

Question 58

Name _____

Q58. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

A58. No; I can do nothing good without the help of God's Holy Spirit.

Scripture Base: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 16:5-15,
Rom 3:10-12, Titus 3:1-8, 1 Cor 2:10-16

Doctrine: WCF 14:1, SC 6, 29-31

Supplementary Questions

1. Why can't you do *anything* good?

2. Who is the Holy Spirit?

3. How can the Holy Spirit help you?

Songs: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (#334)
"The Lord Our God is One" –Judy Rogers

Teaching Notes

Review Q 57 What is it to believe or have faith in Christ? - *To trust in Christ alone for salvation.*

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Valley of Dry Bones - the Spirit brings life.

Questions:

1. Adam's sin made us evil. Review Q57 (believe), Q56 (repent) and Q58 again. You can do nothing good without the help of God's Spirit. Explain the relationship between faith and repentance and doing what is good:

Repentance means turning from every sin, *and* doing everything that is good. You can't do this unless you first trust in Christ for the strength to do it. We can't repent and believe (do anything good) by our own power:

- When Adam sinned, he lost the Holy Spirit and became evil (totally depraved) and completely unable to do anything good.

- His sin caused us to be born in the same condition (Rom 5:12, 18; Ps 51:5; Rom 3:10-12; 8:6-8).

- We cannot repent or believe by ourselves (John 6:44).

- We need the help of the Holy Spirit (John 6:63).

2. He is God, the 3rd person of the Trinity proceeding from The Father & the Son. SC6 *There are 3 persons in the Godhead; the Father the Son & the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power & glory.*

He has a specific role in salvation, that of convicting of sin and applying the work of Christ to God's chosen people (elect). Jn 16:14, 1 Cor 2: 10-16

3. He is able to change your heart, to give you a new heart, to make you love God (Titus 3:5). He does this by placing you in Christ, by uniting you with Him spiritually, by plugging you into His life (1 Cor. 12:13).

Gospel: You are not good enough to enter into heaven. Like David, you were born in sin (Ps. 51:5). Also, you have sinned every day of your life since you were born, (Rom. 3:23). You can only be saved if you repent and believe, but you cannot even do this on your own. You need the help of the Holy Spirit. You must come to Christ & ask Him to give you His Spirit, to give you a new heart, before you will ever be able to repent & believe. If you haven't trusted in Jesus, ask Him to change your heart now.

Extras: Appliance illustration: Demonstrate how an appliance does not work without a power source. Use different devices – unplugged CD player, flashlight without battery etc. as examples.

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