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THE HOLY SPIRIT GLORIFIES CHRIST

The three co-equal persons of the one Triune God all act in unity. In salvation, God the Father arranges, God the Son accomplishes, God the Spirit applies. But throughout the Bible, the central character in this great drama of redemption is the Son. He receives pre-eminence. He comes in human form as the unique divine God-Man, so He can pay for our sins. He is God-with-us, so we can personally relate to Him.

It's the ministry of the Holy Spirit to enable us to know Jesus, His commands and character, and become like Him, in union with Him. Let's consider three ways the Holy Spirit carries out this ministry.

1- The Holy Spirit GLORIFIES the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the overall point to understand the New Testament ministry of the Holy Spirit. In John 16:13-15 Jesus says, "*When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak... He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.*"

Theologians liken the Holy Spirit to a great floodlight. The light draws your attention to the object that is lit. But never to the light itself, only to what it illuminates. So it is with the Holy Spirit. His ministry is to glorify Jesus, never Himself. He never says "*look at Me*" but always "*look at Jesus, listen to Him, behold His glory, go to Him for life, and put all your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Jesus said He would be glorified in His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. He sends the Holy Spirit to make all that personally real, so that Jesus is glorified in the lives of His disciples, moment by moment.

2- The Holy Spirit DECLARES what God says through Jesus. John 16:13 is an echo of John 14:26, "*the Holy Spirit will teach you disciples all things I have said to you.*" And in John 15:26 Jesus says, "*the Spirit of truth will bear witness about Me.*" This affirms the complete continuity of the ministry of the Holy Spirit with the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit takes all the information about Jesus, what He said and did, and declares it. He communicates all the significance. He connects it and makes it real.

The fulfillment of Jesus' words here comes with the "*inspiration*" and completion of the New Testament. The apostles received direct "*revelation*" of God's Word, for Jesus Himself revealed it to them. Then, as He promised, they wrote it down or oversaw its writing, as they were guided by the Holy Spirit, the divine superintendent. Through the Holy Spirit, God "*breathed out*" the words of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:15-17) and men spoke from God as they were "*carried along*" by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21).

God oversaw ordinary human beings, with their own personality and from their personal experiences, in such a way that the Holy Spirit makes sure what they speak and write is what He wants written down. He glorifies Jesus as the Spirit declares into writing what God wants us to know about salvation in Him.

3- The Holy Spirit GUIDES disciples into all the truth. Note the "you" in John 16 is not you reading the Bible today. The Bible is not written TO you but FOR you. Jesus promised His first-century apostles that the Holy Spirit would direct their thoughts and memories as they proclaimed His glory. God spoke directly through the apostles to write down His Word. We, far removed in time and place, receive their written word derivatively as the Word of God, in our own copy of Scripture, communicated to us by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit "*enscripturates*" the words and works of Jesus by the "*inspiration*" of Scripture through the apostles. For believers, He also "*authenticates*" Scripture, as He bears witness with your spirit that you are hearing the Word of God (John 10:27). This also relates to how the Holy Spirit "*illuminates*" the Word of God to believers, as they read the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Psalm 119:118). He enlightens your comprehension and understanding with your heart and mind and will. When you read the Bible you're assured "*this is the Word of God*" to be trusted and obeyed and acted upon with confidence.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus in all that He does, especially in declaring the truth about Jesus, so that the apostles wrote God's Word as they finished the New Testament. And the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus as He guides believers to understand and obey God's Word, living it out by His power. Next time we'll explore more about the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your daily life.