***Gifts of the Reformation (4)***

***Life in the Spirit***

John Calvin (1509-1564) is “pre-eminently *the theologian of the Holy Spirit.*... It is probable that Calvin’s greatest contribution to theological science lies in the rich development which he gives—and which he was the first to give—to the doctrine and work of the Holy Spirit” (B. B. Warfield).

**Praise God for the gift of the Spirit!**

**1. The Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God**

**A. The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Word**

1 Corinthians 2:9-15

*Those whom the Holy Spirit has inwardly taught truly rest upon Scripture.... Therefore, illumined by his power, we believe neither by our own nor by anyone else’s judgment that Scripture is from God* (1.7.5).

**B. The Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Word**

Galatians 1:6-9 [Holy Spirit speaks in Scripture Acts 28:25; Heb. 3:7; 10:15; 1 Peter 1:10-12]

*The Spirit, promised to us, has not the task of inventing new and unheard-of revelations, or of forging a new kind of doctrine to lead us away from the received doctrine of the gospel, but of sealing our minds with that very doctrine which is commended by the gospel.... For by a kind of mutual bond the Lord has joined together the certainty of his Word and of his Spirit”* (1.9.1, 3).

**2. The Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of Regeneration**

**A. The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to Christ**

Romans 8:9-10

*First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value to us.... To sum up, the Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself”* (3.1.1).

**B. The Spirit creates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ**

John 1:12-13; 3:5-12

*But faith is the principal work of the Holy Spirit* (3.1.4). *Faith is the entire work of the Holy Spirit, illumined by whom we recognize God and the treasures of his kindness, and without whose light our mind is so blinded that it can see nothing; so dull that it can sense nothing of spiritual things”* (4.14.8).

**3. The Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the Christian**

**A. The Spirit provides \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Romans 8:14-17

*Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit* (3.2.7).

*Surely, while we teach that faith ought to be certain and assured, we cannot imagine any certainty that is not tinged with doubt, or any assurance that is not assailed by some anxiety. On the other hand, we say that believers are in perpetual conflict with their own unbelief* (3.3.17).

*The matter stands thus: Unbelief does not hold sway within believers’ hearts, but assails them from without* (3.2.21).

**B. The Spirit promotes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Romans 8:5-8, 12-13

*For the Spirit dispenses a power whereby they may gain the upper hand and become victors in the struggle. But sin ceases only to reign; it does not also cease to dwell in them”* (3.3.11).

# For Additional Study or Family Discussion

1. Do you struggle at times with assurance of your Father’s favor? Little faith, struggling faith is not the same as no faith. What did the apostles ask the Lord to do in Luke 17:5?

2. There is always conflict in the believer between the flesh and the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-23). If verses 19-21 characterize your life, are you saved? If you have a hunger for and some evidence of verses 22-23, who has produced this in you?

References are to Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559).