

## The Empowering of the Spirit of God Through the Ages

From the beginning of creation, the Spirit of God was active in the world:

**Gen 1:1-2** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.

Joseph said, "Do not interpretations belong to God?" (Gen 40:8).

Yes, they do, and God gave Joseph to know the meaning of dreams

(Gen 41:1-37). Pharaoh recognized that God's Spirit was in Joseph:

**Gen 41:38** And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, **a man in whom the Spirit of God is?**

God told Moses that His spirit was in Bezaleel (Exo 35:30-31; 36:1-3), a usual expression signifying 'an excellent spirit' .... or 'a distinguished genius' for the work he had to perform. That 'filling' was connected with wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and skill. Though some call it 'natural talent' .... it is actually 'divine' .... from God (also Isa 28:23-29):

**Exo 31:1-5** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 See, I have called by name **Bezaleel** the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

3 And **I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,**

4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

Balak, king of Moab, called Balaam to curse Israel (Num 23:11, 24:10),

but he blessed them instead 3 times:

**Num 24:2** And **Balaam** lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and **the spirit of God came upon him.**

Gideon was 'clothed' with God's Spirit:

**Judges 6:34** But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

The Spirit of the LORD came upon judges .... as Jephthah (Judges 11:29) and Samson (Judges 15:20):

**Judges 15:14-16** And when he (Samson) came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

After Samson finally gave in to his wife Delilah's nagging and told her the truth of his great strength, she had his hair shaved (Judges 16:4-19).

So God 'left' him:

**Judges 16:20** And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

God's Spirit came upon King Saul and his messengers (1 Sam 19:20):

**1 Sam 10:9-11** And it was so, that when he (Saul) had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish?

Is Saul also among the prophets?

Later, God rejected Saul from reigning over Israel, and He instructed Samuel to anoint David as king (1 Sam 16:1-12). Then God's Spirit effected David and He took away His Spirit from Saul:

**1 Sam 16:13-14** Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him (David) in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

The scripture equates the Spirit of the LORD 'coming' upon David .... as 'the LORD being 'with' him.

**1 Sam 18:12** And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

When Nathan the prophet confronted David because he had gone in to Bathsheba and had her husband Uriah killed, he repented and prayed:

**Psa 51:11** Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

During old testament times, the Spirit of the LORD came upon the prophets and caused them to prophesy. God was 'with' those who obeyed Him:

**2 Chron 15:1-4** And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit of God in a bodily shape came upon Him:

**Matt 3:16-17** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:**

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son,  
in whom I am well pleased. (Luke 3:22)

Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth, read publicly from Isa 61:1-3,

and said this scripture was fulfilled then, when He was among them:

**Luke 4:18** **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,** because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them,

**This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

God's Spirit anointed (Acts 10:38) God's Son:

**John 3:34-35** For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for **God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.**

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

Jesus Christ was completely filled with the Spirit of God:

**Col 1:19** For it pleased the Father that **in him should all fulness dwell;**

Remember Exo 31:3, that the Spirit of God is wisdom and knowledge:

**Col 2:3, 9** In whom (Christ - Col 2:2) are hid all the treasures **of wisdom and knowledge.**

9 For **in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**

Jesus explained the Holy Spirit to His disciples as their Advocate, their

Defender, their Helper -- Who would stay with them and never leave them.

Jesus prophesied that God's Spirit would be 'in' them:

**John 14:16-18** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;  
 17 Even the Spirit of truth; (1 John 4: 1-6) whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.  
 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

This comforting truth was reaffirmed by God through Paul .... though 'mid-Acts-ers' allow no relation between the writings of Paul and others:

**2 Cor 1:3-4** Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;  
 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

The Father will send the Spirit in the Son's name .... to teach believers what they need to know and to help them remember the words of Christ that they have heard. This is an issue that 'mid-Acts dispensationalists' reject because they boldly disregard the words that Jesus spoke while He was on earth. They want nothing to do with 'earthly Jesus', but claim to ONLY follow PAUL. This is defiant to the purpose of the Holy Spirit's work:

**John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

It was necessary for Jesus to return to heaven ....

but He promised God's Spirit would be sent to His disciples:

**John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Jesus assured them not to worry or fear when they were delivered up to the councils to be scourged in the synagogues, before governors and kings for His sake, as a testimony against them and their persecutors .... because God's Spirit would speak for them, in them, through them:

**Matt 10:19-20** But when they deliver you up,  
take no thought how or what ye shall speak:  
for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.  
20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

John the Baptist (Matt 3:1) prophesied that Jesus would baptize believers with the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33).

**Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to those who believe:**

**John 7:37-39** In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.  
38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.  
39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Sending the Holy Spirit to indwell the saints was the Father's promise, that was spoken by the Son (Luke 11:13) .... baptism with the Holy Spirit:

**Acts 1:3-5** To whom (the apostles whom Jesus had chosen) also he (Jesus) shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**  
4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.  
5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

An angel of the Lord prophesied to John the Baptist's father (Luke 1:11-17) that John would be filled with the Spirit before he was born:

**Luke 1:15** For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. (John's mother Elisabeth (Luke 1:41) and his father Zacharias (Luke 1:67) were also filled with the Holy Ghost.)

The Holy Spirit was sent when the day of Pentecost was fully come (Acts 2:1-4), according to John and Jesus' prophecy of the promise of the Father.

Peter testified that God's promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost was for Israel (Acts 2:36), their children, and Gentiles (Eph 2:17, Rom 9:24, Isa 57:19):

**Acts 2:39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

God specifically sent Peter to Gentiles at Cornelius' house (Acts 10:47):

**Acts 10:44-45** While Peter yet spake these words,  
the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.  
 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished,  
 as many as came with Peter, because that  
on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 11:14-18** Who shall tell thee words,  
 whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.  
 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them,  
as on us at the beginning.  
 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said,  
 John indeed baptized with water;  
 but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.  
 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us,  
who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ;  
 what was I, that I could withstand God?  
 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace,  
 and glorified God, saying,  
Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

God gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles .... just like He did the Jews,  
as Peter also testified to the apostles, elders, and the church at Jerusalem:

**Acts 15:7-9** And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And **God**, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness,  
**giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;**

9 And put no difference between us and them,  
purifying their hearts by faith.

Saul (who was called Paul - Acts 13:9) was filled with God's Spirit:

**Acts 9:17** And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and **be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

Gentiles receive the blessing, the promise, the Spirit of God that was given to Israel initially. We are fellow-heirs WITH them (Eph 3:6) - not separate:

**Gal 3:14** **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we (Gentiles) might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.** (also prophesied in Isa 44:1-3, 59:20-21; and Ezek 11:19-20, 36:26-27; and realized in 1 Cor 2:12, 3:16; 2 Cor 5:5)

The Spirit of the LORD .... is the Spirit of GOD .... is the Spirit of CHRIST,

Who dwells in believers .... as we read in John 14:17 of the Spirit of truth:

**Rom 8:9-11** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit,  
if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you.**

**Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if **the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you,** he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies **by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

God the Father (Eph 3:14) putting His Spirit in our inner man ....

is the same as Christ dwelling in our hearts:

**Eph 3:16-19** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;

that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Christ is in our hearts. The Spirit of Christ is in our hearts ....

because we are adopted as God's children (Matt 5:9; John 11:52; Rom 9:8;

Gal 3:26; 1 John 3:10, 52):

**Gal 4:4-6** But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

The promise of the Father (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4) was the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 10:45) .... which He extended to the Gentiles:

**1 Thess 4:7-8** For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Spiritual baptism was taught by Ezekiel (Ezek 11:19, 36:26), John the Baptist and Jesus (Matt 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33), Paul (Rom 6:3-4; Gal 4:27, Eph 1:7, Col 2:12), and Peter (1 Pet 3:21).

'Mid-Acts Dispensationalists' teach 2 different spiritual baptisms, one during the book of Acts, and a different one in Paul's epistles .... but according to the SCRIPTURES .... there is only ONE:

**Eph 4:5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

The same Greek word <en> is translated 'by' and 'with' (as well as 'in', 'among', 'at', and 'through'). Baptism 'by' the Spirit is the same as baptism 'with' the Spirit:

**1 Cor 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

'Mid-Acts-ers' do not accept that the OLD TESTAMENT prophets had the Spirit of Christ in them .... that we have today .... but they did:

**Neh 9:30** Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

'Mid-Acts-ers' claim that 'the salvation' .... and 'the grace' .... and 'the Spirit of Christ' that Peter wrote .... were all different from what Paul wrote. They say that to protect a false paradigm. The Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ WAS IN the prophets. He is the same Christ (Heb 13:8) that indwells believers today, for there is only ONE (1 Cor 8:6) Jesus Christ:

**1 Peter 1:9-11** Receiving the end of your faith,  
even the salvation of your souls.

10 Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (that is the death and resurrection that was "according to the scriptures" in 1 Cor 15:3-11)

The prophets prophesied by the Spirit of Christ .... and of His death and resurrection. They also ministered to us .... who, at that time, were the 'future generations'. Men preached the gospel of Christ .... by the empowering of His Spirit:

**1 Peter 1:12** Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but **unto us they did minister the things,** which are now reported unto you by them that have **preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven;** which things the angels desire to look into.

When Jesus left the earth and went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to all (Acts 2:3-4, 1 Cor 12:13) who believe (John 17:19-20) and obey Him (Acts 5:32), that they may be one (John 17:21; Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 10:17, 12:12-20; Eph 2:16, 4:4; Col 3:15). The Spirit of truth testifies of Christ (John 15:26), and reproveth the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11). He guides believers into all truth and glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14).

Believers belong to the Lord and we are taught of God to depart from iniquity (2 Tim 2:19) and live soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:12):

**1 Cor 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of **the Holy Ghost which is in you,** which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: (the precious blood of Christ - Acts 20:28, Heb 9:12-14, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Rev 5:9) therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*  
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