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## BIBLICAL TRAINING CENTER

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August 25, 2019

### Work of the Holy Spirit at Salvation

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Note: A helpful way to remember today's class is with the acronym:

### **C.R.I.B.S.**

The Holy Spirit:

- C-onvicts
- R-egenerates
- I-ndwells
- B-aptizes
- S-eals

### The Holy Spirit **C**onvicts

The Holy Spirit works on a person's heart *before* salvation.

#### 1. The Holy Spirit convicts the world.

- a. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would **convict unbelievers** in 3 areas:

*John 16:7-11* – “7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will **convict the world concerning sin** and **righteousness** and **judgment**: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

- b. This means the **Holy Spirit was already involved** in the believer's life **before** salvation. Many people thought they were comfortable before Christ. But then the Holy Spirit brought **illumination** of the **Gospel**. The **Spirit intensified** their awareness of **personal sin**. They couldn't enjoy sin anymore. And they became

very aware that they were not right with God (coming judgment) and needed **salvation**.

- **Augustine** (AD 354-430) – God used a **strong conviction of his sinful sex life** to bring him to Christ.<sup>1</sup>
- **John Wesley** (AD 1703-1791) – Talked about being under tremendous conviction of his sin until his heart was “strangely warmed.”<sup>2</sup>
- **Søren Knudsen** (AD 1832-1916) – My 3<sup>rd</sup> great Danish grandfather – God used conviction of **playing cards** and **dancing** to save him.<sup>3</sup>
- **My story!**

c. The Holy Spirit convicts when **drawing** or “**wooing**” a person to Christ.

**Efficacious Grace:** “The instantaneous work of God **empowering the human will** and **inclining the human heart** to faith in Christ.”<sup>4</sup>

d. The “**wooing**” of the Holy Spirit is connected with “**calling**”:

“This calling denotes the **effective invitation of God** whereby He woos the person through the power of the Holy Spirit and **renders the individual willing to respond** to the gospel.”<sup>5</sup>

Calling passages:

*Romans 1:6,7* – “...you also are among those Gentiles who are **called** to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and **called** to be his holy people...”

*Romans 8:28* – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, **who have been called** according to his purpose.”

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<sup>1</sup> Chuck Colson, “Finding Sexual Freedom in Augustine’s Confessions,” The Gospel Coalition, January 15, 2014, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/finding-sexual-freedom-in-augustines-confessions/>.

<sup>2</sup> See “John Wesley’s Heart Strangely Warmed,” Christianity.com, last modified April, 2007, <https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1701-1800/john-wesleys-heart-strangely-warmed-11630227.html>.

<sup>3</sup> See Søren Knudsen, *A Short Description of Soren Knudsen’s Lifesplan*,

<https://www.evernote.com/l/AAPjh4OAHWpIz70MEYHcx82XhaXirrHTz08>

<sup>4</sup> John F. Walvoord, *The Holy Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1958), p. 122. Efficacious grace is also called “special grace.” This is often contrasted with common grace which is shown to all people (e.g., God gives rain to just and unjust, Matt. 5:45).

<sup>5</sup> Paul P. Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989), 335.

Many other calling passages: 1 Cor. 1:1-2, 24, 26; Eph. 1:18; 4:1, 4; 2 Tim. 1:9.

## The Holy Spirit Regenerates

The above is *before* salvation. Now we come to the point *of* salvation. The Holy Spirit is involved in the act of regeneration.

### 1. What is Regeneration?

The Bible uses four different images for regeneration:

#### a. Spiritual Birth / Born Again

- PROBLEM: People are completely “**dead** in [their] transgressions and sins” (Eph. 2:1). Every person is born into this world spiritually dead (Rom. 3:23). All apologists agree we **cannot reason our way to God**.<sup>6</sup> A miracle is required. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- SOLUTION: Jesus talked about need for each of us to undergo a “**re-birth**.” This is where “**born again**” comes from.

John 3:3,7 – “Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**.’... ‘you **must be born again**.’”

Many other passages talk about being born-again (1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18).

#### b. Washing / Cleansing

- The Bible also speaks of regeneration as a “**washing**.” This is a washing and cleansing of our sins through faith in Christ.

Titus 3:5 – “...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing of regeneration** and renewal of the Holy Spirit”

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<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless, apologists feel good arguments should be given. God often uses good arguments and reason when bringing salvation, but the act of regeneration must be supernatural.

### c. New Creation

- The regenerated person receives a **new nature**.

*2 Corinthians 5:17* – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

- We’re supposed to **live** now according to our **new nature**.

*Ephesians 4:22, 24* – “... put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires... [and] put on **the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

### d. Spiritual Resurrection

- Regeneration involves a “spiritual resurrection” of the believer. The idea is that we were spiritually dead before Christ. After believing, a part of us has been made **alive** (i.e., resurrected).

*Ephesians 2:5* – “...**even when we were dead** in our trespasses, [God] **made us alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved”

*John 6:63* – Jesus said, “It is the **Spirit** who gives life...”

## 2. Result of Regeneration

- There will be **new life**.

*Romans 8:2 (NIV)* – through Christ Jesus the **law of the Spirit who gives life** has **set you free** from the law of sin and death.

*Romans 8:6* – The mind governed by the flesh is death, but **the mind governed by the Spirit** is **life and peace**.

**QUESTION: What was your experience of being “made alive” like?**

## 3. Regeneration is Instant

- It is **not** a process. Being “born again” happens in an instance. Regeneration is something a person can say has happened to them in the **past**.

Titus 3:5 (NKJV) – “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us [past tense]**, through the **washing of regeneration** and **renewing of the Holy Spirit...**”

- Debate about order
  - Reformed Christians (those holding to monergism) believe regeneration happens *before* faith. They see:

Regeneration → Faith

- Others (those holding to synergism) believe faith precedes regeneration. They see:

Faith → Regeneration

## The Holy Spirit **I**ndwells

The Holy Spirit also permanently indwells believers at the point of salvation.

### 1. The Holy Spirit did not permanently indwell believers in the **Old Testament**.

- a. Old Testament encounters with the Holy Spirit were: (1) **infrequent**; (2) involved **leaders** only; (3) **temporary**; (4) an **empowerment** for service.<sup>7</sup> This can be seen from many passages:

Moses (Num. 11:17); Seventy elders (Num. 11:25); Balaam (Num. 24:2); Joshua (Deut. 34:9); Othniel (Judg. 3:10); Gideon (Judg. 6:34); Jephthah (Judg. 11:29); Samson (Judg. 14:6, 19; 15:14); Saul (1 Sam. 10:10; 11:6; 19:23); David (1 Sam. 16:13); Messengers of Saul (1 Sam. 19:20); Zechariah (2 Chron. 24:20); Isaiah (Isa. 61:1); Ezekiel (Ezek. 3:24; 11:5)<sup>8</sup>

One well-known passage is from **David** after he committed adultery:  
Psalm 51:11 (KJV) “Cast me not away from thy presence; And **take not thy Holy Spirit** from me.”

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<sup>7</sup> John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 367.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

## 2. The Holy Spirit permanently indwells believers today.

- a. The New Testament shows a **new relationship** between believers and the Holy Spirit. It is (1) permanent; (2) involves all believers; (3) happens at the moment of salvation; (4) should result in holy living and fruitful service.<sup>9</sup>

*Romans 8:9* – “You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.**”

John 7:38–39 – Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow **from within them.**” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him **were later to receive.** Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 – Do you not know that **your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,** whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

- b. Indwelling, baptism and sealing are **closely related** but not the same.

## 3. Filling of the Holy Spirit is not the same as indwelling.

- a. **Filling** will be covered more next week. In short, filling is a **temporary empowerment** by the Holy Spirit. It’s possible for genuine Christians to not be filled with the Holy Spirit. But all Christians must be indwelt with the Holy Spirit or they are not Christians (Rom. 8:9).

## The Holy Spirit Baptizes

The Holy Spirit also baptizes the believer into Christ at the point of salvation.<sup>10</sup>

### 1. What is Holy Spirit baptism?

- a. It’s a **one-time act** by the Holy Spirit of putting the believer **positionally** into the **body** of Christ:

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<sup>9</sup> John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 368.

<sup>10</sup> Some disagree that Holy Spirit baptism happens to all believers at salvation. See Q & A.

1 Corinthians 12:13 – For **we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body**—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Galatians 3:27 – for all of you who **were baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Matthew 3:11 – John the Baptist said, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He [Jesus] **will baptize you with the Holy Spirit** and fire.”

- b. Either a person is “**in** Christ” or not. All believers, through Holy Spirit baptism, make up the **invisible** body of Christ (aka, the church).

## The Holy Spirit Seals

Finally, the Holy Spirit seals the believer at the moment of salvation.

### 1. The Bible says believers are “sealed” by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 – And do not grieve the **Holy Spirit** of God, **with whom you were sealed (σφραγίζω)** for the day of redemption.

**What does this mean?** Two different words are used when talking about the Holy Spirit sealing the believer (σφραγίζω and ἀρραβών). They each mean two different things.

- a. God’s seal means we **belong** to God.
  - In NT times, **sealing** (σφραγίζω) was the “ancient practice of placing soft wax on one’s correspondence or property, which was then stamped with a unique mark that unmistakably identified the owner or originator. It symbolized **security, protection, ownership, authority, and authenticity.**”<sup>11</sup>
- b. God’s seal should bring us **certainty** and **assurance** of our **salvation**.

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<sup>11</sup> John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 358.

- Sealing relates to the idea of a guarantee. In New Testament times, a guarantee (ἀρραβών) “was a financial **down payment** or deposit given in good faith that the remaining payment(s) would be forthcoming to complete a business transaction. It communicated the idea of a pledge to promote certainty and assurance.”<sup>12</sup>

2 Corinthians 5:5 – “God... has given us **the Spirit as a guarantee** [ἀρραβών].”

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 – And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also **put his seal (σφραγίζω) on us and given us his Spirit** in our hearts **as a guarantee [ἀρραβών]**.

Ephesians 1:13–14 – And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were **marked in him with a seal (σφραγίζω), the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing (ἀρραβών) our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

- c. It’s easy to see how the **sealing** of the Spirit relates to **indwelling**. The permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is the seal by which the believer is secure.

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<sup>12</sup> John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 358.



Today's class deals with the left and middle column. Next week's class will deal with the right column, how the Holy Spirit is involved after salvation.

## The Holy Spirit<sup>13</sup>

<b><i>Before Salvation</i></b>	<b><i>At Salvation</i></b>	<b><i>After Salvation</i></b>
<b>Convicts</b> – John 16:8-9	<b>Regenerates (New Birth)</b> — John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5-6  <b>Indwells (permanently)</b> — John 7:37-39; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20  <b>Baptizes into Christ</b> — Mark 1:7-8; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27  <b>Seals for Salvation</b> — 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30	<b>Fills (not permanent; can be re-filled with Holy Spirit)</b> — Acts 4:8; 4:31; 6:3; 13:9; 13:52; Ephesians 4:30  <b>Matures</b> — Romans 8:13; Zechariah 4:6; Galatians 5:16, 22-25; Romans 12:9-21  <b>Gifts for Service</b> — 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7-11; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10

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<sup>13</sup> Adapted from Norman L. Geisler and Jason Jimenez, *The Bible's Answers to 100 of Life's Biggest Questions* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2015), 90-92.

## Questions & Answers

### Is there another view for Holy Spirit baptism?

**Yes!** The view of Spirit baptism above is how I was taught in three schools (San Diego Christian College, Southern California Seminary and Veritas International University).

Some, however, disagree with the view that all believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit at salvation (regeneration). They see the Baptism of the Spirit as a “**second blessing**” or “second work of grace” which is available to all but not all obtain.

In short, those holding to a **second blessing of Holy Spirit baptism** do think every Christian is indwelt with the Spirit, but not every believer is baptized by the Spirit.

**Chuck Smith** held this view.<sup>14</sup> He taught that the disciples became permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit in John 20:22 when Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” He said they were later baptized with the Spirit in Acts 2.

Many who hold this view believe **tongues** is the evidence a person has received this second blessing.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See Chuck Smith, *Living Water* (Santa Ana, CA: The Word for Today, 2001), 278

<sup>15</sup> See Lightner, *Handbook of Evangelical Theology*, 121.

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