THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION

INTRODUCTION:
   (1) One must be "born of the Spirit" -- John 3:5
   (2) "It is the Spirit who gives life" -- John 6:63 (NKJV)
   (3) The Spirit came to "Convict the world of sin" -- John 16:8
   (4) "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" makes us free from the law of sin and death -- Rom. 8:2
   (5) We are "Sanctified" by the Spirit -- I Cor. 6:11
   (6) We are justified by the Spirit -- I Cor. 6:11
   (7) One must be washed by the Spirit -- I Cor. 6:11
   (8) By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body -- I Cor. 12:13
   (9) The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God -- Rom. 8:16

I. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK IN CONVERSION?
   1. This has been a point of contention for centuries.
      (1) The Calvinist teach that He works in conversion directly on the human heart in some miraculous way separate from the written word of God.
      (2) They teach "That the gospel becomes effectual only when it is attended by the special illuminating power of the Spirit".
   2. The word of God teaches the Holy Spirit brings about conversion by the power of the gospel which the Spirit revealed -- Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15 - 16; I Cor. 15:1 - 4

II. THE GOSPEL IS ADAPTED TO MAN AS HE IS, AND FULFILLS HIS NEEDS
   1. The gospel is adapted to man's understanding -- Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17; John 7:17
   2. The gospel points out man is lost in sin -- Rom. 3:25; I John 5:19
   3. Man is offered Salvation by the gospel -- Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15 - 16; I Cor. 15:1 - 2
   4. The Christian is offered spiritual strength through the gospel -- I Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32
   5. Man is given hope by the gospel -- Col. 1:5, 23; John 14:1 - 6
   6. Man is warned -- eternal hell if he fails to obey the gospel -- II Thess. 1:8 - 9

III. THERE IS NOT AN INFLUENCE WIELDED BY THE SPIRIT IN CONVERSION, BUT THAT SAME INFLUENCE IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE GOSPEL -- Eph. 6:17
1. One must be "Born of the Spirit" (John 3:5)
   A. One is "born of the word of God" (1 Pet. 1:23)
2. The Spirit gives life -- John 6:63
   A. The Word gives life -- Psa. 119:50, 93
3. The Spirit convicts the world of sin -- John 16:8
   A. The word convicts of sin -- Tit. 1:9 (NKJV)
4. The Spirit makes one free from sin -- Rom. 8:2
   A. The Spirit does this by Law -- James 1:25
5. One must be Sanctified by the Spirit -- I Cor. 6:11
   A. The Word sanctifies -- John 17:17
6. One must be Justified by the Spirit -- I Cor. 6:11
   A. Faith justifies -- Rom. 5:1; Rom. 10:17
7. One must be washed by the Spirit -- I Cor. 6:11
   A. One is washed by the Word -- Eph. 5:26
8. Baptism is by the Spirit -- I Cor. 12:13
   A. Baptism is by the Word -- Eph. 5:26
9. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit we are the children of God -- Rom. 8:16
   A. The Word bears witness or testifies -- John 5:39; Heb. 10:15 - 16

IV. THERE IS NOT A CASE OF CONVERSION RECORDED BUT THAT IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

2. The people of Samaria -- Acts 8:12
3. The Ethiopian Eunuch -- Acts 8:35 - 39
5. Cornelius -- Acts 11:14
7. The Corinthians -- Acts 18:8

CONCLUSION

1. Everything necessary to move people to accept Christ and be saved is set forth in the gospel.
   (1) God’s Love -- John 3:16
   (2) Christ's Sacrifice -- I Pet. 2:21 - 25
(3) Forgiveness of sins -- Acts 2:38
(4) Hope of heaven -- Col. 1: 5
(5) The fear of Hell -- II Thess. 1: 8 - 9
(6) The certainty of Judgment -- Heb. 9:27

2. Are you here and out of Christ?
3. Won’t you obey the gospel now?