

## Quarter Two: The Great Controversy

### Lesson 5—Faith Against All Odds

#### Tuesday: Enlightened by the Spirit

April 30, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Standing for the Truth”
  - How to stand for truth amidst persecution; surety of the Word of God
- **This Week:** “Faith Against All Odds”
  - Faith of the reformers – righteousness by faith / salvation by grace
  - Faith of the reformers in the Word of God

**Memory Text:** “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Ps 119:11, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** God’s Word Alone (Daniel)
  - Ps 119 – importance of studying the Word, living by the Word, and being transformed by the Word - & how that enables us to stand amidst difficulties (Wycliffe)
- 2. **Monday:** Passing on God’s Word (James)
  - 2 Cor 4 – translating the Word into English and sharing it with others even at the cost of life itself; the KJV version of the Bible (Tyndale)
- 3. **Tuesday:** Enlightened by the Spirit (Jill)
  - John 14; John 16; 2 Pet 1 – the Holy Spirit inspiring the Bible writers; the Holy Spirit interpreting Scripture for us as we read (Luther / Knox)
- 4. **Wednesday:** Christ Alone ... Grace Alone (John L)
  - Salvation by grace through faith; righteousness by faith (Luther)
- 5. **Thursday:** Obedience: The Fruit of Faith (John D)
  - Righteousness by faith; sanctification by faith (Luther / Wesley)

## Tuesday: Enlightened by the Spirit

John 14:25, 26; John 16:13 – 15; 2 Pet 1:20, 21

- \*Communication in marriage – in order to understand need two
  - One person needs to share clearly & from the heart (like God speaks to us thru His Word)
  - Other person needs to listen with understanding (like Holy Spirit interpreting or sharing with us so we understand what God has told us)

4 key Scriptures for lesson

- 2 Pet 1:20, 21 – “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, (21) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
  - Word of God not written by men – Word of God was inspired by the Holy Spirit
    - Thought inspiration: Holy Spirit inspired the thoughts and guided what was written

- 2 Tim 3:16, 17 – “**All** Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
  - All = pas, each and every one
  - The Word is inspired
  
- John 14:25, 26 – “ ‘These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. (26) But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you **all** things, and bring to your remembrance **all** things that I said to you.’ ”
  - Helper = Gk, *parakletos* – advocate, comforter
  - All = Gk, *pas* = each and every one
  - Holy Spirit teaches us
  - Holy Spirit communicates what Jesus said / therefore, HS communicates the Word
  
- John 16:13 – 15 – “However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (14) He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (15) All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”
  - Holy Spirit guides us into truth
    - John 14:6 – Jesus = the Truth / the Holy Spirit guides us to Jesus
  - Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus
  - Holy Spirit reveals Jesus (take what is Mine & declare to you)
  - Holy Spirit reveals Jesus & the Father
  - Therefore, Holy Spirit communicates the Word
  
- 2 keys for conversation with God
  - Need the Word – Holy Spirit inspired the Word
  - Need the Holy Spirit to interpret that Word for us
  
- Reformation was founded on an understanding of the Word of God
  - (Need the Holy Spirit to understand that Word)
  - GC, p. 120 – “Foremost among those who were called to lead the church from the darkness of popery into the light of a purer faith, stood Martin Luther. Zealous, ardent, and devoted, knowing no fear but the fear of God, and acknowledging no foundation for religious faith but the Holy Scriptures, Luther was the man for his time; through him God accomplished a great work for the reformation of the church and the enlightenment of the world.”
  - GC, p. 122 – “While one day examining the books in the library of the university, Luther discovered a Latin Bible. Such a book he had never before seen. He was ignorant even of its existence. He had heard portions of the Gospels and Epistles, which were read to the people at public worship, and he supposed that these were the entire Bible. Now, for the first time, he looked upon the whole of God's Word. With mingled awe and wonder he turned the sacred pages; with quickened pulse and throbbing heart he read for himself the words of life, pausing now and then to exclaim: ‘O that God would give me such a book for myself!’—(D’Aubigne, bk. 2, ch. 2).”
  - Foundation of the Word of God – need the Holy Spirit to interpret that aright

- How do we **approach** the study of the Word? (not comprehensive on “how to study the Word”)
  - **1. Pray before you study**
    - The Word of God has power to heal hearts, change minds, and cut out sin. It’s powerful: needs to be handled rightly
    - James 1:5 – “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him”
    - Luther: “To pray well,” he often said, “is the better half of study.” (D’Aubigne, Bk 2, ch 2)
  - **2. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide your study**
    - John 16:13a – “However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth...”
  - **3. Trust the Word**
    - Isa 40:8 – “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”
  - **4. Be willing to accept what the Word says**
    - James 1:22 – “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
    - Change in lifestyle
    - Surrender of habit
      - Addiction
      - Hurtful habit
    - Acceptance of doctrine
      - Sabbath vs Sunday
      - Sleep in death vs eternal burning hell
      - Salvation by grace vs works
  - **5. Be diligent in your study – don’t give up**
    - 2 Tim 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
      - Study when it’s hard
      - Study when it’s confusing
      - Study when you don’t feel like it
    - Be diligent: study
  - **6. Compare Scripture with Scripture**
    - Isa 28:10 – “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.”