



His Word Is Truth!

This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.



Spirit. The Holy Spirit is first mentioned in Genesis 1:2 where He takes part in the work of creation.

The Holy Spirit is the One, True God along with the Father and the Son. We see the One God revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit at Jesus' Baptism (see Matthew 3:16-17). We also see the One God revealed as three persons when Jesus commands His apostles to baptize in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19). *Many other texts of Scripture also show that the One God exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (for example, see John 14:15-17, 2nd Corinthians 13:14, Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 4:1-6 and 1st Thessalonians 1:1-6).*

Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is the person of God who makes it possible for us sinners to repent of our rebellion against God and trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Scripture stresses that we sinners cannot believe in Jesus unless the Holy Spirit creates

faith in our hearts (see Romans 8:6, 1st Corinthians 2:12-14 and 12:3). *This is the reason the Nicene Creed calls the Holy Spirit "the Lord and giver of life."* Therefore, in his Small Catechism, Martin Luther gives the following explanation of the third section of the Creed: **"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, ..."**

The Holy Spirit inspired God's prophets and apostles to preach His Word and also write the Holy Scriptures which we now have as the Old and New Testaments (see 2nd Samuel 23:2, Nehemiah 9:30, John 16:12-15, Acts 4:25, 1st Corinthians 14:37, 2nd Timothy 3:16, 2nd Peter 1:21 and 3:14-16). *This is why faithful Christians throughout history have viewed Holy Scripture as the inspired revelation of God that is perfect and without error in all that it teaches. Holy Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is our sole basis for*

teaching and preaching. Therefore, those whose teaching is in conflict with Holy Scripture are NOT speaking by the Holy Spirit but are guilty of being false prophets!

The Holy Spirit continues to speak *through Holy Scripture* today as well as *through preaching based on Holy Scripture*. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word to convict people of their sin against God. The Holy Spirit also works through God's Word to create in us new hearts that trust in Jesus for mercy and new life with God. **This is why it is so important for Christians to attend Services and Bible classes on a regular basis so they can hear the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word through which the Holy Spirit works to help them grow in their faith (see Colossians 3:16, 2nd Timothy 4:13-16 and Hebrews 10:23-25).**

When the Holy Spirit moved the apostle Peter to preach his

Pentecost sermon (see Acts 2:14-36) the result was that many were convicted of their sin against God. Peter then went on to proclaim the Good News of salvation in Jesus the Christ who gives us His mercy and the Holy Spirit through the waters of Holy Baptism (see Acts 2:37-39; also see John 3:5-6 and Titus 3:5). The Holy Spirit also works through the preaching of forgiveness in Christ's Name to comfort convicted sinners and give them faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior (see Ephesians 1:13-14, 2nd Thessalonians 2:13-15 and James 1:18).

The Holy Spirit is the One, True God along with the Father and the Son. The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring Christ and His gifts to us through God's spoken and written Word as well as through the waters of Holy Baptism. *Sadly, some resist the Holy Spirit who speaks through God's Word (see Psalm 106:33, Zechariah 7:12 and Acts 7:51). However, when*

the Holy Spirit opens our hearts through God's Word we are then able to confess our sin, trust in Jesus as Savior and strive to live as God's people. Therefore, God calls us to believe His Word through which the Holy Spirit speaks to us (see Matthew 13:9-17, Romans 10:14, Hebrews 3:7-19 and Revelation 2:7).



Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, August 20th! Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on the Apostles' Creed with the following part of the 3rd article: "The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints."

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