

# The Holy Spirit

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**PASTOR FRED GRECO**

# **Holy Spirit & Illumination**

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**WEEK 10**

# Review: Works in the Trinity

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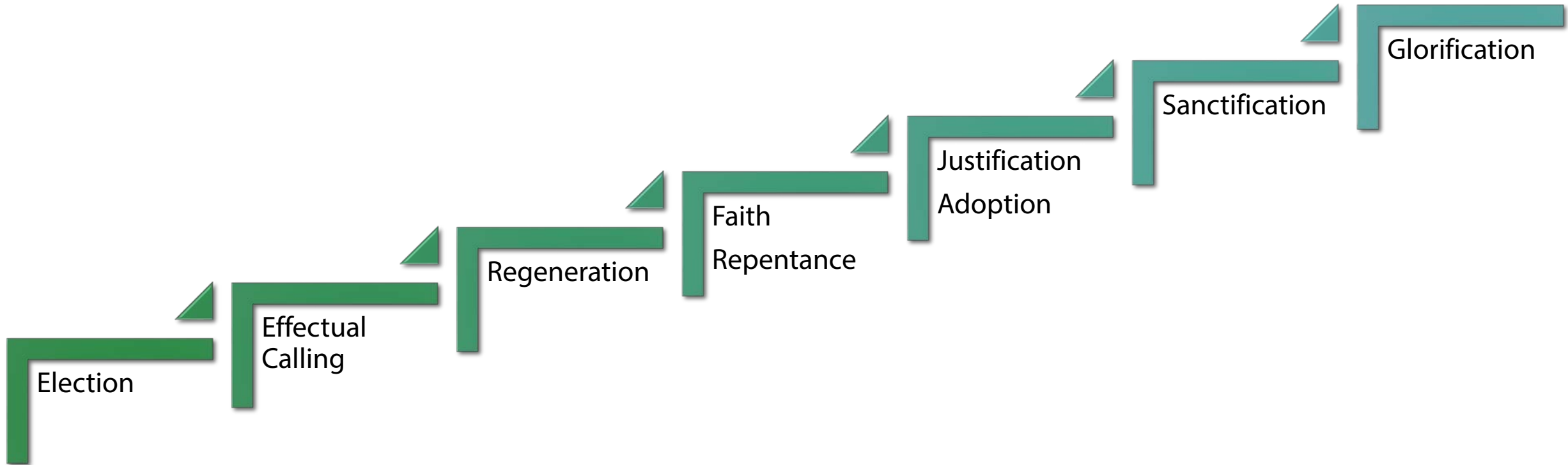
**Father – *origination***

**Son – *obtaining/performing***

**Spirit – *applying/perfecting***

# Review: Order of Salvation

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# Review: Spiritual Blessings

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## Teaching Good

- Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (Psalm 143:10)

## Guiding the believer

- You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. (Neh. 9:20)

# Review: Writing of Scripture

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- Giving knowledge of things communicated
- Suggestion of words to express
- Guiding their hands in setting down the words

# Review: Biblical Inspiration

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Major Chair Passages:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2 Peter 1:16-21

John 10:30-39

# **What is Illumination?**

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# Generally Illumination is:

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The work of the Spirit in the life of the believer to make us:

1. Believe the Bible
2. Understand the Bible

# Illumination is not Inspiration

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## INSPIRATION

- Work of the Spirit in *producing* Scripture
- Transmission of God's truth in a perfect and infallible way

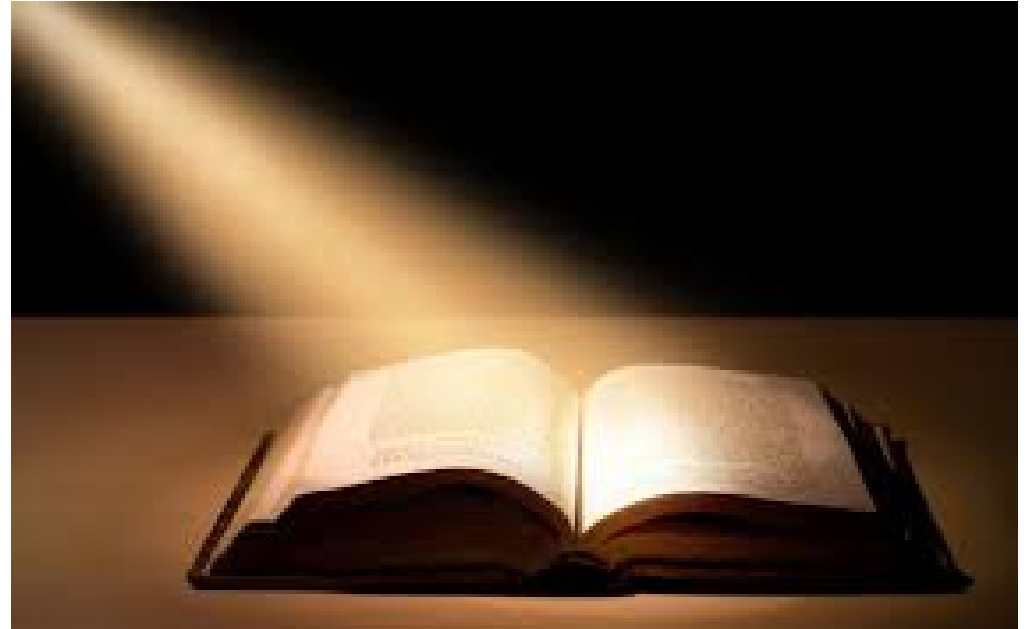
## ILLUMINATION

- Work of the Spirit in aiding *understanding* of Scripture
- Depends on the prior work of inspiration

# Illumination is Necessary

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- It is not new revelation
- Difference between how unbelievers and believers read the Bible
- Because we are polluted by sin, we cannot fully comprehend God's revelation on our own



# Why do we need Illumination?

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- Our natural depravity (John 3:19-20)
- Our corrupt affections
  - 2 Peter 3:16; 1 Tim. 6:5; 2 Tim 3:8
- The work of the enemy
  - 2 Corinthians 4:4; Acts 26:18

# What is done in illumination?

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## The Spirit:

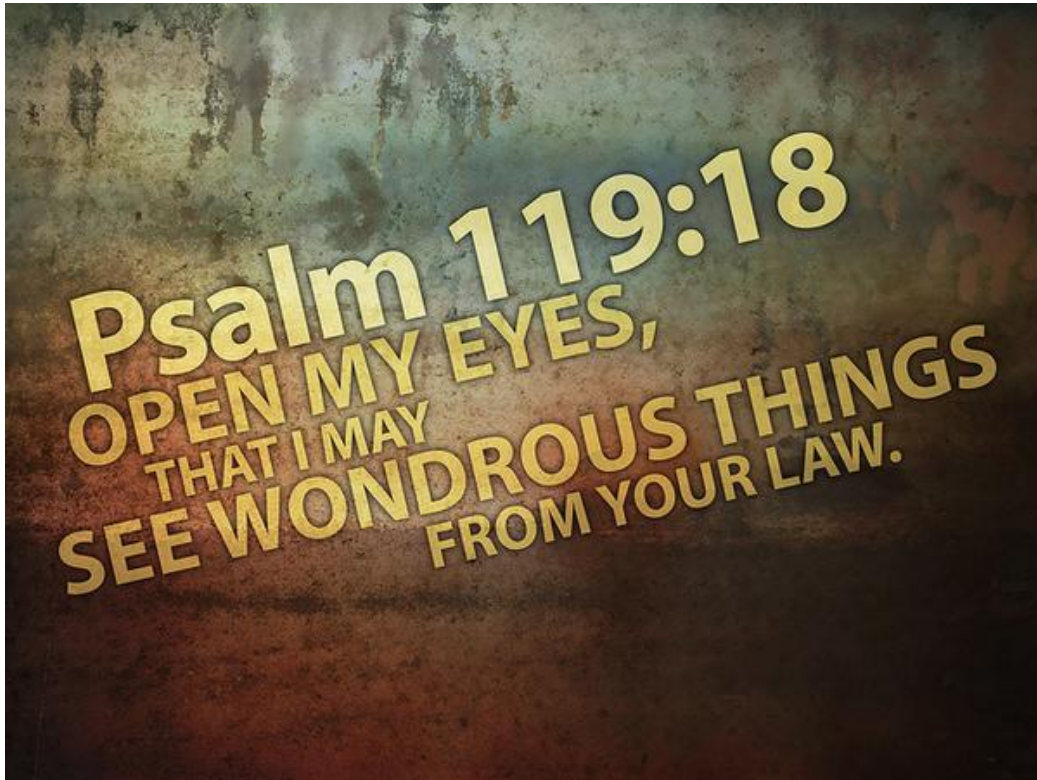
- Communicates spiritual light
- Frees our minds from corrupt influences
- Implants spiritual habits and principles

# **Biblical Examples**

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# “Open My Eyes”

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**Teach me, O LORD,** the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. (Psalm 119:33)

**Give me understanding,** that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (Psalm 119:34)

# What is Psalm 119 saying?

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## OBJECT

The “law” here is all Scripture, not just a technical division

In the law are “wonderful things” – high, hidden things we cannot understand

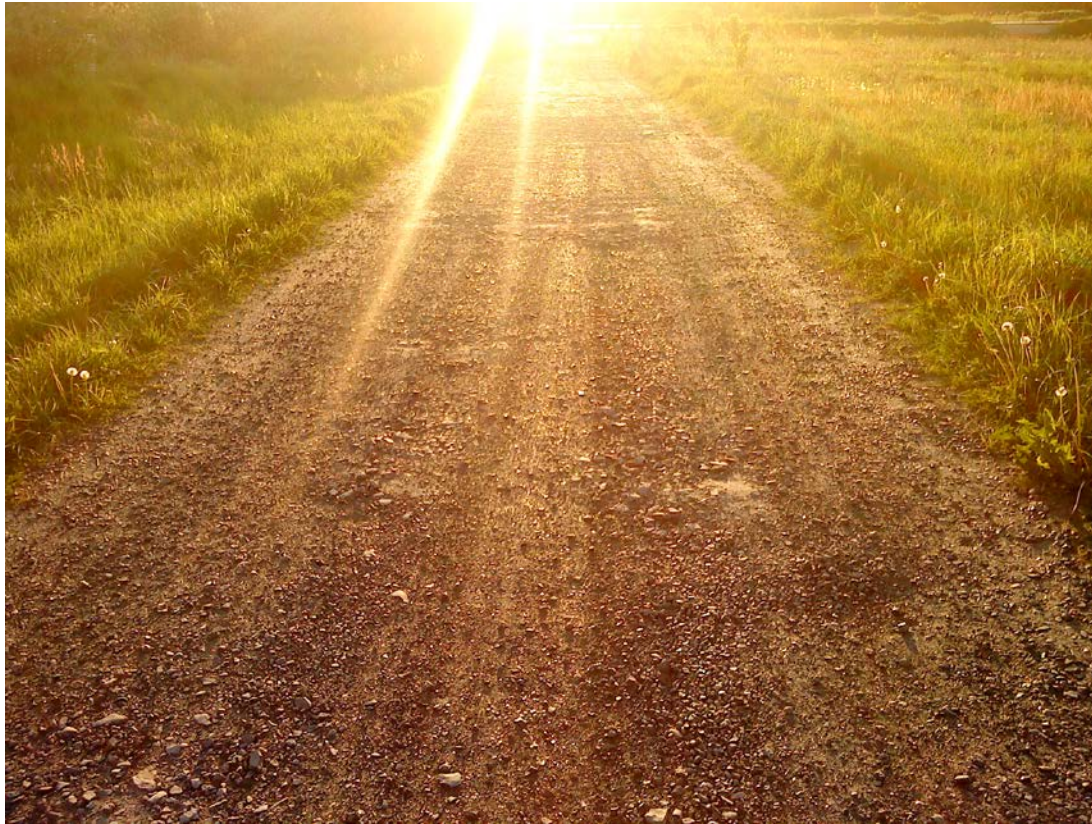
## CONSIDER

1. These things are recorded, or laid up in Scripture
2. It is our duty to behold (understand) them
3. We are not able of ourselves to do this



# Jesus Shows us an Example

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Road to Emmaus -  
Luke 24:45

This is a real and  
internal act of grace

Also Acts 26:17-18

# Paul explains this- Eph 1:17-19

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17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give you the Spirit** of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 **having the eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

# Remember who they were

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- They were people with rational understanding  
(Acts 19:19)
- They were people with instruction  
(Acts 20:20,27)



# Paul particularizes for us

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Remember the **“wonderful things”**?

They are:

- knowing the hope of His calling
- Riches of His glorious inheritance
- Immeasurable greatness of His power

# Eyes of my heart enlightened

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These things are  
impossible for natural  
man

(1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2:14)

They are past  
searching out  
(Eph. 3:8)





# This is the work of the Spirit

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When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (John 16:13)

Also - 1 John 2:20,27

- He is essentially the God of truth (cf. Isaiah 65:16)
- He is also the *revealer* of truth
- He reveals the truth of Scripture
  - Which He wrote
  - Which speaks about Jesus

# Means of Illumination

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# How does He do this?

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1. Spiritual Means
2. Disciplinary Means
3. Ecclesiastical Means



# Spiritual Means

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Prayer (Jas. 1:5)

Readiness to receive the Word

Practical obedience (Titus 1:1)

Continual desire to grow in Christ

# Other Means

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## **DISCIPLINARIAN**

- Knowledge in language
- Acquaintance with history, geography, chronology
- Skill in reasoning, logic

## **ECCLESIASTICAL**

- Not a blind obedience to the past
- But remember that the same Spirit was given to the Fathers
- The Church grows in its understanding

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**NEXT WEEK:** The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts