



LESSON 50

Foundations Curriculum

The Holy Spirit and the Bible

By Edmar Ferreira

Introduction

The Holy Spirit and the Bible

In this fiftieth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will speak about the Holy Spirit and the Bible. What is the relationship between the two? The Holy Spirit has such a close relationship with the Bible that some come to confuse the two.

Today, in the face of so many doctrinal deviations, this subject too has become a target of confusion and disagreement. Much of what is claimed about the Holy Spirit and the Bible does not come from the Scriptures, and in other cases, the biblical information used is completely taken out of context.

Precisely for this reason, these deviations of understanding need clarification and answers.

Every book that has been written had the inspiration of its author. In order to trust any book, we need to trust the author of the work.

In this lesson, we will address 6 points to be observed and discerned regarding the relationship of the Holy Spirit with the Bible. Even while aware that the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit, we must not confuse the two.

The points to be observed are:

1) The Mistake Between What Is the Letter and What Is the Spirit

Many use the biblical expression/quotation “the letter kills, but the spirit gives life” in a mistaken way. As it is commonly used, it is completely out of context, claiming that: “Following the Bible we will have death, but following what the Holy Spirit says to the heart, we will have life.”

Put this way, it is as if what is written were dead, lifeless, unfit to be obeyed. The confusion lies in thinking that what is written could be wrong.

The first question would be: how could that which the Spirit Himself inspired produce death?

This interpretation of 2 Corinthians 3:6 is completely wrong and out of context.

Read the complete text of 2 Corinthians 3, from verse 1 through verse 18.

who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV)

Reading the whole text of 2 Corinthians 3:1–18, especially through verse 11, one can easily verify that the contrast is not between the Bible and the Holy Spirit, but between the Old Covenant (the Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, etc.) and the New Covenant (the New Testament, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and justification by faith). It is therefore possible to conclude that the apostle is teaching the greater value that the New Covenant has in relation to the Old Covenant.

2) The Bible Does Not Contradict the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the One responsible for the written revelation.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (NKJV)

This being so, the Holy Spirit will not contradict what is in the Bible, for it was He Himself who wrote the Bible through holy men inspired by Him. The Holy Spirit has His word and His will revealed in Holy Scripture.

It makes no sense for people to think that there is a contradiction between the two — and in that case, to give more attention to what they think the Spirit told them, when it is not clear or recorded in the Bible.

3) The Error of Believing That the Holy Spirit Is Committed to Something That Is Not in the Bible

If someone is teaching something that is not in the Bible, or that is contrary to what is set forth and revealed in the Scriptures, you can be certain that it is not the Holy Spirit speaking through that person. The Holy Spirit does not contradict Himself. That would never make sense.

If someone says that the Holy Spirit is speaking to him, and the content of this speech is not in agreement with what the Bible says, he is certainly not hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. It is something produced by his own mind, heart, and longings, but it does not come from God.

4) The Bible Is Not the Holy Spirit

The text of Ephesians 6:17 clarifies this mistake: *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Ephesians 6:17).

The Spirit and the Word are different from one another, just as the soldier and his sword are also different. One is the weapon, and the other is the power behind the weapon.

Scripture is inspired by God, but that does not mean that Scripture has become God. The statements of the prophets recorded in the Bible were written under the direction of the Holy Spirit, but this shows that the Holy Spirit is superior to His creation — in this case, the Bible.

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit is a Person of the Trinity. The Bible is the creation of the Holy Spirit. We must not confuse the Creator with the creature.

5) The Holy Spirit Works Through the Written Word

We can observe this in various sacred texts:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:13–18 (NKJV)

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 17:17 (NKJV)

Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

Matthew 22:29 (NKJV)

This text from Ephesians shows the permanent state of warfare in which we live. It also reaffirms that the best weapon we have to use is the Word of God.

It is impossible to go on in sanctification without knowing the Word of God, without knowing the will of God revealed in the Bible.

6) Heaven Is Committed to Preserving and Fulfilling the Word Inspired by the Holy Spirit

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)

And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.

John 12:47–50 (NKJV)

which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:7–9 (NKJV)

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

1 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18–19 (NKJV)

God left this written record precisely to help us — because our memory would not be able to keep all the commandments and laws.

Therefore, let us read, study, understand, and practice the Bible. In doing so, we will be guided by the Holy Spirit, believing that the ability to practice what we learn also comes from the Holy Spirit.

To refuse Scripture is to refuse the Words and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we reject the Word of God, we are rejecting God Himself.

CONCLUSION

In this fiftieth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned the difference between the Holy Spirit and the Bible. Because the Holy Spirit has such a close relationship with the Bible, many brothers and sisters come to confuse the two. We clarified that the Bible never contradicts the Holy Spirit, and that all those who base themselves on personal experiences or understandings that are in contradiction with the Word of God are not being guided by the Holy Spirit — even if they claim to be.

The texts written in the Holy Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit to make known to us the will and the character of God. Therefore, there will never be a contradiction between the revelation of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures. May we come to know the Bible more and more each day.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** What would your answer to someone who confuses the “letter kills” with obedience to the Word of God?
- 02** Can the Bible contradict the Holy Spirit?
- 03** Can someone claim to be guided by the Holy Spirit while contradicting what is written in the Word of God?
- 04** How could you be used by the Holy Spirit according to Colossians 3:16?
- 05** Can you see how committed Heaven is to the fulfillment of the Word inspired by the Holy Spirit? Explain in your own words.

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

Foundations Curriculum — Lesson 50
contato@fundamentos.me | fundamentos.me