

# Holy Spirit - Old Testament

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# The Characteristics of the Holy Spirit in the OT

## The Spirit

1. Involved in creation (Gen 1:2; Ps 33:6; 104:29-30; Job 26:13; 33:4; Isa 40:13)
2. Regeneration (Psalms 104:29, 30; Job 33:4)
3. Convicted sinners (Gen. 6:3; Micah 3:8)
4. Indwelt in few people, and was temporary:
  - Joshua (Num. 27:18), Othniel (Judges 3:10), Gideon (Judges 6:34), Samson (Judges 13:25, 14:6), and Saul (1 Sam. 10:9, 10)
5. Gifted power in service including prophecy:
  - Exodus 31:1-3; Isaiah 32; Isaiah 44; Ezek 36:22-28; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Numbers 11; 1 Sam 11
6. Prepared His people for the coming of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:1-5)
7. Spoke God's Words:
  - Isaiah 59:21; 2 Samuel 23:2; Deuteronomy 30:14; Ezek 2:2; 1 Chronicles 28:10-12

# 1. HOLY SPIRIT - CREATION

## Genesis 1:1-2

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

## Psalms 33:6

By the **word of the Lord** the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the **breath** of His mouth.

## Psalms 104:29-30

You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. 30 You send forth **Your Spirit, they are created**; And You renew the face of the earth.

## **2. HOLY SPIRIT - REGENERATION**

### **Psalm 104:29-30**

You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. **30** You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And **You renew the face of the earth.**

### **Job 33:4**

The **Spirit of God** has made me, And the **breath** of the Almighty **gives me life.**

### **Ezekiel 36:26-29**

**26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. **28** Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. **29** I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.

## **2. HOLY SPIRIT - REGENERATION**

NT later confirms that the Holy Spirit in the OT is responsible for rebirth best shown in John chapter 3:

- Nicodemus met with Jesus and He said to him: “You are Israel’s teacher...and do you not understand these things?” (John 3:10).
- Nicodemus should have known the truth that the Holy Spirit is the source of new life because it is revealed in the Old Testament.
- Remember, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3) and Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

## 3. HOLY SPIRIT - CONVICTION OF SIN

### **Genesis 6:3**

**3** And the Lord said, “My **Spirit** shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

### **Micah 3:8**

But truly I am full of power by the **Spirit** of the Lord, And of justice and might, To declare to Jacob his **transgression** And to Israel his **sin**.

## 4. HOLY SPIRIT - INDEWLLING

### **Numbers 27:18**

**18** And the Lord said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man **in** whom *is* the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

### **Judges 14:6**

**6** And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily **upon** him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though *he had* nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

### **1 Samuel 10:9-10**

**9** So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. **10** When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came **upon** him, and he prophesied among them.

# 4. HOLY SPIRIT - INDEWLLING

Lessons from the Spirit departing from King Saul:

- **View 1: They Lost the Holy Spirit**
  - One school of thought is that during the Old Testament time, the Holy Spirit did not permanently indwell believers, instead His presence in the life of the believer was for a limited time, which meant that it was possible to lose the Holy Spirit.
- **View 2: They Lost a Special Anointing of the Holy Spirit**
  - A second position that it was not the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that left these people, but the anointing, or empowering, of the Spirit.

Ultimately, we are reassured in the NT, that the Spirit does not leave a believe as long as we are right with God:

- John 14:16, “**16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you **forever—**”
- Ephesians 1:13-14, “**13** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”



# 5. HOLY SPIRIT - EMPOWERED SERVICE

## Exodus 31:1-3

**31** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: **2** “See, I have called by name Bezalel 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, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,**

## Ezekiel 36:22-28

**22** “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. **23** And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. **24** For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. **25** Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26** **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.** **28** Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

## **5. HOLY SPIRIT - EMPOWERED SERVICE**

Examples:

- Giving physical strength (Judge 14:6,19),
- Executive ability and wisdom (Judge 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25)
- Enabling men to receive and utter divine revelations (Num 11:25; 2 Sam 23:2),
- Generally empowering the servants of God (Psalm 51:11; Joel 2:28; Mic 3:8; Zech 4:6)

## **6. HOLY SPIRIT**

### **PREPARED HIS PEOPLE FOR THE MESSIAH**

#### **Isaiah 11:1-5**

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 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 of the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

# 7. HOLY SPIRIT - SPOKE GOD'S WORDS

## **Isaiah 59:21**

**21** “As for Me,” says the Lord, “this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and **My words which I have put in your mouth**, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore.”

## **2 Samuel 23:2**

“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And **His word was on my tongue**.

## **1 Chronicles 28:10-12**

**10** Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.” **11** Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; **12** and the plans for all that he had **by the Spirit**, of the courts of the house of the Lord, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

# SUMMARY

## HOLY SPIRIT - OLD TESTAMENT

Ultimately,

- the Spirit performs much of the same functions in Old Testament times as He does this church age.
- **The major difference is the permanent indwelling of the Spirit in believers now.**

As Jesus said regarding this change in the Spirit's ministry,

- “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**” (John 14:17-18).

# SUMMARY

## HOLY SPIRIT IN NEW TESTAMENT

1. During Jesus' life on earth, Christ taught His disciples (Luke 11:13) that they may, should they choose, receive the Spirit through prayer to the Father - salvation is the work of the Trinity.
2. At the end of Jesus' ministry, He promised that He would pray to the Father and that in answer to His prayer the Helper (Holy Spirit) would come to "live in" those who believe (John 14:16-17)
3. On the eve of His resurrection, Jesus came to His disciples and breathed on them saying the Spirit should come upon them (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8)
4. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit came upon the whole body of believers (Acts 2:1-4)
5. After Pentecost, the Spirit was imparted to those who believed, and in some cases by the laying of hands (Acts 8:17, 9:17)
6. With Peter's experience in the conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10) it became clear that the norm for this Church age was that Jew and Gentile were to be saved on the same conditions, and the Holy Spirit was to be given without delay to those who met the one essential condition of trust in Christ (Acts 10:44, 11:15-18).
  - This is the permanent condition for the rest of the Church Age.
  - Every believer is born of the Spirit (John 3:3-6; 1 John 5:1), indwelt by the Spirit, whose presence makes the believer's body a temple (1 Cor 6:19; compare Rom 8:9-15); Gal 4:6; 1 John 2:27), and baptized with the Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13); 1 John 2:20, 27), therefore sealing him for God (Eph 1:13, 4:30)

# SUMMARY

## HOLY SPIRIT IN NEW TESTAMENT

1. Difference between
  - **having** the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and
  - being **filled** with the Spirit, which is the Christian's privilege and duty (compare Acts 2:4 with Acts 4:29-31; Eph 1:13-14 with Eph 5:18)
  - There is one baptism with the Spirit, but many fillings of with the Spirit
  
2. The Holy Spirit is a result of Jesus'
  - Birth (Matt 1:18-20; Luke 1:35),
  - Baptism (Matt 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32-33),
  - Walk and service (Luke 4:1, 14)
  - Resurrection (Rom 8:11), and
  - Witness throughout the Church age (John 15:26, 16:8-11, 13-14)
  
3. The Spirit forms the church (Matt 16:18; Heb 12:23) by
  - baptizing all believers into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13; compare 1 Cor 1:1-2)
  - Imparts gifts for service to every member of that body (1 Cor 12:7-11, 27-30)
  - Guides the members in their service (Acts 16:6-7), and
  - Is Himself the power of that service (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 2:4)