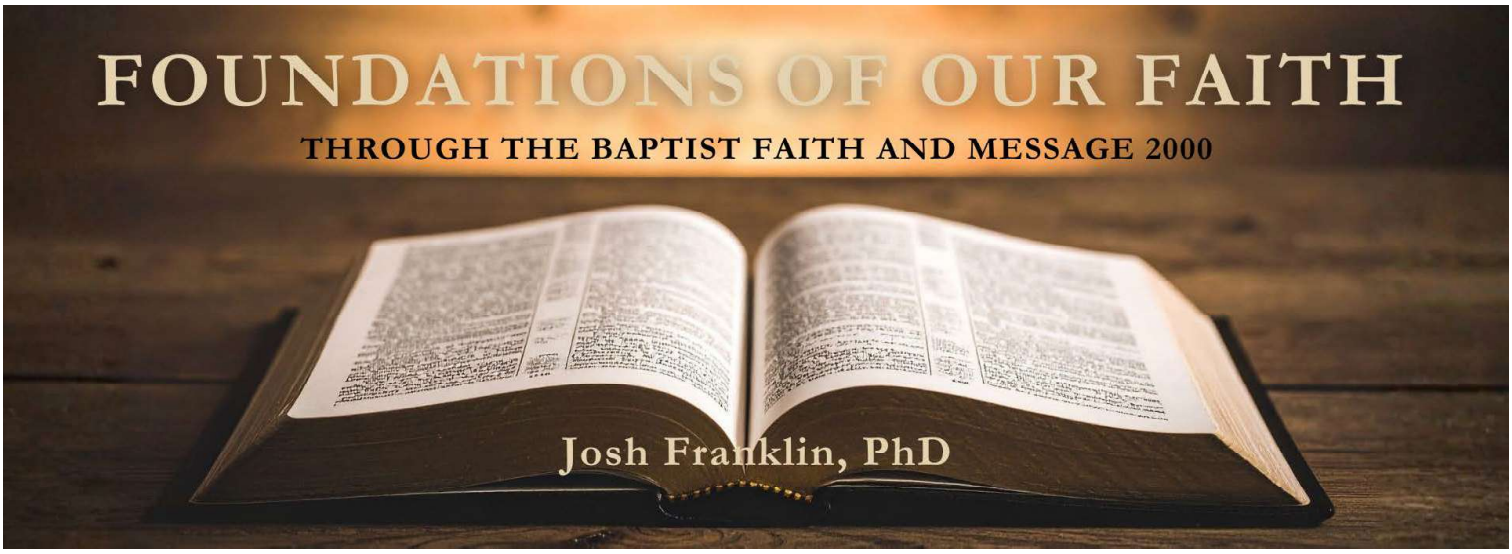


When God Becomes Your Helper

Article 2C: God the Holy Spirit - "The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration, He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service."

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

I. The Holy Spirit is Fully God

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity and equally as divine as God the Father and Son (Genesis 1:2, John 16:7-11, and Matthew 28:19).

Important note: Cults subtract from the Biblical doctrine of the Personhood of the Holy Spirit. Jehovah's Witnesses believe the Holy Spirit is God's active force rather than a distinct person. They reject the doctrine of the Trinity. Mormonism does not believe the Holy Spirit is a Person, but rather an impersonal divine substance or influence.

II. The Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation

A. Regeneration

The Holy Spirit is necessary to regenerate and give new life to those who believe (John 3:5-8 and Titus 3:5-6).

B. Calling and Convicting of Sin

The Holy Spirit calls sinners to salvation and convicts them of their need for Christ (John 16:8-11 and Romans 8:26).

C. Indwelling Believers

At salvation the Holy Spirit comes to indwell believers, becoming God's seal and guarantee (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 3:16, and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

D. Sealing

The Holy Spirit's sealing of believers is God's mark of ownership and guarantee of future heavenly inheritance (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14 and Ephesians 4:30).

III. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

A. Illumination

The Holy Spirit illuminates spiritual truth to believers (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).

B. Empowering for Service

Believers are equipped and empowered for service and gifted with spiritual gifts according to the Holy Spirit's will (Acts 1:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

C. Producing Fruit

The Holy Spirit cultivates Christ-like character in the lives of believers (Galatians 5:22-23 and Ephesians 5:9).

IV. Living in the Power of the Spirit

A. Walking in the Spirit

Believers are commanded to walk by means of the Holy Spirit's power and guidance (Romans 8:1-4 and Galatians 5:16).

B. Being Filled with the Spirit

Believers should live daily experiencing the fullness and control of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

C. Quenching or Grieving the Spirit

Believers must guard against quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19 and Ephesians 4:30).

Applications for today:

1) Just because there are Charismatic or Pentecostal extremes, do not ignore or minimize the work of the Holy Spirit in your Christian experience.

2) Seek to discover and employ your spiritual gift(s).

3) Depend daily upon the Holy Spirit, seeking to be filled and to “keep in step” with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25 NIV).

4) Ask God to show you areas of sin in which you have quenched or grieved the Holy Spirit and repent of them.

For further study:

“The Holy Spirit” by Billy Graham
“God in You” by David Jeremiah
“Life in the Spirit” by Robertson McQuilken (book, not study guide)
“They Found the Secret” by V. Raymond Edman
“Baptists and the Holy Spirit” by C. Douglas Weaver