

The Spirit of God
Week 6
The Spirit's Work in the New Creation

LBC 12/11/03

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” **Genesis 1:1, 2**

Introduction:

We mentioned in our last study about the ministry of the Spirit at the time of creation. We noted that He moved upon the face of the waters when the earth was without form, desolate and empty. The Holy Spirit was very involved in the work of the old creation.

The Holy Spirit is also very involved in the work of the **new creation** – the new birth.

John 3:1-8 “¹There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

**** Let me teach you tonight about the Spirit's work in the new creation:**

The parallel between Spirit's work in the old and new creation:

1. The work of the Holy Spirit in the soul is the first work of grace.

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

The first act of the six days of creation was the movement of the Holy Spirit upon the face of the waters. So it is that the first work in the bringing of a soul to Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-11 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

A person may have been to church every Sunday for fifty years and heard ten thousand sermons, but if there has been no work of the Spirit in his heart, that person is no nearer to salvation than the savages in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. A person may have been christened, confirmed, joined the church, and sing in the choir, but if the Spirit of God has not worked upon his soul, then he is no closer to salvation than the sinner who has never entered a church all his life.

2. Nothing whatsoever is contributed to this work by man himself.

The chaos and darkness of the unformed world had nothing to offer the Spirit in His work of creation.

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”

The most noble, moral, honest and religious man that ever lived is still “without form and void” if the Spirit of God has not breathed upon him in newness of life!

As we saw earlier, Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Paul reminds us in Corinthians that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” Sinful and corrupt flesh is, even at its very best, still sinful and corrupt flesh.

Jeremiah 17:9, 10 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”

What can we offer God in our flesh?

- Death
- Decay
- Corruption
- Dishonesty
- Pride
- Self-righteousness
- Selfishness, etc.

That is why religion never saves anyone: it simply tries to improve sinful flesh. But, the flesh is “dead in trespasses and sins.” We do not need **reformation** – we need **regeneration!**

3. There is nothing in the flesh that is congruous to the Spirit.

What did the Spirit have in common with the darkness and confusion of our unformed world? **Nothing!**

What does the Spirit have in common with unregenerate flesh? **Nothing!**

- He is the Spirit of life – we are dead in our sins.
- He is the Spirit of light – we love darkness.
- He is the Spirit of truth – we are full of deception.
- He is the Spirit of righteousness – we are filled with unrighteousness.
- He is the Spirit of peace – we are always at war with one another.
- He is the Spirit of God – we are led by the god of this world.

John 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

4. The Spirit of God is as mysterious in His work of the new creation as He was in the work of the old creation.

“And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

Can anyone fully understand the way and manner in which the Spirit of God moved upon the darkness of the ancient waters? No – it is mysterious. The contact of the Spirit with this material world is always mysterious.

Is not the work of the Spirit in the new creation also mysterious? Can anyone fully comprehend the Spirit’s work of conviction and regeneration? Can we grasp the reality of the Spirit indwelling sinful man?

John 3:8 “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

5. The work of the Holy Spirit in the old and new creation is most effectual.

As mysterious as the renewing work of the Spirit may be, it is surely a work that is real and powerful, because we see its glorious effects upon the lives of believers! The transformation of a blaspheming sinner into a blessed saint is a wonderful work indeed.

ILL – My testimony.

6. The Work of the Spirit was brought to completion.

God finished the work on the sixth day that He began on the first day. He did not leave His work unfinished. Then would God not finish the work one day that He began in us when He drew us to Himself? Certainly not!

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

Lessons drawn from this parallel:

1. No sinner is beyond the hope of salvation.

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”

If the Spirit of God can turn a barren wasteland into a planet of magnificent beauty and splendour, what sinner can He not convict and save?

“When God means to make a great saint, He often uses a great sinner as the raw material.” CHS

ILL – John Newton.

2. There is sure hope for the Christian who is away from God.

God did not love you, save you and bless you because you had anything to offer Him – you were “without form and void.” Then why would He forsake you when you stray from His presence?

James 4:8-10 “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

ILL – Wayne Cowling.

3. There is encouragement for those who work for God.

When you try to win a soul to Christ, does it not seem that they are without form and void? What hope is there, then, of you seeing God bring forth fruit in their life? As much hope as seeing a barren wasteland turned into a place of beauty – “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Can God use you? Yes, because you are indwelt and empowered by the Spirit of God.

ILL – How did a little country preacher pastor 25,000 people? “The Spirit of God moved...”

Review / Discussion: