

The Holy Spirit
(Part 8: Calls and Guides)

VIII. The Spirit Calls and Guides.

A. Orientation.

1. We've seen thus far,
 - a. The Spirit is a person, a divine person, and a distinct person.
 - b. He is called the Spirit because He is breathed out by the Father and Son.
 - (i) The love of God breathed out.
 - (ii) This is eternal procession.

2. His role in redemption reflects His particular nature.
 - a. He produces love in the heart of His people.
 - (i) His unites Himself to your soul, creating His own nature.
 - (ii) This makes you spiritually alive.
 - (iii) Gives you the ability to trust in Christ.

 - b. He transforms you into image of Christ.
 - (i) Jesus came into world, made holy by Spirit; Edwards writes, "Christ, although he was conceived in the womb of one of fallen mankind, yet he was conceived without sin; because he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, which is divine love and holiness itself. That which infinite holiness and love immediately forms, it is impossible that it should have any sin" (MS).
 - (ii) Jesus was anointed with Spirit above measure. "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure" (John 3:34).
 - (a) Edwards saw this as the basis of the hypostatic union: it created an identity between the Logos and the man, Christ Jesus.
 - (b) "The creature is more or less holy according as it has more or less of the Holy Spirit dwelling in it. But Christ has so much of the Spirit and hath it in so high and excellent a manner as to render Him the same person with Him whose Spirit it is."
 - (iii) When the Spirit dwells in you, He creates same nature: He transforms you into image of Him whose Spirit it is – though not to the same degree.
 - (a) Jesus was the true temple (John 2:19-21) – He transforms you into the temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
 - (b) Jesus shares same nature as Father (John 14:8-9) – with the Spirit in you, you partake of divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
 - (c) Jesus had the Law written on His heart (Ps. 40:7-8) – the Spirit writes the Law on your heart (Heb. 8:10).
 - (d) Jesus lived according to the Law (John 8:46) – the Spirit gives you the power to live according to it (Rom. 8:2-4).
 - (e) Jesus obeyed with pleasure (John 4:34) – the Spirit gives you the power to obey with pleasure (1 John 5:3).

- (f) In short, He gives you love for same things Jesus loves.
 - (1) This is the work of the Spirit transforming you into His image:
 - (2) “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

(iv) We should add,

- (a) That having been transformed by the Spirit –
 - (1) Having your sins/guilt removed,
 - (2) Having the same nature (morally) –
- (b) The Lord adopts you into His family.
 - (1) Now that you share His nature, He takes you as own.
 - (2) “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26).
- (c) And He gives you the blessings of children: “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise” (v. 29).
- (d) We often focus on the blessings He gives, but miss the reason:
 - (1) We are adopted and become heirs because we are in Christ;
 - (2) But also because we share the same nature as His Son,
 - (3) And that because we partake of His Spirit.
 - (4) “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29).

B. The Spirit Calls and Guides – Spirit gives us the same nature as Jesus; but also helps you to serve Him as He helped Jesus. (Jesus is the example of how we are to live; but the Spirit’s work in His life is also the paradigm of how He works in ours.)

1. He called Jesus to a particular work, and so He does you.
 - a. “I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison” (Isa. 42:6-7; cf. 49:1-3).
 - (i) Jesus had a calling on His life –
 - (ii) As to how the Father would have Him serve Him.
 - (iii) As the Messiah – God’s prophet, priest and king.
 - b. The Lord has a calling for you as well: “While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them’” (Acts 13:2).
 - (i) He has a general call: the work you will do in life.
 - (ii) He has a more particular call: the special things He would have you do for Him.
 - (iii) Both can change as life goes on and as you mature.
2. He guided Jesus, and so He will guide you.

- a. “He awakens *Me* morning by morning, He awakens *My* ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord GOD has opened *My* ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back” (Isa. 50:4-5).
- (i) “Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner’” (John 15:9).
 - (ii) These leadings or teachings
 - (a) Are attributed to God in general or to the Father specifically,
 - (b) But they’re accomplished by the Spirit (Ex. Creation).
 - (c) David writes, “Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground” (Psalm 143:10).
 - (iii) “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil” (Luke 4:1-2).
 - (iv) According to Edwards’ view, the Spirit communicated the will of Him whose Spirit it is.
- b. He does the same for you.
- (i) “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come” (John 16:13).
 - (ii) “When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea” (Acts 8:39-40).
 - (iii) How does He guide you?
 - (a) He doesn’t speak directly to you.
 - (b) But He can still make His will known:
 - (1) Providentially,
 - (A) By opening and closing doors.
 - (B) By bringing people and opportunities in your path.
 - (2) Subjectively, by moving your heart one way or another.
 - (3) Primarily: through His Word.