

5-3-1 Assignment on Bird – 6.1 - 6.3

God's Spirit: The Breath of the Gospel - The Person of the Holy Spirit - Work of the Holy Spirit

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What affirmation was made in the Nicene Creed regarding the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What is the function of the Holy Spirit in the church?
- 3) Is the Holy Spirit a divine force?
- 4) What was the Filioque controversy between the Eastern and Western churches?
- 5) According to Bird, what is a Spiritual gift?

ANSWERS:

- 1) The Nicene Creed affirmed that the Holy Spirit is the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and who should be worshipped and glorified along with the Father and the Son.
- 2) The Holy Spirit is “the chief agent who empowers the church for its mission testimony and proclamation.”
- 3) No, the Holy Spirit is a person of one substance, power, and eternity with the father and the son. The Holy Spirit is a person and is fully divine.
- 4) The eastern church took on the Arianian view and the western church took on the Augustinian view.
- 5) A spiritual gift is empowerment from God for God's people through the Spirit for a specific type of work in the church.

Terms:

- 1) Pneumatology is the study of the person of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Filioque: of the son
- 3) Numina: divine presence

Summary:

In these sections, Bird explains the Holy Spirit. The functions of the Holy Spirit and the controversies stem from the rise of Pentecostalism. Bird writes that the charismatic movement has awakened the church to remind her that she is Trinitarian, not Binarian. Bird quotes the gospel to affirm the doctrine of the Trinity. Bird discusses the Filioque controversy between the eastern church and the western church. After he discusses the divine person of the Holy Spirit, Bird closes this section by identifying seven functions of the Holy Spirit. In this section, Bird describes the difference between being baptized with the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit.