

21. SATAN'S ATTEMPTS AT CASTING CONTEMPT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The first way that Satan tried to cast contempt on the work of the Spirit was to set up ministries without the Spirit. This we see particularly in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox Churches. The service is read out of a book – it can be learned by heart – making the book superfluous. These men (and in some cases women) have not been set apart by the Holy Spirit for the ministry. This is why true Catholics disdain the protestant Church. They ridicule the leading of the Spirit in the ministry.

These people are not led by the Spirit of God.

I was recently listening to a BBC documentary on Robots in Religion. Here are some of the comments: -

- a. The Catholics expressed unhappiness about confessing their sins to a robot. But the lady conceded that she would probably get used to it. A priest was concerned that the robot had no soul.
- b. The Buddhists complained that the robot did not look like a Buddha. Some thought it had a soul...
- c. The Jews complained that the robot did not have a soul. But it was potentially good.

These are people who do not have the Spirit of God in their hearts and are therefore unable to appreciate the personal relationship between the triune God and His people.

The second way that Satan tried to cast contempt on the work of the Spirit was to set up the Spirit without the reading or studying of the word. A complete God given ministry is the preaching and praying in the Spirit, together with reading and studying of the word in the Spirit. **1 JN 4:1** “Dear friends, do not believe every Spirit, but test the Spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

We have seen that the first general work of the Holy Spirit, was that He was to bring to mind, all that Jesus had said for our guidance and comfort. This was first to the apostles. These things were written down that we might believe.

The business of the false Spirit is to deny the things that Christ has spoken and have been written in the word.

The false Spirit makes new claims which were never proclaimed by the prophets or apostles. Their claims were never passed on to us by the Holy Spirit.

The false Spirit has been responsible for many heretical and false religions throughout history. In the early Church it was Montanism, and in more recent history we have Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness and all the many cults that are in the world today. Their message is not the word of God, although it may pretend to be. Any doctrine that detracts from the Glory is Christ is cultism.

The second general work of the Spirit is to glorify Christ. The Holy Spirit's work is to Glorify Christ, but the false Spirit that is in the world, glorifies himself. This upsets the Holy order of dispensations. The original source of dispensation lies in God the Father – love, righteousness, faith, honour, wisdom, and so on. We always need to bear in mind that Satan is the primary source of deceit and lies. He tells people that their “success” lies in their own efforts – the gracious work of God is swept under the carpet.

The third general work of the Holy Spirit is to pour into our hearts the love of God. We learnt in lesson 3 that God the Father is the source of all love. We quote again **ROM 5:5** “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us”. We as believers do not fear the Spirit of bondage and fear, because we have been released by the blood of Christ.

The fourth general work of the Holy Spirit is to be a Spirit of prayer. Those who despise prayer are under the influence of the false spirit.

We know that it is through His presence in our hearts that we obtain the desire to pray. Not that we are proficient in prayer for we know that it is the Holy Spirit that prays on our behalf. It is our way of communing with God, but Satan does not want us to do that, as he wishes to have complete control over us.

The false Spirit of antichrist comes in direct opposition and contradiction to every attribute of the Holy Spirit. In this way, Satan has passed from one extreme to the other, from a bitter, wretched opposition to the Spirit of Christ, to a cursed claim to be the true Spirit of God.

21. SATAN'S ATTEMPTS AT CASTING CONTEMPT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The first way that Satan tried to cast contempt on the work of the Spirit was to set up ministries without the Spirit. This we see particularly in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox Churches. The service is read out of a book – it can be learned by heart – making the book superfluous. These men (and in some cases women) have not been set apart by the Holy Spirit for the ministry. This is why true Catholics disdain the protestant Church. They ridicule the leading of the Spirit in the ministry.

These people are not led by the Spirit of God.

I was recently listening to a BBC documentary on Robots in Religion. Here are some of the comments: -

- a. The Catholics expressed unhappiness about confessing their sins to a robot. But the lady conceded that she would probably get used to it. A priest was concerned that the robot had no soul.
- b. The Buddhists complained that the robot did not look like a Buddha. Some thought it had a soul...
- c. The Jews complained that the robot did not have a soul. But it was potentially good.

These are people who do not have the Spirit of God in their hearts and are therefore unable to appreciate the personal relationship between the triune God and His people.

The second way that Satan tried to cast contempt on the work of the Spirit was to set up the Spirit without the reading or studying of the word. A complete God given ministry is the preaching and praying in the Spirit, together with reading and studying of the word in the Spirit. **1 JN 4:1** “Dear friends, do not believe every Spirit, but test the Spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

We have seen that the first general work of the Holy Spirit, was that He was to bring to mind, all that Jesus had said for our guidance and comfort. This was first to the apostles. These things were written down that we might believe.

The business of the false Spirit is to deny the things that Christ has spoken and have been written in the word.

The false Spirit makes new claims which were never proclaimed by the prophets or apostles. Their claims were never passed on to us by the Holy Spirit.

The false Spirit has been responsible for many heretical and false religions throughout history. In the early Church it was Montanism, and in more recent history we have Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness and all the many cults that are in the world today. Their message is not the word of God, although it may pretend to be. Any doctrine that detracts from the Glory is Christ is cultism.

The second general work of the Spirit is to glorify Christ. The Holy Spirit's work is to Glorify Christ, but the false Spirit that is in the world, glorifies himself. This upsets the Holy order of dispensations. The original source of dispensation lies in God the Father – love, righteousness, faith, honour, wisdom, and so on. We always need to bear in mind that Satan is the primary source of deceit and lies. He tells people that their “success” lies in their own efforts – the gracious work of God is swept under the carpet.

The third general work of the Holy Spirit is to pour into our hearts the love of God. We learnt in lesson 3 that God the Father is the source of all love. We quote again **ROM 5:5** “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us”. We as believers do not fear the Spirit of bondage and fear, because we have been released by the blood of Christ.

The fourth general work of the Holy Spirit is to be a Spirit of prayer. Those who despise prayer are under the influence of the false spirit.

We know that it is through His presence in our hearts that we obtain the desire to pray. Not that we are proficient in prayer for we know that it is the Holy Spirit that prays on our behalf. It is our way of communing with God, but Satan does not want us to do that, as he wishes to have complete control over us.

The false Spirit of antichrist comes in direct opposition and contradiction to every attribute of the Holy Spirit. In this way, Satan has passed from one extreme to the other, from a bitter, wretched opposition to the Spirit of Christ, to a cursed claim to be the true Spirit of God.

