

ST2-SS

The Work of the Holy Spirit, 2023

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[Indebted to Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, Ch. 30, “The Work of the Holy Spirit”]

INTRODUCTION: THE PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. In the opening words of the Bible, there is explicit reference to the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 1:1-2 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

It's clear that the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the world. We are not given details. But he was present. He was present to bless. The presence of the Holy Spirit does not dominate the Old Covenant epoch, but he is mentioned more than a few times. Repeatedly in the book of Judges, for example, we read of “the Spirit of the Lord coming upon” a given judge, especially in the life and ministry of Samson (Judges 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14).

The Spirit likewise came upon Saul and later upon David (1Sa 11:6; 16:13). Earlier in the OT period, we read of the Spirit equipping Bezalel and others with craftsmanship abilities, whereby they could do God's work effectively (Ex. 35:34).

But it is especially as the Old Covenant prophets began to speak of a new day and a new covenant that the Holy Spirit began to come into more prominence in the unfolding of redemption and revelation.

Is. 11:1-4 *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be*

in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Is. 32:14-18 *For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; ¹⁵ until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. ¹⁶ Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. ¹⁷ And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. ¹⁸ My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*

Is. 44:3 *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; **I will pour my Spirit** upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

Ezek. 36:26-27 *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

Joel 2:28-29 *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;***

*your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days **I will pour out my Spirit.***

FOUR ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: 1) He Empowers; 2) He Purifies; 3) He Reveals; and 4) He Unifies.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS

1. He Gives Life

1) In Creation- (Ps. 104:27-30)

2) In New Creation

i. INAUGURATED

John 3:3-7 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

2Co 3:5-8 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, **but the Spirit gives life**.⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses’ face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?

ii. CONSUMMATED

Rom. 8:9-11 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not

belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

2. The Holy Spirit Empowers for Service

1) Old Testament

i. The Holy Spirit empowered Joshua with leadership skills and wisdom.

Num. 27:16-18 “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation ¹⁷ who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” ¹⁸ So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, **a man in whom is the Spirit**, and lay your hand on him.

Deut. 34:9-10 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face...

ii. The HS empowered leaders to deliver Israel from their enemies.

Is. 63:11-12 Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹² who caused his glorious arm

to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name,

***Judges 6:32-34** Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, “Let Baal contend against him,” because he broke down his altar. ³³ Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ **But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon,** and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.*

***13:25** And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him (Samson)...*

***14:5-6** And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. ⁶ **Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him,** and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat.*

***14:19** And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle.*

***15:14-15** When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then **the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him,** and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. ¹⁵ And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.*

***1Sa 11:5-7** Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, “What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?” So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh. ⁶ **And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul** when he*

heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. ⁷ He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, “Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!” Then the dread of the LORD fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.

1Sa 16:11-13a Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” ¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. **And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.**

2) New Testament

i. The HS Empowered Jesus to fulfill his messianic mission.

Luke 3:21-22 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² **and the Holy Spirit descended on him** in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 4:13-15 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. ¹⁴ And Jesus returned **in the power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Luke 4:18-19 “**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the**

captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

ii. **The HS Has Empowered Christ's sent ones for ministry.**

*Acts 1:8 But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*4:8 Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders...*

*4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak** the word of God with boldness.*

*6:10 But they could not withstand the wisdom **and the Spirit with which he was speaking**.*

*1Th 1:5 ...because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in **power and in the Holy Spirit** and with full conviction.*

iii. **The HS Empowers His People for Service Through Gifting Them**

*1Co 12:7-11 To each is given **the manifestation of the Spirit** for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given **through the Spirit** the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge **according to the same Spirit**, ⁹ to another faith **by the same Spirit**, to another gifts of healing **by the one Spirit**, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish*

between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these **are empowered by one and the same Spirit**, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

iv. **The HS Empowers God's People to Pray Effectively**

Rom. 8:26-27 Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.

Eph. 2:17-18 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him **we both have access in one Spirit to the Father**.

II. **THE HOLY SPIRIT PURIFIES**

1Co 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and **by the Spirit of our God**.

Gal. 5:22-23a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control;

2Co 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are

being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2Th 2:13 *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*

Rom. 8:12-17 *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS

1. The HS Revealed God’s Words to the OT Prophets and NT Apostles

2Pe 1:21 *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

John 16:12-13 *I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

Luke 2:25-26 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And **it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

2. The HS Gives Evidence of God's Presence

Num. 11:25-26 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶ Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

John 7:37-39 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Rom. 8:15-17 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

1Co 1:20-22 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

3. The HS Guides and Directs God's People

Mark 1:11-13 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Acts 8:26-30 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

8:39-40 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Rom. 8:12-15 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the

Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

4. The HS Provides A Godlike Atmosphere When He Manifests His Presence

***John 16:8-11** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

***Rom. 5:5-6** ...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

5. The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Assurance

***Rom. 8:16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

***1Jn 3:24** Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.*

***4:13** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

6. The Holy Spirit Teaches and Illumines

1Co 2:11-15 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

Eph. 1:16-19 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might....

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT UNIFIES

Acts 2:16-18, 44 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

(44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Phil. 2:1-2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

CONCLUSION: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES STRONGER OR WEAKER EVIDENCE OF THE PRESENCE AND BLESSING OF GOD ACCORDING TO OUR RESPONSE TO HIM

Judges 16:20 And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” **But he did not know that the LORD had left him.**

1Sa 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.

Is. 63:9-10 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled **and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned** to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

Eph. 4:29-30 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1Th 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

Acts 5:9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together **to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

Heb. 10:29-30 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, **and has outraged the Spirit of grace?** ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

Remember what is at the heart of the New Covenant:

Ezek. 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.