

“The Holy Spirit”

*Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy seven-fold gifts¹ impart*

I. What is the aim of the Christian life?

*Ware, pp. 89-90

*How do we move from the different hand positions?

*What does reconstitution/reconstruction of faith look like?

-point of “Credo” assignment

-point of UFDN 3100

II. Difficulty of Pneumatology/Study of the Holy Spirit

A.

B.

C.

III. Moving Forward with the Aid of Scripture

A. The “Farewell Discourse” of the Gospel of John (John 14-17)

*The language of “another Paraclete” (John 14:16)

*The language of “in” and “abide/remain” (John 14:20 and John 15)

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved the Father; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept the Father’s commandments and abide in his love. (John 15:4-11)

*John 14:21

*Why is it an advantage that Jesus leaves? (John 16:7)

-the Spirit-logic of salvation history

B. The Spirit-bearing life is not easy but bearable (Romans 8:26)

* “helps”

C. The Spirit-bearing life is participatory and so precarious

¹ Reference is to Isaiah 11:2, which states, “The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

Sins against the Holy Spirit Worksheet (NRSV)

1. Blasphemy: Matthew 12:31-32

Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

2. Lying: Acts 5:1-11

v. 3: *“Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?”* v. 9: *Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?”*

3. Resisting/Opposing: Acts 7:51 (Speech of Stephen)

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.

4. Grieving: Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption

5. Quenching: 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil

6. Insulting/Outraging: Hebrews: 10:26-29

For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has violated the law of Moses dies without mercy “on the testimony of two or three witnesses.” How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by those who have spurned the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace?

IV. Discerning the Spirit’s will is the on-going task of Spirit-bearing

A. Acts 15 (a Spirit-pragmatics)

B. The risk of Spirit-bearing

*You could get it wrong

*But, you could get it right

C. Getting it right and learning over time is the call of the Christian, is the way of perfection, is the Spirit-bearing life

*longing for (desire) and being compelled by the vision of the infinite, beautiful God; living/remaining in the Spirit of truth

-living/remaining in this works against “opposition” and “apathy” and cultivates “prayerful/worshipful receptivity”

Reasons for Difficulty in HS talk; Farewell Discourse of the Gospel of John; sunantilambanomai and Romans 8:26; definition of “paraclete”; position of hands