

Explanation of Luther's Small Catecrism

HOME TALK

Making Disciples in the Middle of Everyday Life Mt 28:20a

Talking about the Third Article of The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith, just as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith, in which Christian church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and at the least day will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ, This is most certainly true.



206 What do you mean when you say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit"?

When I say I believe in the Holy Spirit, I mean that I place myself in the care of the Holy Spirit and trust Him to help me believe in Christ and live by God's Word.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

207 Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and true God with the Father and the Son.



208 What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

The work of the Holy Spirit is to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify and preserve.

209 How does the Holy Spirit call you?

The Holy Spirit calls me to faith in Christ by the Gospel in Word and Sacraments.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

210 What other ways does the Holy Spirit use to call you or to get your attention?

The Holy Spirit uses sufferings, blessings, and the example of others to get my attention.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. Romans 2:4b ... God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance ...

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Scriptures are noted in the English Standard Version

