

Lutheran Confessions

Smalcald Articles: Part III, Article VIII. Confession

3] And in those things which concern the spoken, outward Word, we must firmly hold that God grants His Spirit or grace to no one, except through or with the preceding outward Word, in order that we may [thus] be protected against the enthusiasts, *i.e.*, spirits who boast that they have the Spirit without and before the Word, and accordingly judge Scripture or the spoken Word, and explain and stretch it at their pleasure, as Muenzer did, and many still do at the present day, who wish to be acute judges between the Spirit and the letter, and yet know not what they say or declare. 4] For [indeed] the Papacy also is nothing but sheer enthusiasm, by which the Pope boasts that all rights exist in the shrine of his heart, and whatever he decides and commands with [in] his church is spirit and right, even though it is above and contrary to Scripture and the spoken Word.

5] All this is the old devil and old serpent, who also converted Adam and Eve into enthusiasts, and led them from the outward Word of God to spiritualizing and self-conceit, and nevertheless he accomplished this through other outward words. 6] Just as also our enthusiasts [at the present day] condemn the outward Word, and nevertheless they themselves are not silent, but they fill the world with their pratings and writings, as though, indeed, the Spirit could not come through the writings and spoken word of the apostles, but [first] through their writings and words he must come. Why [then] do not they also omit their own sermons and writings, until the Spirit Himself come to men, without their writings and before them, as they boast that He has come into them without the preaching of the Scriptures? But of these matters there is not time now to dispute at greater length; we have elsewhere sufficiently urged this subject.

7] For even those who believe before Baptism, or become believing in Baptism, believe through the preceding outward Word, as the adults, who have come to reason, must first have heard: *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*, even though they are at first unbelieving, and receive the Spirit and Baptism ten years afterwards. 8] Cornelius, Acts 10, Iff, had heard long before among the Jews of the coming Messiah, through whom he was righteous before God, and in such faith his prayers and alms were acceptable to God (as Luke calls him devout and God-fearing), and without such preceding Word and hearing could not have believed or been righteous. But St. Peter had to reveal to him that the Messiah (in whom, as one that was to come, he had hitherto believed) now had come, lest his faith concerning the coming Messiah held him captive among the hardened and unbelieving Jews, but know that he was now to be saved by the present Messiah, and must not, with the [rabble of the] Jews deny nor persecute Him.

9] In a word, enthusiasm inheres in Adam and his children from the beginning [from the first fall] to the end of the world, [its poison] having been implanted and infused into them by the old dragon, and is the origin, power [life], and strength of all heresy, especially of that of the Papacy and Mahomet. 10] Therefore we ought and must constantly maintain this point, that God does not wish to deal with us otherwise than through the spoken Word and the Sacraments. 11] **It is the devil himself whatsoever is extolled as Spirit without the Word and Sacraments.**

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Lord, we implore You to keep Your household the Church in continual godliness, that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** (*Collect for Trinity 21*)

Word of God: St. John 4:46-54 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

- It mentions that Cana is the site of Jesus' miraculous sign.
 - How do you supposed that the royal official knew about Jesus?
 - Upon what did his faith rest? He has faith but it is imperfect and limited(See 5B and 5D)
- What need of the royal official brought him to Jesus?
- When he got to Jesus how did he behave and what did he ask of Jesus?
- Jesus' response is recorded in verse 48.
 - John's Gospel is careful to use the word "miraculous signs," not "miracles." Why?
 - What was Jesus' complaint? (See John 20:29, 1 Pet 1:8)
 - How would you feel if Jesus said this to you?
 - Is Jesus saying Yes or No? (Mt 15:21-28 gives another example)
- Does the royal official give up on Jesus?
 - "Sir" is a show of _____.
 - Why should Jesus "come down (to Capernaum)?" --*limitation #1*
 - "my child" is a show of _____.
 - Why must Jesus go quickly? --*limitation #2*
- This time Jesus replied, "Go your way; your son lives."
 - Without miracles, in what does the royal official believe? (See 1B)
 - Did Jesus need to come down to Capernaum? (See 5B, Another example is found in 2 Kings 5:1-14, Naaman)
 - Will death prevent Jesus from acting? (See 5D, John 11:43 Lazarus)
 - How are you rescued from death? (1 Co 15:55-57, 2 Tim 1:10)
- What word did Jesus speak to the man so that he goes? (ὁ υἱός σου ζῆ.)
- What did the servants say to the man? (v..51: ὁ παῖς αὐτοῦ ζῆ.)
- Who else came to believe in Jesus because of Jesus' word to the man?
- We see the second miraculous sign brought faith to the man and his household. To whom did the first miraculous sign bring faith? (Jn 3:1-11)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn TLH #524, stanza 3
Apostles' Creed, 3rd Article & meaning, p.301-302
2 Corinthians 4:6

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses

"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise

"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia."

p.225

Reading

St. John 4:46-54 (back)

Hymn

"In Thee, Lord, have I Put My Trust" TLH #524

Catechesis on...

(back)

St. John 4:46-54

Liturgy

Catechism

--prayer based on reading

+ Recite Word by Word

insert

Ten Commandments

Lord's Prayer

Apostles' Creed

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:16

Confession & Absolution

John 20:22-23

Sacrament of the Altar

Words of Institution

Collect of the Day

--prayer based on reading

R. AMEN

Benediction

R. AMEN

Catechesis on St. John 4:46-54

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." 49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" 50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. 51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" 52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. 54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee. (NKJV)

The Word of God

"Let me tell you this. Even though you know the Word perfectly and have already mastered everything, still you are daily under the dominion of the devil, who neither day nor night relaxes his effort to steal upon you unawares and to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against all these commandments. **Therefore you must continually keep God's Word in your heart, on your lips, and in your ears.** For where the heart stands idle and the Word is not heard, the devil breaks in and does his damage before we realize it. 101 On the other hand, **when we seriously ponder the Word, hear it, and put it to**

use, such is its power that it never departs without fruit. It always awakens new understanding, new pleasure, and a new spirit of devotion, and it constantly cleanses the heart and its meditations. For these words are not idle or dead, but effective and living. 102 **Even if no other interest or need drove us to the Word,** yet everyone should be spurred on by the realization that in this way the devil is cast out and put to flight, this commandment is fulfilled, and God is more pleased than by any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant. (Large Catechism, I, 100-102).

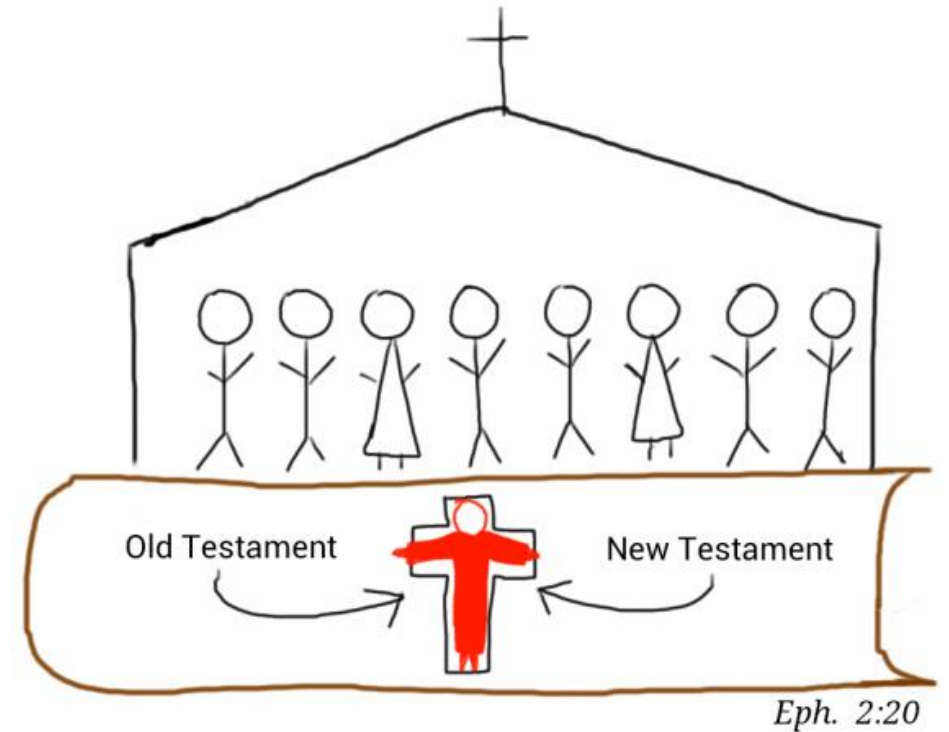
Conversion

52 All who would be saved must hear this preaching, for the preaching and the hearing of God's Word are the Holy Spirit's instrument in, with, and through which he wills to act efficaciously, to convert men to God, and to work in them both to will and to achieve.

53 **The person who is not yet converted to God and regenerated can hear and read this Word externally** because, as stated above, even after the Fall man still has something of a free will in these external matters, so that **he can go to church, listen to the sermon, or not listen to it.**

54 **Through this means (namely, the preaching and the hearing of his Word) God is active, breaks our hearts, and draws man,** so that through the preaching of the law man learns to know his sins and the wrath of God and experiences genuine terror, contrition, and sorrow in his heart, and through the preaching of and meditation upon the holy Gospel of the gracious forgiveness of sins in Christ there is kindled in him a spark of faith which accepts the forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake and comforts itself with the promise of the Gospel. And in this way the Holy Spirit, who works all of this, is introduced into the heart" (FC, SD, II, 52-54).

CATECHESIS ON ST. JOHN 4:46-54



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The Apostles' Creed, Third Article

“To this article, as I have said, I cannot give a better title than “Sanctification.” In it is expressed and portrayed the Holy Spirit and his office, which is that he makes us holy”(LC II 35).

Trinity(Holy Spirit’s Work Highlighted) in Sanctification

St. John 14-17, “1Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ... 6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.... 10b The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.... 16And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He may abide with you forever— 17“the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**. ...19“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ...25“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. John 15:7“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.... 26“**But when the Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27“**And you also will bear witness**, because you have been with Me from the beginning... John 16:12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13“**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**(see v10b), 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. John 17:15“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16“**They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world**. 17“**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth**. 18“**As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world**. 19“**And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth**.

The Holy Spirit in Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-3, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters**.”

Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Exodus 31:3, “And I have filled him with **the Spirit of God**, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,”

Numbers 11:29, “Then Moses said to him, ‘Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put **His Spirit** upon them!’”

Psalms 51:10-12, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take **Your Holy Spirit** from me. 12Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”

Psalms 139:7, “Where can I go from **Your Spirit**? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Isaiah 63:10-11, “But they rebelled and grieved **His Holy Spirit**; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them. 11Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: “Where is He who brought them up out of the sea With the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put **His Holy Spirit** within them,”

Holy Spirit’s Work

³⁷ How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so **the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ**.

⁸ Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through **the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit**. The work is finished and completed, Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, **God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation**. ³⁹ Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves. (LC II 37-39)
1 Corinthians 6:11, “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

The Apostles' Creed, Third Article

“The Word of God is the true holy thing (relic; German: *Heiligtum*) above all holy things. ... But God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies all things. By it all the saints themselves have been sanctified” (LC I, 91).

“How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so **the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ** (LC II 37).

“Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe in and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (From “The Prayers” in Burial of the Dead)

The Holy Christian Church

“Therefore there was no Christian church. For where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Spirit to create, call, and gather the Christian church, and outside it no one can come to the Lord Christ” (LC II, 45).

Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Ephesians 2:20, “...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone....”

Ephesians 4:11-13, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

The Communion of Saints(Holy People or Holy Things)

Acts 2:38-39, “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Romans 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he is not His.”

Galatians 5:22-23, “But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Ephesians 5:18-20, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be **filled with the Spirit**, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

The Forgiveness of Sins

“Therefore everything in the Christian church is so ordered that we may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and through signs appointed to comfort and revive our consciences as long as we live. Although we have sin, the Holy Spirit sees to it that it does not harm us because we are in the Christian church, where there is full forgiveness of sin. God forgives us, and we forgive, bear with, and aid one another” (LC II 55).

2 Corinthians 5:19, “...that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us **the word of reconciliation.**”

Titus 3:5b “...but according to His mercy He saved us, through **the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...**”

John 3:5-6, “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**”

John 20:22-23, “22And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit.** 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

1 Corinthians 6:11, “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 12:3, “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”

The Resurrection of the Body

“So troubles are inflicted on account of present sin because in the saints they kill and wipe out lust so that the Spirit may renew them. As Paul says (Rom. 8:10), “Your body is dead because of sin”; that is, it is being killed because of the sin still present and remaining in the flesh. ¹⁵³ Death itself serves this same purpose: **to destroy this sinful flesh so that we may rise completely renewed**” (Ap XII, 152-153)

Philippians 3:20-23, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-43, “So also is the resurrection of the dead. **The body** is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.**”

The Life Everlasting

Revelation 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound **in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”