

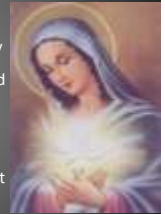
Holy Spirit in Christ's Incarnation

- Jesus in His kenotic state voluntarily chose not to use his comparative attributes.
- As a result, He completely submitted to the directives of the Father and the Holy Spirit during His life on earth.
- Concerning the Holy Spirit, we see His role in the life of Christ from the beginning to the end.
- We will go through the various points.



Holy Spirit in Christ's Incarnation

- In the virgin birth, Christ was conceived in the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit.
 - Thus Jesus' kenotic existence first began by an act of the Holy Spirit.
 - Luke 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.
- Next, we see the Holy Spirit anoint Jesus and His ministry upon His baptism.
 - This anointing gave Jesus the power and authority to do the things He did, especially since He was not using His full divine attributes.
 - Jesus pointed out that this anointing was a fulfillment of a prophecy made by Isaiah.
 - His disciples fully recognized the anointing of the Holy Spirit that was upon Him.



Holy Spirit in Christ's Incarnation

- Matthew 3:16 – And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;
- Luke 4:18 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
- Acts 10:37-38 – you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38) 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.



A Quick Point

- At this point, I would like to digress for just a moment and make an argument in favor of dispensational eschatology.
- In Luke 4:18, Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-2 and stated that He has been anointed to fulfill the ministry spoken of there.
 - However, there is something very significant here. Jesus did not quote the full prophecy, but instead He stopped at a comma point in the English.
 - The remainder of the prophecy reads that He will bring the vengeance of the Lord and restore Israel.
 - Jesus deliberately stopped His reading half way through a sentence and declared His anointing to fulfill the first half.
 - This means that He was not anointed to bring the judgment of God into the world at His first coming, or to restore Israel.
 - It also means that at His second coming He will have the authority to finish the prophecy.
- This is instructive against the Covenantalists and Preterists who deny a future restoration of Israel.
 - Also, both of those groups often criticize dispensationalists for arguing that there is an indefinite gap between Daniel 9:26 and 27 called the dispensation of the church age.
 - They say there is no precedent allowing us to create a gap. This passage in Isaiah proves the contrary. Jesus Himself created an indefinite gap of time within a single prophecy by stopping at a comma point. This gap has lasted nearly 2,000 years.
- We will discuss this further when we get to the last doctrine of the course, Eschatology.

Holy Spirit in Christ's Incarnation

- The Holy Spirit was also present at the inception of Christ's ministry, which started immediately after the baptism.
 - We know that after Christ's baptism, His ministry began when He entered the wilderness for 40 days to defeat the devil's temptations.
 - Yet, it was not of Jesus' will alone that He entered the wilderness to achieve this task.
 - We learn from Matthew 4:1 that Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted.
- Matthew 4:1 – Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.



Holy Spirit in Christ's Incarnation

- Jesus often did His miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Matthew 12:28 – But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.
- Even Jesus' emotions were subject to the Holy Spirit. We see in Luke 10:17 that Jesus took joy in the Holy Spirit due to the fact that the Father has blinded the so-called wise of this world.
 - Luke 10:21 – In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
- Even Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection involved the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - Hebrews 9:14 – how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
 - 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,

Holy Spirit in Christ's Incarnation

- From start to finish, Jesus Christ was led by the Holy Spirit.
- Closer analysis showed Him to be sealed by the Holy Spirit (John 6:27), at times filled by the Spirit (Luke 4:1), and always empowered by Him.
- When we studied the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, we saw many of these factors were given to Old Testament saints, but not to the extent seen in Jesus Christ.
- Yet, to His church Jesus promised to give the Spirit in a greater way than to Israel in the past.
- Furthermore, Jesus even promised His disciples that they would do greater works than He did because He was going away so that the Spirit may come upon the soon to be born church.
 - John 14:12 – Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.



Holy Spirit in the Church

- Christ's death and resurrection allowed for the creation of a new body of people who would be permanently indwelt with the Holy Spirit as well as empowered and gifted by Him.
- Jesus in John 16:7 made it clear that He needed to ascend to the Father so that He could send the Holy Spirit to His disciples.
 - John 16:7 – 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.
- In Acts 2, we read of this happening. The Holy Spirit came in a sound like a wind and filled the disciples causing them to do things that had never been done before.
- They spoke in tongues and preached the gospel, which convicted 3,000 men bringing them to Christ. Truly, the work of the Holy Spirit in the church is something that is new and greater than anything prior.



Holy Spirit in the Church

- Therefore, it is important to discuss the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian.
- Jesus spoke plainly in John 3 that to be saved a person must be born again. Being born spiritually through the Holy Spirit is what makes a person a Christian.
- In terms of our fleshly and physical life, we have its inception or infancy, its continual stages of growth and development, maturity, and then completion at death.
- The same is true of our new spiritual life as a Christian.
- We are born from above when the Holy Spirit regenerates us, and then He causes us to grow and mature through sanctification. It ends when He glorifies us through our bodily resurrection.
- To makes this a little more organized, let us break the work of the Holy Spirit into the phases of our Christian life.



Conviction

- He is at our inception through the power of conviction, in which we are convicted of sin.
- We learn from Jesus in John 16:8 that one of the tasks of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin.
 - John 16:8 – And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
- We see how this works after Peter preached a hard hitting sermon to the Jews at Pentecost in Acts 2. His words from the Holy Spirit were so convicting that the audience was cut to the heart and wanted to know what to do in response to their conviction.
 - Acts 2:36-37 – Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37) Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
- My own story of conviction for conversion.

Regeneration

- Along the same lines of this, regeneration is necessary. We are born into this world as spiritually dead. By this, I mean that we are sinners at birth with the sin nature, and on our own we are unable to come to God of our own will to receive Him.
 - Psalms 51:5 – Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
 - Romans 8:7-8 – For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- Due to this dilemma, God must perform a special work within us that enables us to respond positively to the conviction given to us by the Holy Spirit.
- This work is regeneration, and it too is performed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told Nicodemus that a man must be born of the Holy Spirit to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- In Titus 3:5 we are told that we were regenerated through the Holy Spirit.
 - 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,
- It is from this new birth given to us that we are then enabled to positively respond to Christ through faith and receive positional justification.
- Thus, as we are born into our Christian existence, it is by the dual work of the Holy Spirit to convict and regenerate us.

Baptism By the Holy Spirit

- Our birth involves being baptized into the body by the Spirit as well as being sealed by Him.
- People often miss the subtlety of language, but if you are said to be baptized “by” a person, it means that is the person who immersed you.
- If you are said to be baptized “into” something, such as water, then it is clear that water is the substance of the baptism.
- Therefore, if the Scriptures refer to Christians being baptized “by” the Holy Spirit “into” Jesus Christ, the person who immersed the Christian is the Holy Spirit, and the substance they were immersed into was Jesus Christ.
- In contrast, if I was water baptized by Paul the Apostle, then Paul is the person who dunked me and water was the substance into which I was dunked.



Not Baptismal Regeneration

- This distinction is highly important.
- People who advocate baptismal regeneration – the idea that water baptism is necessary for salvation – often read verses that speak of the Holy Spirit baptizing a person into Christ as water baptism performed by the Christian.
- Verses that speak of water baptism are easily discernable by context.
- When a passage says that person is baptized by the Spirit into Christ, it is referencing the positional sanctification of being set apart by God.
- I would like to give a few passages that show our salvific baptism really speaks of us being baptized into Christ, not water.



Not Baptismal Regeneration

- 1 Corinthians 12:13 – For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
- Galatians 3:27 – For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- Romans 6:3-4 – Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- Often those who believe that water baptism is necessary for salvation will say we are the ones who read too much into the text.
 - They claim when the Bible mentions baptism, it assumes that the reader understands it means water. This reasoning is not true.
 - The book of Acts tells us plainly that there is a distinction between water baptism, and baptism from Jesus Christ.
 - Acts 1:5 – for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Sealed By the Holy Spirit

- In addition to being baptized by the Holy Spirit, we must also note that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:22 – and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
 - Ephesians 1:13 – In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
 - Ephesians 4:30 – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



Sealed By the Holy Spirit

- From these passages we see that the Holy Spirit sealed us with Himself in us.
- Often the importance of the word seal is missed.
 - A seal denotes ownership. When a document was sealed shut, wax was stamped by an imprint from a ring that identified the owner.
 - Only the owner had the authority to seal a document, and the seal verified the authenticity of authorship.
- Since the Scriptures teach that the Spirit has sealed us, it denotes that God fully owns us and the Holy Spirit is His proof of it.
- Furthermore, it guarantees our eternal security since only He who sealed us can remove the seal.
 - We cannot remove the seal. Ephesians 4:30 plainly states that the Holy Spirit sealed us for the day of redemption.
 - It is on that day that the transaction is complete.
 - It seems silly to think that people deny eternal security when the Holy Spirit is said to be a seal.
- In summation, our inception into new life involves the Holy Spirit convicting us, regenerating us, and baptizing and sealing us.

More Works of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit empowers us.
 - John 14:12 – Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.
- The Holy Spirit indwells us.
 - John 14:16-17 – And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
 - Notice the difference between this and the OT. The Holy Spirit is with us "forever." Also, He will not merely be in us, but He will "dwell" with us.
 - This also supports eternal security since He is with us forever.
- The Holy Spirit also grants remembrance to us of divine revelation.
 - John 14:26 – But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
 - This was done more for the apostles, but we are granted remembrance of texts.

Intercession

- In heaven, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us before the Father.
 - Romans 8:26-27 – Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- The Spirit knows what is best for us, and so behind our own prayers are His prayers for us.



Sanctification

- We are also taught in Scripture that the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.
 - Being sanctified means to be set apart as holy for God.
- When we are saved, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us from a positional perspective, meaning for our whole lives we are now considered holy to God.
- It is impossible for us to reach a state of impurity by which we need continual cleansing.
- This is due to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, who atoned for us thus granting us positional justification.
- So if I sin, I do not have to do a series of rituals to be made clean and then holy.
- I am perpetually made holy by the blood of Christ and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.



Sanctification

- Yet, beyond this the Holy Spirit also grants to us progressive sanctification, which is nothing less than imparted righteousness.
- By His tabernacling within us, He is the one who is causing us to change and to grow in His ways as we are progressively conformed to the image of Christ.
- This is something we cannot do on our own since we still possess a corrupted body with our new life dwelling inside.
- The progressive Christian walk of our entire lives from regeneration to ultimate glorification is this work of sanctification.
- The entire chapter of Romans 8 is about this, as are many other Scriptures.
- This will be elaborated upon in soteriology.

