

DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP THE CHRISTIAN?

Dear Brother Waddey: I am interested in whether or not God answers prayers for wisdom, prayers for sick people, etc., via the Holy Spirit or directly from God (as head of the trinity), and am seeking to clarify this issue. Several brothers deny any activity of the Holy Spirit on the Christian. Joe

Dear Bro. Joe:

We know for a fact that God hears and answers the prayers of his people (John 14:13).

We know that God gives wisdom to those who ask him (Jas. 1:5).

We know that has promised to hear the prayers of the righteous for the sick and that he will bless them...if such be according to his will (Jas. 5:14-15; 4:15).

We know that the Holy Spirit helps the Christians with his prayers (Rom. 8:26).

We know that the Spirit strengthens the Christian with power in the inward man (Eph. 3:16)

We know that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are united in every aspect of their divine rule over the universe and mankind. In fact it is fair to say that neither of them would do anything that was displeasing or at odds with the other. When one of them acts, he acts on behalf of the others. Since the Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-5), it is proper to say that what the Holy Spirit does, God does.

In areas where we are not specifically told that one of the sacred three has done a particular thing, we can only attribute it to the whole...the godhead.

It makes an interesting study to go through the Bible and note the many things the Holy Spirit is said to do for God children.

I like to say that while we may not fully understand the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we dare not deny what the Bible says he does. Paul makes it clear, "If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9).

It is sad to see brethren using their time, their shot and powder to shoot at fellow Christians with whom they disagree on the method of the Holy Spirit's activity on behalf of Christians. While they make war on good conservative men, the real enemy, the army of change, is marching through our midst taking individuals, churches, schools almost with any significant opposition. The army that should be opposing them is too busy trying to destroy their own men who don't yield to their pronouncements. JHW