

The Holy Spirit in the Bible

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Ignorance exists about the person of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Holy Spirit is not a ghost—He has all the characteristics of a person.
 - 1. He thinks (Acts 15:28); He speaks (Acts 1:16); He leads (Romans 8:14); and He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).
 - 2. He is sometimes described as the “Spirit of Christ” (Romans 8:9) or as the “Spirit of Jesus” (Acts 16:7).
- C. He is described in John 14:16 as the *parakletos*. (This Greek term is difficult to translate briefly, but it carries the idea of “one called alongside to help,” “counselor,” “comforter,” or “encourager.”)
- D. One of His ministries is to reveal the Person of Christ and His teachings to believers (John 16:5-7, 12-15).

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. The Holy Spirit was involved in creation (Genesis 1:1-2; 2:7).
- B. He came upon particular people at particular times for specific tasks.
 - 1. He enabled Bezalel to excel in artistic craftsmanship (Exodus 31:1-5).
 - 2. He empowered Gideon for leadership (Judges 6:14-16, 34).
 - 3. He empowered Sampson to bring deliverance to the Israelites (Judges 15:14-15).
 - 4. He spoke through the Old Testament prophets (Nehemiah 9:30).
- C. God promised to do something new through the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
 - 1. God made covenants with His people in the Old Testament.
 - 2. He promised to make a new covenant with His people that would be different.
from previous covenants (Jeremiah 31:31).
 - 3. He promised that the Holy Spirit would be given to all believers (Joel 2:28-29).
 - a. He would be given to all believers regardless of gender, age, or social status.
 - b. He would give believers a new ability to hear God.
 - c. He would be poured out on all believers in abundance.
 - 4. These promises in Joel were unfulfilled for hundreds of years.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. A trumpet sounds for new activity of the Holy Spirit surrounding the birth of Jesus.
 - 1. John the Baptist is filled with the Holy Spirit while in his mother’s womb (Luke 1:15).
 - 2. The Holy Spirit overshadows Mary at Jesus’ conception (Luke 1:35).

3. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesies concerning Jesus (Luke 1:41).
 4. Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesies about Jesus (Luke 1:67).
 5. Simeon is given revelation by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:25).
 6. Note that in each instance there is a tangible expression of the activity of the Holy Spirit, whether in words or actions.
- B. John the Baptist links Jesus with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16).
1. The Greek word translated “baptize” means to overwhelm or immerse.
 2. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22).
 3. After Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, He began His public ministry (Luke 4:1, 14, 18-19).
- C. Jesus predicted the Holy Spirit’s abiding presence in the lives of New Testament believers.
1. He promised that “rivers of living water”—representing the presence of the Holy Spirit—would flow from them (John 7:37-39).
 2. Jesus carefully prepared the disciples for His departure (John 14:8-21; 15:26-27; 16:5-7, 12-15).
 3. Jesus breathed on the disciples and imparted the Spirit to them (John 20:21-22).
 4. Jesus told the disciples to wait for the empowering of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8).
- D. The Holy Spirit plays a prominent role in the Church.
1. The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church (Acts 2:2-4).
 2. The promise in Joel was fulfilled at the Church’s beginning (Acts 2:17-21).
 3. Peter promised that believers will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit (2:38-39).
 4. The disciples are again filled with the Holy Spirit in a time of need (Acts 4:31).
 5. Several other instances of believers being filled with the Holy Spirit are recorded in the Book of Acts.
 - a. The Samaritan believers were filled (Acts 8:14-19).
 - b. The newly converted Saul (Apostle Paul) was filled (Acts 9:17).
 - c. The Gentile Cornelius and his household were filled (Acts 10:44-48).
 - d. The believers at Ephesus were filled (Acts 19:6).
 6. Paul admonishes believers to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
 7. The Holy Spirit ministers the love of God in the hearts of believers (Romans 5:5).
 8. The Spirit and the Bride invite Jesus to come again at the end of the Age (Revelation 22:17).
- E. Thus, the Holy Spirit is at work in the Bible from beginning to end.

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