

Theology Simply Explained — WSC89 “Spirit-Blessed Hearing of the Word”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 89—especially explaining that the Spirit Who caused the words of Scripture to be written on the page also now writes that Word on our hearts, as He applies to us the salvation that the Father predestined and the Son has purchased.

Q89. How is the Word made effectual to salvation? **The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.**

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Our catechism question this week is, How is the word made effectual to salvation? The answer is the spur of god. Make the reading but especially the preaching. Of the word, an effectual means of convincing. And converting, sinners. And of building them up in holiness and comfort. Through faith unto salvation.

The first thing to notice, Is that it is the spirit of god, who must do it. We are not able. Uh, to convince Or convert ourselves. Because that happens by faith, and we do not produce faith. Remember faith in jesus christ is a saving grace. It comes from god.

And may also be helpful for us to remember, That. Holiness and comfort. Also come through faith. And so, these must be the work of the holy spirit. Now, we know that he uses his words to do this, Because the scripture tells us faith comes by hearing, And hearing the word of god.

And that it is a specifically the lord jesus whom we hear. When we hear the word of god, This comes from Romans 10 where it says have make how can they believe him whom? They, i have not hurt. Also remember. Hebrews 12. See that you do not refuse him who speaks from heaven.

That jesus is the one who addresses us in the preaching. And then also don't forget hebrews three and four. Which talks about people who have heard. But it doesn't profit them. It doesn't do them any good and The explanation for that is because the hearing was not mixed with faith.

Faith as a gift, ephesians 2. Tells us that by grace, we are saved through faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of god. Now the gift there, Uh, includes the hole. Um, Of being saved. But it does include especially the faith which is most proximate to the language of gift in the verse Faith is also a gift that is not just given.

Uh, once but is measured out to us. Do not think of yourself more highly than you want and says, Romans 12. But then i think of yourself was sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith. That god has given to you. So, the word is made a facial to salvation.

When the spirit takes the hearing of the word, especially the hearing of the word preached, and he gives faith to go with that hearing and we believe, then what's true about ourselves? And what's true about god? What's true about the lord jesus? When we believe what's true about ourselves, we get convinced or convicted When we believe what's true about jesus?

We are comforted And knowing the truth about ourselves, and about jesus makes us turn from ourselves to him in faith. Well, the holy spirit uses. The knowledge, the can being convinced about the truth about ourselves and about jesus to turn us In faith from ourselves to jesus. And not only do we does the spirit then turn us from ourselves to jesus, but when we believe in him, we are joined to him.

And we actually come out of being in ourselves or being in the first atom. Whom we were in in ourselves. And we come to the glorious new condition of being in christ. This is the bible's Uh, the one of the new testaments Um, Most common. If not the most common description of what a christian is, is he is someone who is in Christ.

And we call that conversion. When you stop being your, Uh, in your self-person and you start and you come to be and start being the in christ person. So you're a generated by the holy spirit so that you can have faith. And he gives you faith. By hearing. And this takes you out of yourself and puts you into The lord jesus christ.

And as he grows your faith, He grows you. Uh, in the experience of and the expression of your union with Christ, This produces holiness in you. As you live more and more, according to your new nature, according to the nature of christ. That is in u through union with him.

And not only are you Baltimore up more and holiness, you're built up more and comfort, the more faith you have, the more you acknowledge And apprehend, lay, hold of. Who the lord jesus is. And what he has done. Then this course has all of the comfort. Uh, Not just in heaven and earth, but all of the comfort that is in god.

For you. Instead of Uh, the reading but especially the hearing of the word preached. Is. Uh, what the spirit he uses. To make his word effectual to salvation for us. And it's wonderful, because Uh, the spirits then is after a sense, still writing his word. Not that there are any new words, but he's writing the same word in a new place.

All scripture. Came about scripture did not come about. Um, By when by men speaking from themselves. But men spoke from god as they were carried along by the holy spirit. And now god says, He is going to write his truth. His word where On our hearts. Well, who is going to do this?

While the same one who carried men, To write the word of god on parchment or on paper. Has is also still now. Helping us. Carrying us. As he writes the same words upon our hearts. Giving us faith. Convincing us converting us. Building us up and holiness, building us up and comfort.

And all of this ultimately brings us into the full possession of and the full enjoyment of everything that god has intended to give us. From before. The world began. And when he elected us in the sun, Everything that the sun has purchased for us. By his righteousness and sacrifice.

And now, the holy spirit is using the word. To apply all the all of that to us. And all of those things taken together. Are what we most properly call salvation. So, the question is, How is the word manufactured salvation? And the answer is the spirit of god making the reading, but especially the preaching of the word and effectual means of convincing and converting, sinners And a building them up and holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

So what that means for you. Is that you must read the bible? And you must hear the Bible, preached. But just, you must do so independence upon the holy spirit. Asking for faith and exercising, whatever faith, he gives you. Praying for the word to be written on your heart.

Praying to be convinced of what it says. Praying. To live. According to what it says, as a new in christ person To be built up in holiness. Praying to be built up in comfort. And trusting that the holy spirit who did cause the word to be written in the first place.

Will write its truth on your heart and all those ways.