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Class: TH601 NA/NOS Systematic Theology II: Christ and the Church

QUESTIONS

1. Bird said the Holy Spirit is important for several reasons. State two of them.
2. What are some impersonal words/phrases used in the New Testament for the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit?
3. In the New Testament, what are some of the traits, activities, and roles that are attributed to the Spirit that indicate His personhood?
4. What are some qualities and attributes of God that the Holy Spirit possesses?
5. Bird explains seven theories of biblical inspiration. What are they?

ANSWERS

1. Two reasons the Holy Spirit is essential are that the Holy Spirit is the person within the Godhead who applies the work of Christ to us and enables us to encounter the triune God personally. Also, the Holy Spirit is the agent by whom God works in His people through their prayers, worship, and ministry.
2. Some impersonal words/phrases used in the New Testament for the presence and activity of the Spirit are power from on high, gift, violent wind, tongues of fire, first fruits of a harvest, seal, and a deposit of something yet to come.
3. Some traits, activities, and roles attributed to the Spirit that indicates His personhood are:
 - a. The Holy Spirit uses “I” at least on one occasion.
 - b. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to us, who would come as a *parakletos* (Comforter, Advocate, or Helper). His role is to witness, convict, guide, hear, speak, glorify, and declare.
 - c. The Spirit leads and witnesses. Also, in Acts, the Spirit can be tempted, is a source of encouragement, sets apart Paul and Barnabas, appoints bishops/overseers, and can be insulted and blasphemed.
4. Some qualities and attributes of God that the Holy Spirit possesses are omniscience, divine power, eternity, a key agent in the act of creation, and omnipresence.
5. Bird explains seven theories of biblical inspiration: ecstatic trance, intuition theory, incarnation theory, dictation theory, verbal theory, community theory, and dynamic theory.

TERMS

Ex Patre Filioque: The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Person: a living being who is self-aware, capable of cognition, able to relate to other things, and possesses recognizable character traits. Someone who can distinguish “I” from “you.”

Dynamic theory: this view sees a combination of divine and human elements in the process of writing Scripture. The Spirit of God directed writers’ thoughts and concepts while allowing their respective personalities, style, and disposition to come into play with the choice of words and expressions.

SUMMARY

In this section, Bird discusses the Holy Spirit, the power and promise of the gospel, and distinguishes between baptism in the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. He discusses the Spirit’s personhood, divinity, and the filioque controversy. He also addresses the work of the Holy Spirit in areas like creation, Israel, the church, and Christ’s death and resurrection. Finally, he also writes about the doctrine of Scripture, the theories of inspiration, and its veracity, concluding that if the authority is God the Father revealing the Son for whom the Holy Spirit speaks in Scripture, then that’s non-negotiable.