The Testimony of the Spirit

The testimony of the Holy Spirit is always in conjunction with the testimony of the apostles (John 15:26-27). He—

**1. *Exposes* the Guilt of the World**

As the gospel is preached, the Spirit convicts the world because—

A. They refuse to *believe* in Christ

B. The resurrection *vindicates* Christ

C. The devil has been *defeated* by Christ

**2. *Enabled* the Preaching of the Apostles**

By bringing to their minds—

A. The *teaching* of Jesus

John 14:26

B. New *truths* about Jesus

John 16:12-15; Acts 15:29

**3. *Enlightens* the Hearts of Believers**

A. To *enjoy* the presence of Christ

John 14:16-17, 21

B. To *receive* the preaching of the apostles

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

C. To *see* the glory of Christ in the gospel

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 & 4:3-6

D. To *preserve* them from apostasy

1 John 2:18-27

**Conclusion**—The Holy Spirit

A. Does not give you *new truth*

B. Does not keep you from *all error*

C. Does not replace *teachers and study*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. How can you more consistently rely on the Holy Spirit to teach you through God’s word and to testify through you to the world?

**Explanatory notes**

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, “None of you asks Me. ‘Where are You going?’” (John 16:5). Earlier that evening Peter had said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?... Why can I not follow You now?” (13:36-37), and Thomas said, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” (14:5). In these earlier questions, the apostles were reacting with shock to His announcement that He was leaving. Since they had no conception of His return to heaven, their “where” questions essentially meant, “Why won’t You let me follow You? Is it too dangerous? Is it too far away? Don’t You want us around anymore?” They weren’t asking for His destination so much as they were expressing their grief at his departure.

2. The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the word (*Westminster Confession* 1.6).

All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them (*Westminster Confession* 1.7).

3. Verses about the leading of the Spirit refer to leading us in paths of righteousness, not to leading us with visions and voices and special revelations (Romans 8:12-14; Galatians 5:18—see 16 through 24).