

Understanding the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit and What is Pentecost?

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John 16:5-15

5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 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.

12 "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. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- **Holy Spirit** – In John 14-16, Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit teaches, brings to remembrance (14:26), bears witness (15:26), convicts (16:8), guides, hears, speaks, declares the future (16:13), and evidence of indwelling will be the glorification of Jesus (16:14).

Acts, where we read that the Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3–11), speaks (10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 21:11), and confers (15:28), and forbids (16:6). And in Paul's epistles the Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26), wills/decides (1 Corinthians 12:11), can be experienced in fellowship (2 Corinthians 13:14), can be grieved (Eph. 4:30), speaks (1 Timothy 4:1), and can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19). In each instance, these are the actions of a personal being, not an impersonal force.

Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Moved in creation, Cf. **Genesis 1:1-2**

In Joseph, Cf. **Genesis 41:38** (interpret dreams)

Filled Bezaleel, Cf. **Exodus 31:1-3** (craftsman for the tabernacle)

Came upon Balaam, Cf. **Numbers 24:1-2** (to prophecy)

Came upon Othniel, Cf. **Judges 3:9-10** (to judge)

Moved Samson at times, Cf. **Judges 13:24-25**

Came upon Samson, Cf. **Judges 14:6** (to lead Israel to victory)

Spoke through David, Cf. **2 Samuel 23:1-2** (to prophecy God's faithfulness)

Rested on Elisha, Cf. **2 Kings 2:15-16** (to endorse him as Elijah's successor)

Entered Ezekiel, Cf. **Ezekiel 2:1-3** (to prophecy)

Fell upon Ezekiel, Cf. **Ezekiel 11:4-5** (to prophecy)

Lifted Ezekiel up, Cf. **Ezekiel 11:1; 43:5** (to prophecy)

Filled with power by the Spirit of the Lord, Cf. **Micah 3:5**

There are so many other examples of the Holy Spirit working in people in the Old Testament. It is primarily Kings and Prophets because they were the most influential people in the Old Testament, which is why they were anointed. It was a symbol of the resting of the Spirit upon them.

The relationship of the Holy Spirit and people was not lasting though.

Spirit left Samson, Cf. **Judges 16:20**

The Spirit departed from Saul, Cf. **1 Samuel 16:14-23** (his leadership was removed)

After David sinned, he cried out to God not to take the Holy Spirit away from him. Cf. **Psalms 51:11**

Isaiah 32:15 and **Joel 2:28-32** prophesied that one day Holy Spirit would be poured out on all God's people.

Holy Spirit in Acts 2

Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

- **Pentecost** – the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:9). The Greek word means “fifty” and refers to the fifty days that have elapsed since the wave offering of Passover. The Feast of Weeks celebrated the end of the grain harvest.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon 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 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- **Visitation versus Habitation** – this is the initial fulfillment of what the prophets and Jesus promised for his disciples, concerning the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

The Holy Spirit doesn't just desire visitation but habitation forever in us.

Discipleship Homework:

There are many scriptures that talk about who the Holy Spirit, but Jesus has much to say about him in the book of John chapters 14 through 16. Spend time this week reading through those 3 chapters and use the questions below to meditate on the Word.

- As you read, write down all of the activities Jesus says the Holy Spirit will do.
- How does Jesus describe the relationship between himself, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father in these chapters?
- How did the disciples respond to Jesus' teachings about the Holy Spirit? What is your response to reading about the Holy Spirit?

Here is a guide prayer you can use this week:

“Heavenly Father,

We come before you in humble reverence, seeking the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We recognize that without the Holy Spirit, we are incomplete and unable to fully understand your truth or live according to your will.

Holy Spirit, we invite you to come into our lives and be our Helper. Help us to discern your voice amidst the noise of the world. Lead us on the paths of righteousness and empower us to live lives that bring glory to name of Jesus.

In Jesus' name, Amen.”