

February 17, 2019

By the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:34-38

1:34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

1:35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God.

1:36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

1:38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

1. The Holy Spirit and Trinity

The Apostles' Creed expresses faith in the Father, the Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. However, it does not treat the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit separately. It confesses the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit who always work together. “I believe in God the Father Almighty I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, Our Lord” is written in the original word (Latin) like this; “I believe in the Father ... and Jesus Christ”, followed by “who was conceived by the Holy Spirit.” The Father and Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are spoken continuously in a sentence. “God’s only Son was conceived by the Holy Spirit.” This is what today’s Scripture reading is telling. In this short section and a short statement of the Apostles’ Creed which summarized it, the faith in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is

clearly expressed.

“Prayer of the Annunciation” says,

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived by the power of Holy Spirit.

(Hail Mary, full of grace ...)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it done unto me according to your Word.

(Hail Mary, full of grace ...)

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

(Hail Mary, full of grace ...)

This is a prayer taken from Luke 1:38 and John 1:14, and for remembering of the conception of Jesus as we remember the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. The Crucifix and the Resurrection are the climax of Jesus’ life, but the conception of Jesus is an important event for our salvation not less than the Cross and the Resurrection. We see God of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost in the glorious fact that “God’s only Son was conceived by the Holy Spirit.”

I have heard that many people say, “I know God the Father and Jesus Christ, but I do not understand the Holy Spirit completely.” In my early years that I just had faith, I did the same. How was it, everyone?

The Holy Spirit will show himself, as John 15:26 says, “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” The Holy Spirit is a person who presents Christ than himself. In addition, the Holy Spirit works with the church and with Christians.

Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And Acts 5:32 says, “And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” But, in the eyes of the people the Holy Spirit himself is invisible. Only the disciples’ ministry is visible. But The Holy Spirit exists and works behind the mission of the Church. Acts 9:31 says, “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

I can understand that many people say, “I cannot know the Holy Spirit as I know Jesus Christ.” The works of the Holy Spirit seem to be hiding, but they are clearly shown in the Bible. As we learn more the Bible, we begin to understand the works of the Holy Spirit; as our faith grows, we can experience the works of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit and Jesus

Where is the Holy Spirit comes out first in the Bible? It is the beginning of the Bible, Genesis 1:1-2. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”, “God Spirit”, that is the Holy Spirit, participated in the creation of the world. The word, “hover” in verse 2, means that the helicopter is stationary in the air. Since the ancient people did not know the helicopter, this word was used to express the appearance of birds spreading their wings. The Holy Spirit

is often represented by a pigeon symbol, and you can envision a scene where a big pigeon spreads its wings and sends winds to the water covered earth. You can also imagine that the parent birds hold the eggs and warm them so that the Holy Spirit embraces the primitive earth, as if hiding the birds under the wings.

Proceeding to Chapter 2 of Genesis, it reads, “then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” (Genesis 2 : 7) There. This “breath of life” also reminds us of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the creator of the world and the giver of life. As the Nicene Creed says,

“The Lord is the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.”

So Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was in the beginning with the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was not that the Holy Spirit made the Son, gave him life. But when the Son became a person, the Holy Spirit who has the power of creation formed his body within the mother’s womb and gave breath of life upon his birth.

The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are equal, but there is an order in the Trinity. The Father born the Son and the Son sends the Holy Spirit. So in theology the Father is ranked first, Son second, and the Holy Spirit third. However, in the conception, the birth and the later lifetime of the Son, the second ranked Son is giving the initiative to the third ranked Holy Spirit. Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit,

living a life according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

After being baptized Jesus heard the voice from the heavens saying, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11) It was a sign that Jesus was the Son of God. However, shortly afterwards, The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.” (Mark 1:12) Mark wrote that the Holy Spirit “drove” Jesus to the wilderness. Rough word is used, not gentle words “led” or “brought,” but “drove”. This shows that the Holy Spirit is not less than Jesus, but he is God who has sovereign power over the Son of God. Mark 1:11-12 is the place that shows both Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit is God.

The Father poured the Holy Spirit into Jesus and filled him with the Holy Spirit. The miracle that Jesus performed was due to the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matthew 12:28), and testify of the Holy Spirit who works in himself. The apostle Peter also said, “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10 : 38) He talk about the Holy Spirit who worked in Jesus.

Jesus told the Word of God as God directly speaks not a speech or commentary. Even those who opposed Jesus could not object to what he said. Even today, there are no people who don't admire Jesus' wonderfulness, whether they have other religions or no religious people. The Bible says in John 3:34 that the teachings of Jesus are also from the Holy Spirit, saying, “For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.” (John

3:34)

In this way, the Holy Spirit is with Jesus, who worked with Jesus, so if you better understand Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life and ministry will be known. The Holy Spirit witnesses Jesus, but the life and ministry of Jesus are also witnessing the Holy Spirit. Then, we can no more say, "I know if it is Jesus Christ, but the Holy Spirit ...". Have you get to know a little about the Holy Spirit?

3. The Holy Spirit and Us

So what does it mean to us that the Holy Spirit is deeply involved in the life and ministry of Jesus? Jesus was the Son of God and the Savior, so he had a connection with the Holy Spirit, but can we have any connection with the Holy Spirit? Yes, we can. God will give us the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself says this. "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13) Jesus says that the greatest gift of God is the Holy Spirit. We ask God for various things, but the Holy Spirit is the source of everything we need. God does not give us that blessing a little, and this gift a little. but the Holy Spirit, the giver of all blessings and gifts. The father who filled the Son with the Holy Spirit will give the same Holy Spirit to those who believe in Jesus the Son and obey the Lord Christ.

The disciples were baptized by the Holy Spirit and filled with him on the Pentecost day, but Jesus had previously given the disciples the power of the Holy Spirit to expel evil spirits and heal diseases. His disciples had already experienced the Holy Spirit before the Pentecost.

There were various mysterious events in Pentecost, such as the sound of the wind resonating around, and the tongue of the flame stuck on the disciples' heads. People were surprised at that, but the disciples were not. Peter cited the Bible, explained Pentecost event, and said, "Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing." (Acts 2:33) It is very cool. Because His disciples had already experienced the power of the Holy Spirit and taught firmly about the promises of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was a promised One, and Pentecost was the day the promise was fulfilled, so it was natural for the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit.

The Bible writes about the Holy Spirit everywhere. In the New Testament you can find the words, "the Holy Spirit" or "Spirit" everywhere except in three short letters; Philemon, 2 John, and 3 John. 24 out of 27 books in the New Testament write and teach about the Holy Spirit. For Christians, the Holy Spirit is not special, it is natural to know the Holy Spirit and to receive the works of the Holy Spirit. Because a person confesses that "Jesus is the Lord" by the Holy Spirit, is born again by the Holy Spirit, poured the love of God by the Holy Spirit, and is given the assurance and conviction that being the child of God by the Holy Spirit .

I was convinced that Christians could confess, "The Lord were convinced by the Holy Spirit," because they also experienced and knew that they were also born as the children of God by the Holy Spirit. We have no power to change ourselves. But the Holy Spirit who created the world has the power to make those who repent and

believe in Jesus the children of God. The angel said to Mother Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God For nothing will be impossible with God.” Christians also trusted the Holy Spirit, believing that “the Holy Spirit is God, there is nothing impossible for the Holy Spirit” like Mother Mary. The Holy Spirit who worked in Jesus the Son will dwell among the children of God. If we try to obey and follow Jesus as his disciples, the Holy Spirit gives us all the same wisdom and power that he gave to Jesus.

What we need to do is to believe and seek the will of the loving Father who gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask. At that time the Holy Spirit who worked at Jesus also works in us and among us.

(Prayer)

God, the Father, You promised to give the Holy Spirit to those who believe the Son and ask you the Holy Spirit as well as you gave the Holy Spirit to your Son abundantly. We believe that the same Holy Spirit, who worked in Jesus, will work in us as well. Give us a desire to seek and know the Holy Spirit more. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Son.