

**A Study of The Holy Spirit  
Through the Bible**

**By**

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## Lesson 1: Introduction to the Holy Spirit

**If we are to know God, we are to know him in as much of his fullness as we can.**

- In the scriptures God reveals himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Trinity is a word never used in the Bible itself but the concept runs throughout.
- We spend more time on the Father and the Son – they seem more personal
- The Holy Spirit – seems less personal and yet the Spirit is very personal.

**The word for Spirit in the Hebrew OT is the word Ruach – used 378 times.**

The word usually means Spirit – it can also mean wind or breath:

- **Psalm 104:29-30** (both “breath” and “spirit” are the word ruach)

The Bible only makes it 2 verses before it gets to the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit of God hovered over the deep (**Gen 1:2**)

The creation of the universe is a trinitarian event:

- God creates
- How does God create – by the Son through the Spirit
  - o Spirit hovers over the deep
  - o **Col 1:15-16** – “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

Other Trinitarian events in the Bible:

- The Baptism of Jesus was Trinitarian event: **Matt 3:16**
- The Resurrection of Jesus was Trinitarian event – **Rom 1:3-4**
- Great commission was made in trinitarian terms: **Matt 28:19-20**

The Spirit as a helper sent by God – **John 15:26** (whom I send)

Formation of the church: Not only was creation built by God using his Son through the work of the Holy Spirit, so too the church – **Eph 2:19-22**

Again, we usually get to know the Father and the Son much better than the Spirit.

- The Father and Son we connect with relationally
  - o God is my Father
  - o Jesus is our brother
  - o The Spirit seems more impersonal but the Spirit is not an impersonal being
  - o The Spirit is not impersonal – not an “it”
  - o the Spirit has personality.

**In fact, the Spirit is not an it but a he** even though in both Greek and Hebrew the word for Spirit is feminine (like in Spanish and other languages – gender of words isn't always what we make it – grammatical gender is not always viewed the same as personal gender).

- **John 16:13 (also back to John 15:26)** – the Spirit, he will guide you in all truth.
  - o Masculine pronoun to refer back to Spirit of truth.

Some people call the Spirit, “it” but it is more precise to say “he”.

**Application:**

*What is your impression of the Holy Spirit?*

*Have you heard much teaching on the Spirit in church, why or why not?*

*How do you think the Spirit operates today?*

**Prayer time:**

Pray that God would open our hearts and minds to the Spirit. Pray that the Spirit would work powerfully among us and that through the work of the Spirit we might be brought into complete unity with one another.

## Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit as Life Giver and Sustainer in the Old Testament

**We mentioned last week that – Ruach used 378 times in the Old Testament!**

Do not think of this as an impersonal wind but as the personal presence of God – the wind of God – powerful – blowing and yet staying in place...hovering over creation...ready to instigate the creative work of God.

Just as God breathes out his Spirit – God speaks the words of creation

- Elements not only obey his creative voice
- Elements appear – come to exist at his command.

**Joke – scientist challenges God to a contest**

God was once approached by a scientist who said, “Listen God, we’ve decided we don’t need you anymore. These days we can clone people, transplant organs and do all sorts of things that used to be considered miraculous.”

God replied, “Don’t need me huh? How about we put your theory to the test. Why don’t we have a competition to see who can make a human being”

The scientist agrees, so God declares they should do it like he did in the good old days when he created Adam.

“Fine” says the scientist as he bends down to scoop up a handful of dirt.”

“Whoa!” says God, shaking his head in disapproval. “Not so fast. You get your own dirt.”

**Notice the connection between the Spirit of God and the Word of God.**

- **We see this in Psalm 33:4-9**
  - o **Polemic/diatribes against false gods of the nations (Christopher Wright, “Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament”):**
    - **Starry hosts**
    - **Waters/sea**
    - **Earth**
    - **All of these had god representations amongst the pagans – it is God who made these things...and they are things...not personality...and is over these things...supreme.**
- We see this in passages like **2 Tim 3:16** – All scripture is inspired by God and is useful...
  - o Inspired = Greek word theopneustos (Theo – God, pneu – to blow or breath, similar to pneuma – spirit/wind/breath).
  - o Only time this word is used for several hundred years – some believe Paul coined the term here.

- Logos – Jesus as the Word in **John 1:1-3**.
  - o Jesus is God and is not also all of God
  - o **John 1:32** – the Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism setting him up for **John 2** in the temple
  - o Sets us up for John 2 where Jesus is not just the Logos but is also the temple – the place where God’s glory dwells in its fullness as manifest by the presence of God’s Holy Spirit
- **Luke 4:18** – Jesus has been anointed as the messianic (anointed) king and the evidence for this is his reception of the Spirit at his baptism that lighted on him.

The Spirit identifies Jesus as God’s Son – more on that later.

So as God speaks the world into existence it may well be that is the Creative work of the Holy Spirit & is certainly also the work of the Son – **Colossians 1:16**

Not only does the Spirit play a role in creating the world we live in – the Spirit also plays a role in sustaining the world we live in.

Do you ever wake up and think about the fact that the world continues on – the sun comes up/or the earth rotates toward the sun...new days...new things...new times...new seasons.

- God sustains all of that by His Spirit.

Psalm 104 was already mentioned above – backup a few verses to **104:27-30**

- Those who say God is no longer involved in this world do not recognize that this world has to have God’s involvement for it to be sustained
- You are a miracle
- The world carrying on is a miracle
- This is the divine power of God expressed in and through the Holy Spirit to sustain us all.

God’s Spirit affects you every single day of your life.

*What does it mean to you that the Spirit is a part of your having life?*

*Does that affect the way you see yourself, your life, etc?*

The creation of humanity (Christopher Wright, 28-30)

- **Gen 2:7** – mankind gets our life from the breath of God.
  - o **Job 27:3-4**
  - o **Job 32:8**
  - o **Job 33:4**
- Connects with **Gen 6:1-3**
  - o When God’s spirit/breath of life departs from a man he dies.
    - **Gen 25:8** – Abraham breathed his last
    - **Gen 25:17** – Ishmael breathed his last and died

- **Gen 49:33** – Jacob breathed his last and was gathered to his people
- **Mark 15:37** – With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last
- **Luke 23:46** – tells us what Jesus cried out “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” – when he had said this he breathed his last
- **Ezek 37** – valley of dry bones – they aren’t alive because there is no breath in them
  - This is an allegory for Israel who needs a refreshing of the Holy Spirit to come and breath new life into them
  - **37:8-14**
  - A revival.
    - Revive = restore to life or consciousness or strength
- We need this in our congregation
- The way to it is by the Holy Spirit

**Application:**

*Since the Spirit plays a role in sustaining your life, what obligation does that give us to live in line with the Spirit?*

*What is the Spirit’s role in the inspiration of scripture?*

*How might knowing that influence the way we read the Bible?*

*How might the Holy Spirit help bring about revival to the church today?*

**Prayer time:**

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the life-giving work of the Spirit. Pray thanksgiving for the life-sustaining work of the Spirit. Thank God for the scriptures. Pray for revival for God’s people through the power and work of the Spirit.

## **Lesson 3: Holy Spirit With God's People in the Old Testament**

One of the fundamental differences between the Mosaic covenant and the New Covenant in Christ has to do with the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:16-17** – lives with you (present tense) and will be in you (future tense).

- Pentecost is the connection of these two things
  - o The move of the Spirit is from “with” God’s people to the Spirit “in” God’s people.
  - o **In the Old Testament they only had the first.**
  - o Before that, Jesus implies, they had God’s Spirit with them but not in them.

### ***How did they have God’s Spirit with them?***

1 – God’s presence among his people (tabernacle and temple)

- There is no direct verse connecting the Holy Spirit and the temple or tabernacle but it seems to be implied.
- **Isaiah 63** – implies that it is God’s temple where the Spirit dwells among the people of God. That to violate the temple is to grieve God’s Holy Spirit (**63:10**)
- **Haggai 2:3-4** also connects God’s presence with the temple
  - o Exodus – pillar of fire and pillar of cloud (verse – **Exo 13:21-22**)
  - o Tabernacle – the same pillar of cloud fills the tabernacle (**Exo 29:42-46 & 40:34-38**)
  - o Temple – 1 Kings 8 where the glory of the Lord fills the temple (**1 Kings 8:10-12**)
- Glory of the Lord departed the temple due to sin – **Ezek 10:18**
  - o This is very much the background of Paul’s call to holy living in **1 Cor 6:18-20**
  - o Sin can cause God’s Spirit/presence to depart

2 – God’s empowering Spirit coming upon individuals for particular tasks (Wright, 37f):

- Moses & 70 elders – **Number 11:17, 25** (on them)
- Bezalel – Exodus 31:3 to help build the tabernacle
- Judges
  - o Othniel (**3:10**)
  - o Gideon (**6:34**)
  - o Jephthah (**11:29**)
  - o Samson (**14:6, 15:14**)
- Saul & David – **1 Sam 16:13-14**
  - o See also **Psalms 51:10-11** where David acknowledges the Spirit’s work in his life

*What kinds of things did people in the Old Testament do by the power of the Spirit?*

These people had the Spirit for limited periods of time for particular circumstances.

- Particularly to liberate the nation from foreign oppressors

- The Spirit was on them (**Isa 59:21, Isa 42:1**)/among them (**Isa 63:11, Hag 2:5**) to empower them to do specific things
- This contrasts with the New covenant where the Spirit will not be poured out just on military leaders but on all people (as prophesied in Joel 2 that Peter quotes in Acts 2).

### 3 – Prophecies of the Messianic age

- Spirit of God wasn't just on judges and kings but also on the prophets
  - o **Isa 61:1** – we immediately connect that to Jesus in **Luke 4** where Jesus quotes it and says it is about him.
  - o **Isa 48:16** – Isaiah was endowed by the Spirit of God
  - o These were things God inspired Isaiah to say about himself and his own ministry
  - o The prophets had the Spirit of God inspiring them to speak/write the words of God
  - o **Micah 3:8** – same thing – the Spirit is upon Micah to do the work of prophetic ministry for Israel.
  - o **Zech 7:12**

The Spirit played a role in instructing the people via the prophets – **Nehemiah 9:20, 30** (Wright, 75f)

- The prophets pointed to the Spirit's role in the new covenant:
  - o **Ezekiel 36** prophesies the transition God is going to make
  - o Under Old Covenant – God dwelt with his people via the tabernacle and the temple
  - o Under the New Covenant – God will give them a new heart and a new spirit (**36:26-27**)
  - o **Jeremiah 31** also prophesies the new covenant – never mentions the Holy Spirit but is talking about the Messianic age and the law written on their hearts – God in them not just God among them.
  - o **Joel 2:28-32** - In those days I will pour out my Spirit on all people
    - Fulfilled at Pentecost in Acts 2 – as Peter notes
    - Fulfillment of Moses' wish and prophetic statement in **Numbers 11:29**
  - o **Isa 32:15** – prophesy of the Spirit's role in the messianic age
  - o **Isa 44:3** – I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring
- **The Spirit on the Messiah**
  - o **Isa 11:1-3**
  - o **Isa 42:1**

*How did the presence of the Spirit change from the Old Testament to the New Testament?*

*Why is that important?*

### **Application: Back to John 14:16-17**

- In Christ we have fulfilled the promises of the OT
- In Christ, by the Spirit we have God's presence in our lives – more on that next week

- We need to appreciate what God has done for us and the transitions he has made that we are blessed to experience today.

**Application:**

*If you are a Christian, the Spirit is in you. How should that affect the way you live your life?*

*Do you believe the power of the Spirit is at work today in any similar way to how it was then, why or why not?*

**Prayer time:**

Pray thanksgiving for God fulfilling his promises regarding the work of the Spirit. Praise God for blessing us with his personal presence through the Spirit today.

## Lesson 4: Holy Spirit in the Prophets

God wanted His will to be known by His people

God used the Holy Spirit to inform the prophets – to put His will into words and by the power of the Spirit, through the mouths of the prophets, to put the words into the ears of God’s people.

*What is the word used for the Spirit informing people of what to say?*

- Inspiration

Here is how Peter describes it in **2 Peter 1:20-21**,

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

*Who initiated prophesy in the Bible?*

**Christopher J.H. Wright wrote this**, “God’s Spirit, then, is the agent of communication from God’s mind, with God’s word, through God’s prophets, to God’s people.” (Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament”, 63)

The Holy Spirit communicated directly with God’s people through the prophets.

### **The Holy Spirit’s work in the prophets (Wright, 75-76):**

- Haggai and Nehemiah talk about God’s presence among God’s people in the Exodus
  - o We see again the Spirit of God among the people of God – **Hag 2:5**
  - o **Nehemiah 9:20** – same thing
  - o Nehemiah goes on to so in **9:30-31** – that God’s Spirit was with the prophets who have been warning Israel through the years.
- Spirit of God in Isaiah
  - o **Isa 48:16** – Isaiah was endowed by the Spirit of God
  - o **Isa 48:17** – **this is what the Lord says...**
  - o **Isa 61:1** – we immediately connect that to Jesus in **Luke 4** where Jesus quotes it and says it is about him.
    - We cannot miss what it says in its first context (Isaiah’s) by jumping straight to its second (Jesus’)
    - Isaiah is speaking of God’s Spirit being on him (again, on/among...not yet in)
    - As with the judges and kings – the Holy Spirit comes upon someone to enable or inform them to fulfill the task God calls them to. Isaiah identifies that task in these verses.
  - o **Isa 44:1-5** – I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring

- **Isa 42:1-9** – God announces these things before they come into being and announces them through his prophets.
- **Micah 3:8** – same thing – the Spirit is upon Micah to do the work of prophetic ministry for Israel.
- Zechariah confirms this – **Zech 7:12**

*What kinds of things does the Spirit inspire the prophets to say?*

- Sometimes it is future telling but usually not.
- Usually it is a word of instruction, encouragement or rebuke for God's people.

*How does God expect His people to respond to the inspired words of the prophets?*

### **The Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to testify or prophesy about the new covenant**

- The prophets pointed to the Spirit's role in the new covenant via inspiration:
  - **Isa 32:1-18** – prophesy of the Spirit's role in the messianic age
  - **Ezekiel 36** prophesies the transition God is going to make
  - Under Old Covenant – God dwelt with his people via the tabernacle and the temple
  - Under the New Covenant – God will give them a new heart and a new spirit (**36:26-27**)
  - **Jeremiah 31** also prophesies the new covenant – never mentions the Holy Spirit but is talking about the Messianic age and the law written on their hearts – God in them not just God among them.
  - **Joel 2:28-32** - In those days I will pour out my Spirit on all people
    - Fulfilled at Pentecost in Acts 2 – as Peter notes in Acts 2:17-21
    - Fulfillment of Moses' wish and prophetic statement in **Numbers 11:29**

God was at work in the OT to inform his people by the prophets. To warn them. To instruct them. To give them hope when there was no hope.

God did all of this by His Spirit. This is what the Spirit does – he informs and empowers the people of God to do and to know what God wants us to do and to know.

### **Application:**

*What can we learn from what the Old Testament prophets wrote?*

*How do the words of those prophets still impact us today?*

*If the prophets were alive today, being inspired to speak on God's behalf, what kinds of warnings might they give and what kinds of encouragements might they provide?*

### **Prayer time:**

Pray that God continue to inform us through the words of the inspired prophets. Pray that unlike Israel, at times, we might have ears and hearts open to hear what God is trying to tell us.

## Lesson 5: Holy Spirit in the Gospels

So far we have discussed the Holy Spirit's role in the Old Testament:

- The Spirit's role in creation (**Gen 1:1**).
- The Spirit's role in being upon people to empower them to perform their duties (Judges, Kings, and prophets)
- The Spirit's role in Israel's prophets to inform, instruct and convict God's people of the truth as well as to foretell of better days ahead – the new covenant and coming Messiah.

It is no surprise, then, that the New Testament starts us off with the Holy Spirit in the Gospels.

### The Spirit's role in the New Creation

**Spirit and Jesus:** As we open up the New Testament we see very quickly the Spirit's role in ushering in the kingdom through the conception of Jesus.

- **Matt 1:18-20**
- **Luke 1:35**

**Spirit's role in the birth of Jesus:**

- Luke tells us that when they took Jesus to the temple to dedicate him, as they were told to do in the Torah, they met a man named Simeon
- **Luke 2:22-35**
- The prophetic work of the Holy Spirit was not just reserved for the OT but is also evident in the NT. Here we see that with Simeon – the Holy Spirit informing him he would see the anointed one. The Spirit sending him to the temple for the meeting with baby Jesus and his parents.

*After all we have studied so far, why does it make sense for the Spirit to be heavily involved in the birth of Jesus?*

**Jesus starts his ministry/re-enacts Israel's national story**

- The Spirit's presence – as a dove (reminds us of Gen 1:2 – hovering over the water – now hovering over Jesus who is in the waters)
- The Father's voice – this is my son.

The Baptism of Jesus and the Spirit's role in connecting to two OT narratives:

1. Exodus
2. United Kingdom

Both of these in the OT come with covenant promises:

- Covenant on Sinai
- Covenant with David

## The Spirit's role in the New Exodus

Last week we saw the Spirit was with them in the Exodus

- **Neh 9:20** (Spirit instructed them)
- **Hag 2:5** (the Spirit is now with the people in Haggai's day as it was with the people in the Exodus)
- **Numbers 11:16-17** – the Spirit on Moses and the 70 elders

Jesus re-enacts the Exodus and conquest of Israel:

- Because Jesus fulfills the covenant with Abraham: Jesus embodies the national promises in himself
- Because Jesus also fulfills the Mosaic covenant (Sermon on the Mount – you have heard it said but I tell you...I have not come to abolish/destroy the law but to fulfill it).
- Jesus is a Hebrew and he is living through the national story of Israel in his life and ministry

### Red Sea/Jesus Baptism

So Jesus enters his ministry at the Savior and Messiah of Israel through the water and the Spirit is involved.

- Baptism of Jesus - **Matt 3:13-17**

### Wilderness wanderings/Jesus in the wilderness:

- 40 years of wilderness wanderings – **Numbers 32:13**
- 40 days of Jesus in the wilderness (**Matt 4:2**)
  - o **Matt 4:1** – it is the Holy Spirit who sends him out there.

In **Exodus 4:22-23** we see that God calls Israel his “son” – it is his Son that God wishes to send or lead into the wilderness worship him

- Parallels with Jesus in the wilderness in Matt 4.
- James Dunn points out that in Luke it is even more apparent that Luke is legitimizing Jesus as God's Son by his wilderness experience
  - o Luke puts the genealogy of Jesus between his anointing by the Spirit and his temptation in the wilderness (Dunn, “Christology in the Making,” 51)
    - Luke 3:22 – you are my son
    - Luke 3:38 – Adam, the son of God
    - Luke 4 – Jesus taken by the Spirit, across the Jordan, into the wilderness to be tempted 40 days
    - Luke 4:3 – first temptation “If you are the Son of God tell this stone to become bread.”
  - o Jesus' successful completion of the temptation in the wilderness 40 days is proof of his divine sonship.
  - o He is who he says he is and the Spirit plays a direct role in confirming that.

## The Spirit's Role in Ushering in a New United Kingdom

Spirit of God in anointing David – **1 Sam 16**

Spirit of God at Jesus' baptism – **Matthew 3:16**

Acts – wait on the Spirit to restore the nation to Israel?

- **Acts 1:4-8**
  - o Jesus answers their question
  - o He doesn't deny God is reformulating Israel and hints that just as the OT prophets foretold – that the kingdom would be a world-wide, non-ethnicity based kingdom.
  - o The kingdom will be inaugurated by the Holy Spirit
  - o The Holy Spirit will come on them with power to empower them to do the mission Jesus is sending them on.
- When the Spirit comes it fulfills the words of John the Baptist who said in Matt 3:11 that the Messiah would come and baptize in Spirit and fire – **Acts 1:5 & 2:1-4**

### Spirit and John the Baptist

Mark & John start with the beginning of Jesus' ministry via Jesus coming to be baptized by John.

Matthew and Luke start with the birth of Jesus and in telling that story tell the birth story of John.

Both have John as Jesus' forerunner.

- **Luke 1:15-17** – John will be someone filled with the Spirit
- **Luke 1:41** – Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit when Jesus was in utero in her presence.
- **Luke 1:67** – Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit which led him to prophesy (nearly the same thing happened to Saul back in 1 Samuel when he was called to be king).

We are already noticing that the Spirit's function is different than everything we have seen to this point in the OT.

- In OT – the Spirit on or among the people
- Here Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit and John will be filled with the Spirit

### Spirit and John's ministry & message:

- John spoke of a baptism by the Spirit and by fire (**Matt 3:11**)

The transition from John to Jesus is a transition from the old covenant to the new.

- John's teaching always pointed to the future Messiah
- John's teaching was in line with the prophets of old and John himself was to be in line with the prophet Elijah.

- Jesus' teachings had a future component but was very much about how the new covenant was being initiated in the present.
- So John was more of the old order of things and Jesus the new.
- We see this transition in how Matthew tells us that when Jesus came out of the wilderness to begin his ministry, John was in jail.
  - o Effectively, John's ministry had run its course
  - o Jesus has effectively been launched into his ministry by his forerunner and prophet – John the Baptist.
- The Spirit played a pivotal role in both:
  - o Empowering John to make ready the way of the Messiah
  - o Jesus' messianic ministry (Matt 12:28, 32 – if it is by the Holy Spirit that Jesus has the power to drive out demons).

*How did John help transition from old covenant to new covenant?*

What we have here is that the Holy Spirit has always been an active agent in pushing forward God's creative process:

- Whether forming the initial creation
- Or the new creation through Christ
- Forming the people through the exodus
- Acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God
- Launching and empowering Jesus into his earthly ministry
- Paving the way through John the Baptist.
- And in forming the new kingdom community in Acts 2.

The Spirit is a creative and empowering force that has always been at work in the world and among the people of God.

**Application:**

*We often have a strong divide between the Old and New Testaments, how are they far more connected than we often realize?*

*What benefits do we have in the new covenant in Christ that people didn't have under the old covenant?*

**Prayer time:**

Ask God to continue to use the Spirit to shape us and form us. Thank God for the community of the faithful, the church, and ask God to bless and grow His church through our Spirit-empowered and Spirit-informed efforts.

## Lesson 6: Holy Spirit and the Ministry of Jesus

### Jesus' miracles & the Holy Spirit

**Matthew 3** – Jesus' baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit

**Matthew 4:1** – the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tested.

The Spirit doesn't show up again in Matthew until Matthew 10:20 where Jesus sends out the 12 and prophesies to them that they will give testimony before rulers and authorities and that the Holy Spirit will assist them with what to say (Matt 10:20).

**Luke 4:14** – Jesus goes from the wilderness to Galilee also in the power of the Spirit.

**Luke 4:18** – Isaiah fulfilled in Jesus. The Spirit empowers Jesus to fulfill his earthly mission.

*Have you ever connected the power of Jesus to do miracles with the power of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?*

Then in Matthew 12 we have Jesus' disciples plucking grain on the Sabbath. Pharisees accused them of breaking the law. Then in **12:9-14** Jesus heals on the Sabbath

- Jesus informs them that he has precedent to do this citing David in the OT
  - o More than precedent – the message is that Jesus is king in the line of David
- Jesus informs them that he has authority to do this as he is greater than the temple and the priests who also break Sabbath and no one complains because they are doing their duty.
  - o More than that – Jesus is aligning himself as greater than the priests and the temple
  - o Both this and the above David connection would make his opponents angry.
  - o If Sabbath restrictions are relaxed for the priests – then why not for the Messiah who is greater?
- Jesus is also doing the work of God.
- **12:14** – Jesus heals a man and they plot to kill him.

*What does this have to do with the Holy Spirit?*

- Their denial of the power of God to heal whenever and however God sees fit is a direct attack on the Holy Spirit.
- We see that in what follows.

### **Matt 12:15-21**

- The Spirit of the Lord is on Jesus to do what God wills.
- He will not snuff out those who are barely hanging on but instead will deliver a message of justice.
- Then what happens next...
- Jesus reminds them of his mission – he is not making a ruckus in Jerusalem – he is going about Galilee healing people and preaching the kingdom! (In line with Isaiah).

## **Matt 12:22-32**

- Holy Spirit empowers Jesus to cast out demons – **12:28**

### **Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit**

- They cannot deny the events and healings themselves
- They must account for where the power comes from
- If Jesus is a lawbreaker (which he isn't, they are mistaken) then only 1 other person has this power – the devil (here called the Lord of the flies) – they are calling Jesus the devil.
- *What is Jesus' response to that?*
  - o Bind up the Strong man
  - o *Who is the strong man?*
  - o Satan's plan of world domination wouldn't look as they describe!

### Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit:

- What does Jesus say that means?
- What prompted Jesus to warn them not to do this?

### *Sum up blasphemy of the Holy Spirit in your own words?*

- Denying the direct work of the Spirit as the Spirit does so right before one's eyes

### *Is it possible to blaspheme the Spirit today? Why or why not?*

### **Summary:**

- The Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' miracles
- The Holy Spirit is infused in Jesus' teaching.
- This is similar to the Spirit's role in the OT only far more interconnected with Jesus.
- The Spirit is pushing forth the messianic reign...inaugurating the kingdom, etc.

### **Application:**

*What do you think about the idea that the same Holy Spirit is in you, if you are a Christian, that empowered the miracles of Jesus?*

*How might the Spirit help us to do the will of God?*

*What are some things in your life that need the Spirit's help to overcome?*

### **Prayer time:**

Ask the Spirit to empower us to live holy lives. Praise God for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us.

## Lesson 7: The Holy Spirit in Acts

**Acts 2:22** reminds us that the launch of the church is 2.0 of the incarnation of Jesus.

- Just as the Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism and from there Jesus went on to do miraculous deeds by the power of the Spirit...now the apostles are doing miraculous things by the power of the Spirit.

Before we get into Acts, let's review:

- The Spirit empowered various people in the OT
- The Prophets spoke of the role of the Spirit in the kingdom of God and the coming messianic age
- Jesus did his ministry by the power of the Spirit and also taught about the future role of the Spirit in the new covenant
- Jesus instructed them to wait on the Spirit's arrival in **Acts 1**
- **Acts 2** – the Spirit comes and everything we see from that point forward about the Spirit is all the prophets and Jesus said the Spirit would do in advancing the purposes of God in the new covenant.
- 

**Acts 1:4-5** – go to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit's arrival

- Notice Jesus calls it “the gift my father has promised...you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit” (NIV)
- **Acts 2:38** – the gift of the Holy Spirit
- “Gift” is not in **1:4** but is supplied
- NASB – “he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised...”
- Literally “the promise of the Father” = which is the NASB footnote
  - o The paraclete (counselor/strengthenener) – same word in Jesus' teachings in John.

**Acts 1:8** – the outline of Acts (it will be by the Spirit's presence and power that this happens)

**Acts 2** – the coming of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire (fulfilling what was spoken by John the Baptist – **Matt 3:11** – **fire and the Spirit**)

**Acts 2/Joel 2** – this was prophesied by Joel = this is that.

**Acts 2:33** – acknowledgement of the Spirit's work

**Acts 2:38** – the promise/gift of the Spirit coming upon the converts to Christianity.

- This is for you and your children and all who are far off.

From this point on it is the Spirit of God directing and empowering people toward God's end goals.

Acts 2 quoting Joel 2 isn't the only place we see the apostles acknowledge the Spirit predicting the things that were happening. We also see it in:

- Acts 1:16
- Acts 4:25
- Acts 28:25

The Spirit was also at work helping them say the right things:

- Acts 2:33
- Acts 4:8

Not just the apostles but all Christians:

- Acts 2:38
- Acts 4:31
- Acts 5:32 (given to all who obey him)

Lying to the church is lying to the Spirit – **Acts 5:3, 9** (see also **Acts 7:51** where rejecting the message of Jesus is resisting the Spirit because the Spirit is guiding people toward truth...to reject the truth is to resist the Spirit's work.)

The Spirit is a part of communal discernment and deacon selection - **Acts 6:3-5**

The Spirit's role in discerning Gentile requirements - **Acts 15:28**

Spirit directs the mission of the church:

- **Acts 8:29** – the Spirit told Philip to talk to the Ethiopian
- **Acts 8:39** – the Spirit took Philip to another place
- **Acts 13:2-4** – the Spirit set apart and sent Paul and Barnabas
- **Acts 20:22-23** – The Spirit pushing Paul toward Jerusalem and the Spirit warning him of the trouble he will face there

**Acts 10** – the gospel to the Gentiles...even the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles (God making His presence in the temple of Gentile converts!)

- The Spirit spoke not just through Peter but to Peter – **10:19** – to inform him of what was about to happen and to go along with it.
- The Spirit's work was preparatory.

Order here seems backwards in the giving of the Spirit to the Gentiles (Cornelius and his household) – **10:44** the Spirit came on them and they are baptized afterward (**10:48** – their baptism).

- Acts 8 and elsewhere – people are typically baptized and then receive the Spirit.

*Why did God change things up this time?*

- God was using this to help Peter and the Jewish Christians understand what was truly happening. **Remember 10:28**

**Acts 11:1-18** – Peter explains his actions to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

- The same story as **Acts 10** is retold
- **11:18** is their reaction

**Acts 11:19-30** – often missed passage of the continued spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles

**Acts 15** – the Gentile story is told once more and that the Spirit was the sign of God's acceptance (**15:8**)

- The Spirit's role in their discerning Gentile requirements
  - o These three things were all specified in the Torah about foreigners
  - o These three things kept them from continuing their pagan practices
  - o That would be what is most objectionable about fellowshiping Gentiles was association with their pagan ways
  - o **Acts 15** stopped that.

**Acts 16:6-7** – the Spirit doesn't just send them places (like **Acts 13 & 20:22-23**) the Spirit also keeps them from places they shouldn't go

*Does the Spirit direct us today? Does the Spirit inform and direct missionaries on their journeys? Why or why not?*

**Acts 20:28** – Paul's goodbye to the Ephesian elders teaches us a little taught fact – that the Spirit has a role in the initiation of elders (just like the Spirit did with deacons in **Acts 6** only more directly – there they had to be Spirit-filled people...here the Spirit is the one installing them as elders).

**Acts 21:11** – the Spirit's role in prophesy (that is the word we haven't been using but it is what is happening whether it is Paul or Peter or whoever).

**Application:**

Most, if not all, of the people in your group are Gentiles (non-Jews). So this chapter is "good news!" God has approved of people to come to salvation apart from the Law and it was the Spirit who showed the way.

*How do you feel about God accepting you and loving you the way He does?*

*Do you ever struggle to believe that or accept that?*

*How might the Spirit's presence as a gift to you give you some assurance of that?*

**Prayer time:**

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving that God has allowed you into His great big family.

## Lesson 8: Holy Spirit in Paul

**A lot of ground to cover here. We are going to have to split this into a few pieces.**

Remember **John 14:26** – it is God who gives the Spirit

**1 Thessalonians 4:7** – It is God who is the giver of the Spirit

- This is what Jesus taught as well – **John 14:26**

Remember **Acts 2:38** – the Spirit's role in conversion?

- **1 Thess 1:5-9** – the Spirit plays a role in conversion
  - Consistent with Peter at Pentecost and elsewhere in Acts where people receive the message (are baptized) and receive the Spirit. Paul doesn't mention baptism here.

Remember **Acts 1:8** – you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

- **Gal 3:2-5** says something similar to **1 Thess 4:7** – believers receive the Spirit and it is by the Spirit that miracles are worked among the Galatians. It is God who supplies the Spirit to believers/Christians.
- How do we get in Christ?
  - **Gal 3:26-28** – baptism is clothing ourselves with Christ
    - In the Old Testament taking off and putting on clothing was metaphorical of an internal change – **Isaiah 61:10 & Zech 3:3-5** (James Dunn, Baptism in the Spirit, 110).
    - Some try to say baptism is just figurative – symbolic of what God has already done
    - The New Testament talks about baptism as efficacious – it has an actual effect on the one who submits to it.
  - **3:28** – baptism connects us with God's covenantal promise making us heirs of that promise.
- **Gal 4:1-7** – it is not the Torah that makes us children of God but the Spirit who brings us in and who testifies to the fact that we are God's children
- **Gal 4:6-7** where the Spirit not only connects us to the promise but then confirms this as well
- **Gal 4:8-11** doesn't mention the Spirit but if you take out the heading after verse 7 it flows right into the fact that the resulting work of the Holy Spirit is that we both know God and can be known by God (4:9).

*What do you think about actually being a child of God through the Spirit?*

Remember **John 6:63** where Jesus contrasts the flesh and the Spirit and the result of living by either one?

- Paul also contrasts flesh and Spirit in a few places: **Galatians 5:16-25** (works of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit) as well as **Romans 8**.

- *What two things does Galatians 5:22-26 tells happen if we belong to Christ?*
  - we have crucified the flesh (what Paul calls the old man of sin in Romans 6 via baptism)
  - we then live by the Spirit (this is spiritual resurrection language similar to Romans 6 – dying and rising in baptism)

We will therefore live by the Spirit and be guided by the Spirit – enlivened by the Spirit – driven/empowered to live our life by the power of the Spirit within us.

### **Paul contrasts the Spirit and flesh in Romans 8:1-11**

- God first, through Jesus and then through the Spirit, has done what the Law couldn't do
- God has condemned sin, fulfilling the requirement of the Law
- So that we might walk/live according to the Spirit of God and not the flesh
- There are two forces that drive/empower our will and existence – the flesh and the Spirit
- We are all living according to one or the other
- Our desires line up with one or the other
- We set our minds on one or the other
- We are the children of God and the people indwelt by the Spirit (8:9)
- This marks our belonging to God (see also **Eph 1:13**)

*If you belong to God then who do you not belong to?*

*Why is this important?*

### **The importance of indwelling:**

- You are of the Spirit if the Spirit of God lives in you (**Rom 8:9**)
- If Christ is in you (presumably by the Spirit) even though your body dies you have life through the Spirit (**8:10**) – see also **8:12-13**
- The Spirit guarantees and empowers our resurrection (**8:10**)

See also **8:12-13** – if you live by the flesh you will die but if you live by the Spirit you will live

*What does it mean to live by the flesh?*

### **This brings us to Paul's temple language:**

- Hinted at in Romans 8
- Stated bluntly in **1 Cor 6:19**
  - See **6:12-20** where we also have a flesh/Spirit dichotomy in Paul's argument against the flesh and its desires
  - You cannot indulge those because you are the temple of God just as you wouldn't bring in pagan idolatry into the temple in Jerusalem – why? Because the holy God of the universe dwells there and he will not be in the presence of such things
  - Then neither can we

### **The Spirit is also deeply connected with grace**

- Sometimes Holy Spirit gifts are called “Spiritual gifts” other times they are called charismatic gifts (charisma from charis = grace).
- Because these gifts were given by no merit of those who received them - Holy Spirit gifts are gifts of grace.

**1 Cor 12:1-11** – charisma (**12:4**) – “that which is freely and graciously given”

**Eph 4:1-16** – this is especially prevalent (See especially **4:4-7** which links the Spirit and the grace of God).

### **Here is how the Spirit and grace are linked:**

Those who rely on the Spirit must rely on grace. Those who reject grace see no need for the Spirit because one who rejects the need for grace affirms their ability and power to be obedient/righteous apart from the continuous sanctification by God through the Spirit.

### **Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

- God is gifting the church to fulfill her commission.
- The miraculous spiritual gifts are called *spiritual* gifts because they are from the Holy Spirit
- Holy Spirit = agios *pneuma*
- Spiritual gifts – *pneumatikos* (means “having to do with the spirit”).
- **12:4** further clarifies the spiritual things being talked about – charismata “that which is freely given” = gift.

### **Application:**

*What sort of spiritual things is Paul discussing starting in 12:1?*

*How does God gift the church today by the Spirit?*

*What kinds of gifts, if any, are still present today?*

### **Prayer time:**

Thank God for the gifts He gives through the Spirit. Thank God for the grace that He also so freely gives because without that grace we would all be lost!

## Lesson 9: The Holy Spirit in Paul – Part 2

### Paul's experience with the Spirit in Acts

#### Paul's conversion – Acts 9

- **9:17-19** – Paul is baptized and receives the Spirit

#### Paul and the early Christians hear a message from the Spirit

- **13:2-4** – The Spirit audibly calls out Paul and Barnabas for mission work and sends them to Cyprus

*Do you think of the Spirit having a voice? Why or why not?*

#### Paul spoke by the Spirit (which is the very definition of prophesy):

- **13:9** – Paul said something by means of the Spirit

#### Paul received direction from the Spirit:

- **16:6** – kept by the Spirit from preaching in Asia
- **16:7** – kept by the Spirit from preaching in Bithynia

#### Paul imparted the Spirit to new Christians by the laying on of hands

- **19:6** – Paul helps converts receive the Spirit by the laying on of hands

#### Paul receives direct guidance from the Spirit to go to Jerusalem and a warning from the Spirit about what will happen there

- **20:22-24** – the Spirit compels Paul to go to Jerusalem
  - o **21:10-11** – confirmed by a prophesy from Agabus to Paul (the work of the Spirit)
- **21:4** – the disciples are warning Paul to not go to Jerusalem also by the Holy Spirit!
- See also **21:11-15**

#### Paul spoke in tongues:

- **1 Cor 14:6, 14** & especially **14:18**

#### Paul wrote and taught by the Spirit:

- **1 Cor 2:10-13** – Paul and the other believers had knowledge that has been revealed to them by the Spirit
  - o How?
    - By prophesy, tongues and the interpretation of those tongues
    - As well as by the Spirit himself speaking to them.
- **1 Cor 7:10-12** where Paul seems to differentiate his opinion from inspired teaching OR Paul is saying Jesus never taught on this but Paul is going to teach on it.
- We clearly have Paul speaking Spirit inspired prophesy in **Acts 13:9**

Paul understood that his letters were a work of the Spirit and that when they were being read, it was representative of Paul being present with them by the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor 5:3-5 (Gordon Fee, “Listening to the Spirit in the Text”, 98).

Paul received personal confirmation by the Spirit that his teaching was correct – **Rom 9:1**

- This could well be like he received confirmation of other things by the Spirit in Acts – possibly even by an audible voice of the Spirit speaking.

The Spirit impacted Paul’s prayer life – **Rom 8:15**

- By the Spirit we cry Abba father as the Spirit testifies to the legitimacy of our adoption as children of God
- The Spirit intercedes in speaking to the Father on our behalf – **Romans 8:26-27**

*In light of Romans 8:26-27 how does the Holy Spirit affect our prayer life today?*

Paul had a relationship with the Spirit.

- Paul received the Spirit at his baptism
- The Spirit guided him
- The Spirit informed him
- The Spirit even blocked him and his mission in order to point him the right direction.
- The Spirit was the source of Paul’s hope – **Rom 15:13**
- Spirit was the source of their joy – **Rom 15:13 & 1 Thess 1:6**
- The Spirit gifted Paul with miraculous gifts of both prophesy and speaking in tongues in order to carry on his mission to the Gentiles as evidenced by the power of God at work in his ministry.

*How can the Spirit give us hope like He did Paul?*

What did Paul teach about the Spirit?

- We have already gone over several things
- One of those things was the indwelling of the Spirit = the Spirit’s presence in the life of the believer and that is what makes us a temple of God because God’s Spirit is in us (**1 Cor 6:19 & 3:16**).
  - o We went over Paul’s teaching there on sexual immorality and defiling ourselves as God’s temple.

That brings us, though, to a point we haven’t discussed...

The Spirit’s role in sanctification:

- One of the Spirit’s roles is essential to our salvation – it is the Spirit’s role in sanctification of the believer
  - o Sanctify = to clean/make holy.
- Have you ever wondered why we need the Spirit and receive it at baptism?
  - o Because God is making us holy by the presence and work of His Holy Spirit

- The temple of God is holy ground
- It is sanctified space
- The priest must sanctify the temple for it to be appropriate for the worship and presence of God.
- Since we are God's temple – we too must be sanctified and it is the Spirit who does that work.
  - o Back to **1 Cor 6:19** – back up to **6:11** – sanctification by the Spirit to be the temple of God.
  - o **Romans 8:11** – it is the Spirit who gives life to our mortal bodies (baptism – Rom 6 from death to life)
  - o **Rom 15:16** – the Gentiles are sanctified (made holy) by the Holy Spirit
  - o **Titus 3:5** – washing and renewal by the Spirit
  - o **2 Thess 2:13** – sanctifying work of the Spirit

*What does it mean to be the temple of God by the presence of the Spirit in us?*

Thus we have access to the Father by the Spirit – **Eph 2:18**

What else does the Spirit do?

- Seal of ownership on us – **2 Cor 1:22, 5:5, Eph 1:13 & 2 Tim 1:14**
- Receive glory as those who are sanctified by the Spirit – 2 Cor 3:18...also mentioned in **Romans 8:30**
- Gives us not only revelation by prophesy and tongues but also wisdom and revelation (**Eph 1:17, 3:5 & Col 1:9**)
- Spirit empowers our ministry – **Eph 3:16 & 2 Tim 1:7**
- Unifies us – **Eph 4:3** – how so? By giving us life, sanctifying us and gifting us all for the same purpose – we are united by the Holy Spirit. When we promote division we are speaking and acting against the work of the Spirit.

**Application:**

*The Spirit unifies the church but how have discussion of the Spirit often divided the church?*

*Why is the Holy Spirit such a controversial topic for discussion?*

**Prayer time:**

Pray for our unity through the Spirit even while discussing the Spirit! Pray for clarity and guidance to understand the work of the Spirit not just in the Bible but today as well.

## Lesson 10: Holy Spirit Wrap Up

We wrap up with two things: review and application.

Review:

- We have examined the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the entirety of the Bible.
  - o The Spirit is personal (masculine “He”...only something personal can be “grieved” impersonal spiritual forces cannot be grieved.
  - o The Spirit’s work is consistent (God’s presence and God’s empowerment)
  - o The Spirit’s work is progressive
    - changes some of how He operates across the testaments – from on to in
    - from places to people.
- The Spirit comes in Jesus’ place
  - o Jesus ascends and the Spirit comes in power to launch the new covenant community
- The Spirit’s role in bringing unity to believers
  - o As we are all recipients of the same Spirit and all gifted by the same Spirit...we are to maintain the unity that God has given to us by the Spirit (in the bond of peace).

Restoration/CofC Historical interpretations:

- Less than consistent
- Differ on how the Spirit operates in the life of the believer (Word only vs direct operation of the Spirit)
- Differ on indwelling today or not
- Differ on miraculous gifts today vs the first century.

The idea that there has been one consistent view on the Spirit in Churches of Christ doesn’t hold up.

Conclusion – we need to listen to what wise people of the past have taught in regard to the Spirit. Scripture trumps tradition – you and we must sit down with the texts and wrestle with what the Bible says on this to make application today. We must be fully convinced in our minds of the truth on this. We must approach this matter in love and humility, recognizing these are 500 level classes in the College of Spiritual maturity.

**John 3:1-8**

- Jesus’ teaching here is very confusing to Nicodemus.
- We understand much more of what Jesus is talking about in retrospect
- Two births: natural and spiritual = born again
- Our baptism is a birth of water and the Spirit

The wind blows wherever it pleases – so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

- We try to lock the Spirit into a box of predictability.
- We try to tell the Spirit what He can or cannot or will/will not do
- But that is not the way the Spirit operates.

If we have free will to choose to do as we will do – how much more so does the Spirit of God?

We must be careful in this discussion to not speak ill of the Spirit or to ever attribute the working of the Spirit to evil – blasphemy of the Spirit is just such a thing.

So we speak of the Spirit with care – just as we speak the name of God with great care and respect.

### **Application:**

*What kind of application can we make out of all of this?*

Part of the application depends on what you believe the Spirit is doing in the world today.

- If you don't believe the Spirit operates today apart from just the Bible then it makes no sense to seek the Spirit's guidance (the Spirit will guide you in all truth – Jesus said it but if you believe that was just for them to write down the Bible then that has implications on your application).
- If you do believe the Spirit works in the world today – empowers God's people, leads us in truth, speaks to God on our behalf (**Rom 8**) then it makes sense that we appeal to the Spirit's leading and empowering in these areas.

If you do believe the Spirit works today then that bears making application:

- We appeal to the Spirit's working in our lives (that is not to the neglect of the Scriptures as the Scripture and the Spirit work in tandem – remember the scriptures are “god breathed” just as the Spirit is breath. They are inspired by the work of the Holy Spirit – so part of being guided by the Spirit is to be in the Word.
- We ask the Spirit to illuminate the words of scripture
- We ask the Spirit to bring to mind the text to us in our time of need (which presupposes you have read it).
- We ask the Spirit in our weakness to speak to God on our behalf to reflect to the Father what is truly on our hearts that we cannot express
- We appeal to the Spirit for the unity of the church especially in times of tension and division.
- We seek the Spirit's guidance as a congregation – to make clear to us the will of the Father.

So here is what I encourage you to do:

- I encourage you to be in the word of God daily
  - o No matter what your view on the Spirit is – this works either way

- I encourage you to pray about this – that God would help you understand these things as they truly are.
- As you open the pages of scripture you start with a prayer – God, please give me wisdom to understand what I am reading.
- Or as we see in **Acts 8** with Philip and the Ethiopian – Lord, please send someone who can help me understand what I am reading.
- **James 1:5** – God gives generously to those who ask him for wisdom.
- No matter what your view on the Spirit is – these are things we can do.

Now, if you believe the Spirit is openly active in your life then you might consider the following,

- Praying for God’s restorative and sanctifying work in your life
- Praying for God to actively draw you closer to himself...to tune your heart in with His own
- Praying that the Spirit help shape our desires to be more in line with the Father’s desires.
- Increase your grace – as we realize that God is gracefully working in our lives by the power of the Spirit – that we too must extend grace to those God puts in our path.
- To understand our Spirit-given gifts that God has gifted us in this congregation with (not all the gifts of the Spirit were first century things – what are the other gifts lists?
  - o **Eph 4:11** – apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers
  - o **Rom 12:6-8** – serving, teaching, exhortation/encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy
  - o **1 Cor 12:8-10** – word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith
  - o **1 Cor 12:28** – apostle, prophet, teaching, help, administration

The gifts of the Spirit to the church are more far reaching than what we typically think of as miraculous gifts:

- Healing, resurrection, tongues, prophesy, interpretation of tongues, etc
- These other gifts are still very much possibly given to the church today.
- We can identify these and use these to the advantage and advancement of the kingdom.
- When each part does its work the body is unified, built up, etc.

**Prayer Time:**

Pray that God helps us deal with each other patiently in these matters and with an attitude of grace and mercy.

## Appendix A: The Holy Spirit and Restoration History

*This appendix borrows heavily from John Mark Hicks & Bobby Valentine's book "Kingdom Come: Embracing the Spiritual Legacy of David Lipscomb and James Harding."*

**Eph 4:3** – Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- Discussions on the Holy Spirit have often been anything but uniting and
- Anything but peaceful.

The Spirit was given as a gift to strengthen and unify the church.

- Too often conversations and debates on the Spirit have not been done in a tone consistent with the Spirit himself or His purpose – no matter what your view on the Spirit is, that is troubling.

A few purposes of tonight's class:

- Give you some history of how the Spirit's has been viewed in Churches of Christ over the years.
- Help you understand the various positions/arguments
- Help you be aware of your own potential biases and influences going to the text to help clear them out of the way, no matter where you are on this issue.

### **Views on the Spirit in Churches of Christ: Diversity of views rather than assumed continuity**

Often we assume that when we talk about a particular teaching in the Churches of Christ we come to it with the assumption that we are all teaching the same thing because we are all striving to be biblical and the Bible says what it says.

We don't always have uniform interpretations today and we certainly don't always have them in our history. Scripture is our guide – scripture points to the truth – scripture must be read and interpreted.

Tracing interpretations through very specific people and places over the last 200+ years.

As you come to understand the position you hold, you may also want to know the lineage of that position. We also have to acknowledge the idea that we don't come to anything with our minds a blank slate – things like culture, preconceived ideas, etc can all play a role to influence how we interpret the Bible.

- This is true today
- This is true over our history.
- 

There are several lines of thinking within Churches of Christ on the work of the Holy Spirit today. The lines of thinking are influenced by scripture and have a history that we can trace to a large degree.

Sum up the basics:

1 – Cessation of miraculous gifts (Word only) – The miraculous work of the Holy Spirit has stopped at the completion of the New Testament canon – the Spirit now works only through the recorded words of scripture.

2 – Continued work of the Spirit with scripture and apart from scripture

- we have typically not taken a Pentecostal route on this saying at least in some way, shape or form the Spirit still works but not entirely as we see in the NT.
- Others would say the Spirit works as in the NT days in other places and cultures around the world as they seem to experience it but that we don't experience it in the Western Church – we need to be careful to not say that because it doesn't seem to be prevalent here means it cannot happen anywhere.
- Of those who don't believe in cessation/Word only – they typically believe the Spirit is at work today in less overtly miraculous ways...so certain things have ceased (resurrection, healing, speaking in tongues, prophesy) and we left with the Spirit-inspired word AND the Spirit is still at work in various ways in the church today. This last one is my view.

Associated with these discussions is whether or not the Holy Spirit personally indwells believers today.

- So the first part of the discussion is about how the Spirit operates – miraculously or not and miraculously in the same way the Spirit did in the NT or miraculously in another way today
- The second part is about the presence of the Spirit in the life of the believer.

**Restoration history:** Let's look at Restoration History on the Holy Spirit and talk about how we got to where we are today.

### **Restoration Movement – Part 1 Stone-Campbell Movement**

- Barton Stone
- Alexander Campbell

Barton Stone was much more a proponent of the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Campbell was not as strong a proponent of the work of the Spirit as Stone. You have two strands of thought that run through our movement going back to the early 1800s.

Campbell taught that the Spirit operates through the word/Bible. (his debate with Rice) – the big debate here centered more on conversion than anything else – Campbell was fighting back against the idea that the Spirit worked/operated directly on the heart/mind of a person apart from the Word of God.

- Like we said last week – word only isn't saying the Spirit isn't working today...it is saying the Spirit is working in conjunction with the reading of the Word/Bible.
- Stone & Campbell both believed in the indwelling of the Spirit – it was just that Stone thought the Spirit could work apart from the word and Campbell did not.

#### Cane Ridge revival:

- Did you know that “What has been described as the largest and most famous camp meeting of the Second great awakening...was the Cane Ridge Revival led by none other than Barton Stone – drew 10-20k people” - wikipedia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Great awakening was a larger church movement in the early days of the United States that had very emotional and Holy Spirit involved meetings. - wikipedia

#### **Restoration Movement – Nashville vs Texas**

Roughly 100 years later there were more divisions on the views of the Spirit in the Restoration Movement. (Valentine and Hicks – “Kingdom Come”, 17-20)

- Texas Tradition as found in the Firm Foundation – word only, no personal indwelling, salvation not just by baptism but by a very particular understanding by the baptizee of the baptism.
  - o This gained strength in CofC through the 1940s-1950s through Whiteside (Sound Doctrine) and Foy Wallace
  - o They equated the kingdom of God with the Church of Christ established at Pentecost – out of that came the view we are the only ones going to heaven.
  - o Foy Wallace
    - Believed in Word-only and that the dwelling of the Spirit in the life of the believer was the same as the dwelling of the word which is also said to “dwell in you richly” that the Spirit operates solely through the written word of Scripture. That the gift of the Holy Spirit wasn't a gift into a person or a people but the gifts the Spirit gives the church.
- Nashville tradition (Lipscomb in Gospel Advocate and Harding) – these men founded Lipscomb University and Potter Bible college in Bowling Green. They were editors of brotherhood publications.
  - o They found their view between the Firm Foundation (conservative) and the disciples/Christian church (more liberal)

#### James Harding quotes:

- James Harding – “Does the Holy Spirit do anything now except what the Word does? Do we get help, any kind or in any way, from God except what we get by studying the Bible? Does God answer our prayers by saying, “Study the Bible?”
- James Harding – “Mark you, it does not matter how much you may read the Bible, nor how much you delight in it or go by it this will not prevent the other train from smashing into yours, if there be no superhuman intervention – no overruling providence. I am so glad God has not withdrawn himself and left us to our own resources.”
- James Harding – “Scripture does not teach that the Bible alone thoroughly furnishes the man of God for every good work, but that the Bible in addition to what had already

been given does so...I am as far as the East is from the West from believing that neither God, Christ nor the Holy Spirit can help us except by talking to us.”

- Harding believed in conversion it was the Spirit working through the word (word only) but in the life of the Christian the Spirit indwelt and helped post-conversion.
- This is something people often fail to differentiate (the work of the Spirit pre/post-conversion) – Hicks and Valentine point that out.
- Harding believed the Spirit worked in the life of the Christian to enable and empower us to live the life we are called to live.

J.C. Holloway disagreed with Harding in the work of the Spirit...this gives you a taste of what people were saying (1905) – “Since revelation was completed, the Spirit works through, in and by the Word as the only medium. My teaching inspires profound respect for the record of the Spirit as the Word of God. It gives the system of human redemption...a most rational aspect, and enables men to grasp it...Reduced to an epitome, it is this – The Holy Spirit is the only authentic agent, the words of the Holy Spirit the only medium.” – quoted Hicks & V.

So you had a Mississippi river divide in Churches of Christ and our view on the Kingdom of God and the Holy Spirit.

After that in the 40s-60s you had publications and debates that furthered the divide:

- Sain-Batts debate between Church of Christ and Church of God (Pentecostal) over baptism and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Anti-indwelling/miraculous working

- Leroy Brownlow, Why I am a Member of the Church of Christ
  - Reason 22 – “because it teaches that the miraculous manifestations of the Spirit have ceased”
  - This probably sums up a typical word only view as well as any,
    - Jesus promised the Spirit to remind them of what he taught so they could pass it on to others
    - Role of the Spirit in ministry of both Jesus and the Apostles performed miracles to authenticate their message – spur faith
    - Once scripture was recorded these things weren’t needed.
    - Apostles spoke/wrote by inspiration of the Spirit to know what to say
  - What is more, in the NT we see the apostles being the ones imparting Holy Spirit gifts to people (we don’t know that entirely but we do have that example). Since only the apostles could give these gifts to others it would imply that once they died there wasn’t anyone with the authority to bestow those miraculous gifts on others – limits it to the first century).
  - The gifts were no longer needed once the word was established/written
  - **Eph 4:8-13** (until)
  - **1 Cor 13:8-10** (prophesy tongues done away)

- Some teach that the telos cannot be heaven because when it appears there won't be a need for hope.

Pro-indwelling and working:

- K.C. Mosier – way of salvation
- Garth Black – sweet publication
- Harvey Floyd – professor at Lipscomb

Here is what is truly being combatted and resisted:

- There was a popular belief in a number of denominations that the Holy Spirit worked (was efficacious) in producing faith in people apart from themselves – this is part of Calvinism (which AC came out of) – predestination, etc.
- AC, Stone, Lipscomb, Harding, etc – none of them say the Spirit isn't at work at all – even word only people don't usually say that – just in how the Spirit works.

Again, tease apart the work of the Spirit in initial salvation vs continued work of the Spirit in the life of the Christian.

What I believe to be the right view:

- In the NT – it was standard for Christians to have the Spirit
- This was a mark that they were actually Christians
- This wasn't an unusual thing but the usual thing
- **Rom 8** – to not have the Spirit is to not be a Christian
- I see no reason why that should have ever changed
- We are talking about the kingdom of God breaking into this world through the messianic mission of Jesus the Christ and then the giving of the Spirit to the church in his absence.
- Christ is still absent, the Spirit is still with us, even in us.
- This is part of our being a temple of God – the Spirit in us
- This is a part of our resurrected living – the power of the Spirit resurrected Christ and the power of the Spirit is at work in our spiritual resurrection in baptism.
- Not mutually exclusive – the indwelling of the Spirit does not necessitate miraculous spiritual gifts today. In other words, just because we don't have the same miraculous gifts they did doesn't mean the Spirit doesn't indwell believers today.

A few concluding thoughts:

These can be difficult issues.

These are not salvation issues.

We must be careful in how we treat each other in discussing these issues – sometimes I see people violate all manner of scripture in order to prove their correctness. You cannot trample some scriptures in order to prove others.

## **Bibliography**

These are lesson notes from when I taught on the Holy Spirit in 2017. I made citations at the time where I borrowed the most heavily and directly and have gone back over these notes to make sure I recorded everything. Here are the resources that were used in studying for these lessons:

Baptism in the Holy Spirit By James D.G. Dunn

Christology in the Making By James D.G. Dunn

God's Empowering Presence by Gordon Fee

Listening to the Spirit in the Text by Gordon Fee

Kingdom Come: Embracing the Spiritual Legacy of David Lipscomb and James Hard by John Mark Hicks and Bobby Valentine

The Shadow of the Almighty by Ben Witherington III

Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament by Christopher Wright