

are fulfilled; and the Holy Spirit actually carries out the orders and gets the job done. In one sense they are all God and share the essence of deity; yet they do quite different things to keep the Plan of God functioning and moving toward its intended goal.

Throughout the Bible it is the Spirit of God who implements the plans of the Trinity. He is the one who does the work and gets the job done, in the sense of bringing the purposes of God into actuality. He is the power of God, the One who actually exerts divine efficiency to accomplish the will of God.

**B. More particularly, the Holy Spirit is the One who applies the salvation purchased by Christ.**

In the outworking of God's Plan as it pertains to salvation, the Bible teaches that the Father sends the Son (the Son does not send the Father), and the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit (the Spirit does not send the Father).

Specifically, Scripture teaches that the Father initiates redemption by sending His beloved Son into the world; the Son accomplishes redemption through His atoning work; and the Spirit applies redemption by joining us to Christ and the benefits of His atonement.

The Spirit of God is the One who exerts energy and efficiency to move the purposes of the godhead toward fulfillment. Yet in all of this He remains in the background, keeps Himself out of the center of attention, keeps the spotlight of importance off Himself and on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In John 16:14-15 Jesus says: "He (i.e., the Spirit) will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you." In this way the Holy Spirit focuses our attention on Christ in a quiet, unobtrusive, and modest way, preferring to give the place of honor to the Son. What a wonderful Person He is!

This brings us to the third question of our lesson:

### III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BORN OF THE SPIRIT"?