISAIAH 48:16, I CORINTHIANS 3:16,6:19, ACTS 5:3&4; (B) GALATIANS 4:6, MATTHEW 28:19&20, II CORINTHIANS 1:22, EPHESIANS 1:13; (C) GALATIANS 3:14, I PETER 1:2, I CORINTHIANS 6:17; (D) JOHN 15:26, ACTS 9:31; (E) JOHN 14:16, I PETER 4:14

The Holy Ghost is God

The Holy Ghost is not something *of* God, like our spirit, beside our body, is something of us, part of our being. Neither is the Holy Ghost only a power proceeding from God. No, the Holy Ghost is in Himself perfect and true, that is true God. The Holy Ghost is God from eternity unto eternity. *With* God the Father and God the Son He is *one* God, which is an incomprehensible mystery to us. The Holy Ghost Himself is God and *in this way* He works in the world and in the hearts of men. Jesus has said of Him, "*He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you*" (John 16:14).

Also given me

The believer now rejoices: He is also given me! The human spirit is depraved through sin. From it nothing can come anymore that is good before God. But now the Holy Ghost is given into his heart. He renews all thinking, feeling, and willing. In what way does He do so? God Himself says, "*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you*" (Ezekiel 36:26). The Holy Ghost shows him all his sins and his entire sinful existence. In this way he experiences and confesses that he is a sinner and that he has deserved eternal death. However, the Holy Ghost shows him also that forgiveness is

possible through the blood of Christ. He unites the sinner with Christ. How does He do this? He does this by working true faith in the heart (Ephesians 2:8). Through that faith there comes communion between the believer and Christ. The Holy Ghost sprinkles the blood of Christ on a guilty soul, so that it will be cleansed (I Peter 1:2). In this way the believer becomes a partaker of Christ and all the benefits which Christ merited for him: forgiveness of sins, resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Power and comfort in the spiritual warfare

This Holy Ghost always remains in the believer. The believer is still often assaulted by the devil. He must fight the spiritual warfare against the sin, which remains in him. However, the Holy Ghost gives the strength to fight. This is the sanctification, which He works in the life of the believer. The Holy Ghost also comforts in this warfare and in the persecutions he must experience sometimes, and in all sorrows and difficulties. What does He comfort him with? With the assurance that he is a partaker of all the benefits of Christ. That Christ is his Saviour, his Redeemer, his King, and also that he is truly a child of God and will be so forever. Paul said, *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”* (Galatians 4:6).

Questions:

1. *Is the Holy Ghost something of God, for instance, a power proceeding from God?*

2. *In what way does the Holy Ghost bring sinners to Christ?*

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: *“In whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.” Ephesians 1:13*

Some consider this sealing as the highest assurance, which but few obtain. Others, as a state of perfection in holiness, and entire freedom from the being of sin, which indeed no one enjoys in this life. But it is plain the apostle means nothing more than what all believers in common are favoured with. *In believing* ye were sealed, says the learned Mr. Hervey. That is, as soon as ye received the truth in the love of it, ye were sealed by the Spirit as the children of God, by faith in Christ Jesus.

Consider *what is implied* in being sealed. The use of a seal is to make an impression of its contents. Sealing an instrument is making it valid, and acknowledging it as our act and deed. The heart of a believing sinner, melted by the word and Spirit of God, is the subject of this sealing. The contents of this seal is *grace* and *truth*, which came by Jesus Christ. John 1:17. This is sealed upon the heart by the act and deed of the Holy Spirit. This impress of salvation by the grace and truth of the Son of God, is made so deep and lasting on the believing heart, that time with all its changes, sin with all its malignity, the world with all its charms and frowns, and Satan with all his power and fraud can never, never efface it. It will remain as the impress the seal on the wax. It answers to the revelation of Jesus made in the word, as the impressed wax to the seal. Such a sealed heart is God’s jewel. He has distinguished it as His own. It will receive no other impression but from the broad seal of heaven, salvation by the blood and righteousness of the Son of God *only*.

Now, is this seal upon your heart? Do you reject with abhorrence every other hope? Do you believe in, look to, and trust Jesus for all your salvation?

Rejoice: you are sealed.

For, consider further, *all* believers are sealed. The sealer is the Spirit of *promise*. He is alike promised to all the believing members of Christ. They are heirs of promise. They have fled to Jesus for refuge, and laid hold of him as their hope: and nothing but consolation, yea, strong consolation awaits them from the God of promise. He is the *Holy* Spirit. By this sealing He impresses the heart with the love of Christ, of truth, and of holiness. And He hereby fulfils our Lord’s prayer for His members, “Sanctify them through Thy truth.” John 17:17.

Therefore, though in heaviness through manifold temptations; though in dejection from many enemies, let not go your confidence of faith. Count not yourself an unbeliever. Think not yourself under the curse of the law. Deny not the Spirit’s work. For if you believe on Jesus in your heart, “ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30.