

8 April 2018

The will of God: Pt 5 The role of the Spirit .

This is our fifth study on the topic – The will of God. In our previous study we established the battle for our mind which effects our ability to prove the will of God unless we mortify the deeds of the flesh and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. In this study we establish the role of the Spirit in proving the will of God.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The Spirit of God makes intercession for us according to the will of God.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Rom.8: 26 & 27).

The Spirit of God that dwells in each believer (Rom.8: 9) makes intercession for the saints for our infirmities according to the will of God.

2. In the book of Acts –

i) The Spirit of God speaks to believers and tells them to “Go”.

“And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house” (Acts 11: 12). See also Acts 8: 29.

ii) The Spirit of God caught up Philip and he was later found in Azotus.

“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8: 39).

iii) Paul decided to go to Bithynia but the Spirit of God closed the door to him going.

“After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not” (Acts 16: 7).

3. Believers are quickened by the Spirit of God at the resurrection.

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Rom.8: 11).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Brother Greg sent me a webpage link to Pastor David Pawson's teaching on the new birth. In David's introduction he points out that he does not use the epistles and book of Revelation in his teaching because they were written after Christianity began and so do not speak of how to become a Christian. Therefore David's teaching was solely from the book of Acts.

Question to think about.

If Pastor Pawson was teaching on the Holy Spirit would he be teaching truth if he claimed that Christians are to trust God for the Holy Spirit to convey them as He did Philip in the book of Acts?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

No, it would not be truth for today. Examples of Christians being led by the Spirit of God only occur in the book of Acts so a pastor has no other book to turn to, but to use a miraculous event and apply it to today would not be wise, especially when miracles were only given to the fledgling church as a sign of the new work. Whereas, the example of Paul assaying to go to Bithynia and the Spirit closing the door is an example of the Spirit's role in showing believers the will of God – by opening doors for them. We can however, look forward to the miraculous event of our resurrection – when our mortal bodies will be quickened “by the Spirit that dwelleth in you”. As we continue our journey to the time of the resurrection let us remember to prove the will of God by stepping out in faith, waiting, and being obedient when the Spirit of God opens or closes doors for us to walk in accordance with the will of our Father in heaven. Amen!