

A LOST HOST AND A SAVING GHOST

Selected Scriptures

If you're a Christian, whether you can fully remember it or not, there was a moment when you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for everlasting life. You may have been seven, seventeen, or seventy. It might have arrived suddenly or after much consideration. Maybe you were praying with a parent, chatting with a friend, listening to a sermon, or reading a book. Maybe you were at an evangelistic event or at home alone. Whatever the details, for all who belong to Jesus in the *present*, there was a moment in the *past* when, by God's grace, you passed from death to life, from darkness to light, when "you who formerly were far off [were] brought near by the blood of Christ" (Eph 2:13)! And today we want to acknowledge the Holy Spirit's role in *that* moment and in the *moments* leading up to it. More specifically, we want to celebrate with gratitude the *drawing* ministry of the Holy Spirit and the *regenerating* ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The DRAWING Work of the Holy Spirit

God wants *all* sinners to be saved

Ezek 18:32; 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9

All sinners resist that salvation

Gen 2:17; 8:21; Job 15:16
Isa 53:6; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:1

So, God draws *all* sinners

Ps 19:1–2; Eccl 3:11
John 1:6–8; 6:41–45; 12:32; 16:8
Acts 1:8; Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 3:16
Heb 4:12; 2 Pet 1:21

The REGENERATING Work of the Holy Spirit

A new birth from above

John 3:1–13; 2 Cor 5:17; Tit 3:1–7

A needy belief from below

Matt 23:37; John 3:14–18; 5:39–40
Acts 7:51; Rev 22:17