Jesus and the Holy Spirit: Partners in Salvation's Work

John 15:26

The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ hold distinct yet deeply inseparable roles that operate together within the life of a believer. This intimate and seamless relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus begins with the fundamental act of salvation. It is here where faith and trust in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus provide the means for redemption.

Redemption refers to the act of buying back from bondage. This is what Jesus did. Dying on the cross was the divine act of buying us back.

We belong to God totally and completely in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve allowed the serpent to deceive them. Acting on deceptive information they entered into bondage with the Devil. It was necessary for Jesus to die for us to live. **"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 6:23"**

Simultaneously, the Holy Spirit convicts individuals of their need for salvation and encourages their surrender so they can accept the life-changing gift of salvation. Therefore, the initial step of believing in Jesus is deeply intertwined with the Holy Spirit's work of conviction and rebirth.

Once a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit is indispensable in the life of the believer by indwelling within them, guiding, teaching, and empowering them for righteous living. This indwelling ensures that believers are never alone at any time in their lives. The Holy Spirit continually guides us toward becoming more like Jesus. The teachings of Jesus are brought to our remembrance and implanted deep into our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us understand and apply the words of Jesus in our daily lives. This cooperative relationship brings the words of Jesus to life in our lives.

The Holy Spirit's role is also to sanctify the believer. To set the believer apart, to make the believer special for God. We are called a Holy Priesthood separated unto God. The believer cannot make themselves special, we cannot set ourselves apart for God, only the Holy Spirit can do this. Jesus and the Holy Spirit work together in doing the work of sanctification.

Sanctification involves the process of becoming holy and set apart for God's purposes. Jesus, through His earthly ministry and teachings, gave us the blueprint of what it takes to live a holy life. I am not suggesting that we can live the life of Jesus, I am suggesting that trying to live a surrendered life every day would please God greatly. The Holy Spirit works within believers to mold them according to this divine pattern. This involves continuous surrender where the old nature is gradually replaced by a new nature. A nature that reflects the character of Christ. In this way, the Holy Spirit acts as a sculptor, chiseling away at imperfections to reveal a masterpiece that reflects the image of Jesus.

Prayer is also an area where this divine partnership is evident. Believers are encouraged to pray in Jesus' name, which signifies aligning one's requests with His will and character. The Holy Spirit aids in this by interceding on behalf of believers, even when they lack the words to express their deepest needs and desires. The apostle Paul notes that the Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words, ensuring that prayers align with God's perfect will. This dual advocacy ensures that communication with God remains robust and effective.

In essence, the simultaneous operation of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is the framework for our spiritual growth and maturity. Their roles are interwoven in a way that ensures holistic development. Whether it is through guidance, empowerment, sanctification, or prayer. The harmonious interaction between Jesus and the Holy Spirit provides the foundation for our growth and spiritual enrichment.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool

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