**Calvin’s *Institutes of Christian Religion***

Lesson 17: The Work of the Spirit (Book 3, Chapter 1)

“Calvin wants us to comprehend how the blessings which the Father committed to His Son come to reach us, seeing that the Son did not receive them for His own use.” –J. Mark Beach

**Chapter 1: The Things Spoken Concerning Christ Profit Us By the Secret Working of the Spirit**

1. The Holy Spirit is the Bond that Unites Us to Christ
   1. “First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from Him, all that He has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us. Therefore, to share with us what He has received from the Father, He had to become ours and to dwell within us.”
   2. Romans 11:17 – “But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in [to Christ] among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,”
   3. Galatians 3:27 – “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
   4. The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to Himself.
   5. 1 John 5:6 – “And the Spirit is the one who testifies [that Jesus came in the flesh], because the Spirit is the truth”
   6. 1 Peter 1:2 – “[elect] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in **the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood**:”
   7. 1 Corinthians 6:11 – “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and **by the Spirit** of our God.”
2. In Christ the Mediator, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be seen in all their fullness.
   1. “Christ came endowed with the Holy Spirit to separate us from the world and to gather us unto the hope of the eternal inheritance”
   2. Romans 1:4 – “and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to **the Spirit of holiness** by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,”
   3. Romans 8:9 – “You, however, are not in the flesh but in **the Spirit**, if in fact **the Spirit of God** dwells in you. Anyone who does not have **the Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.”
   4. “There is nothing absurd in ascribing to the Father praise for those gifts of which He is the Author, and yet in ascribing the same powers to Christ, with whom were laid up the gifts of the Spirit to bestow upon His people.”
   5. The Spirit comes upon Jesus at the beginning of His ministry to empower Him.
   6. Jesus at the end of His ministry says that He is going to send the Spirit to “be with you forever.” (John 14:16)
3. Titles of the Holy Spirit in Scripture
   1. **Spirit of Adoption**: “you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father” (Romans 8:15; see also Galatians 4:6)
   2. **Guarantee and Seal:** “**21**And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, **22**and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” (1 Corinthians 1:21-22; see also Ephesians 1:14)
   3. **Life:** “But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” (Romans 8:10)
   4. **Water:** “whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14; see also Isaiah 44:3, 55:1, Ezekiel 36:25)
   5. **Fire:** “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Luke 3:16; see also Acts 2)
   6. “…until our minds become intent upon the Spirit, Christ, so to speak, lies idle because we coldly contemplate him as outside ourselves— indeed, far from us.”
   7. Only through union with Christ, accomplished by the Holy Spirit, do the benefits of Christ apply to us. It is the Holy Spirit who makes us members of the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:30)
   8. We are made one with Christ. “This doesn’t mean that we are deified or absorbed into Christ, as if our humanity is mingled with His divinity. No! But we are truly part of Him, and this union with Christ is the way we are bonded or connected and receive all that Christ has accomplished for His people.” –J. Mark Beach
4. Faith As the Work of the Spirit
   1. **Faith** is **the principal work** of the Holy Spirit
   2. Ephesians 1:13-14 – “In him [Christ] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him [Christ], were **sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit, **14**who is the guarantee [down payment] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”
   3. “Paul shows the Spirit to be the inner teacher by whose effort the promise of salvation penetrates into our minds, a promise that would otherwise only strike the air and beat upon our ears.”
   4. The Holy Spirit is the source of our faith and also the source of our assurance that we belong to Christ.
      1. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – “God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”
      2. 1 John 3:24 – “And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.” See also 1 John 4:13
   5. “We have said that perfect salvation is found in the person of Christ. Accordingly, that we may become partakers of it “he baptizes us in the Holy Spirit and fire” [Luke 3: 16], bringing us into the light of faith in his gospel and so regenerating us that we become new creatures [cf. II Cor. 5: 17]; and he consecrates us, purged of worldly uncleanness, as temples holy to God [cf. I Cor. 3: 16– 17; 6: 19; II Cor. 6: 16; Eph. 2: 21].