

The Spirit: Equips the Church for Mission

Recap:

1. He is a Person, Fully God, Great work to glorify Jesus (John 16:14)
2. The Giver of Life, Sovereign, Breath of God, WIND
3. Had the Bible written, Speaks now as the Bible is read and preached faithfully, FIRE

Some of the questions we started with:

- What is the Spirit's work?
- Which is more important – gifts or fruit?
- How do you know if you are filled with the Spirit?
- Is there always a particular manifestation of the Spirit? Tongues?
- What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?

Key Passages	The Holy Spirit is...	His work is...	In partnership with the Word & Jesus	So what?
Num 11:29; Acts 1:8; 2:16-18; 4:31; 10:44-47; Rom 8:16; 1 Cor 12:; 14; Gal 4:6; 5:16-24; Eph 5:18-21; Heb 8:10-11	Power from on high A missionary Spirit	EQUIPPING - all God's people - Jews & Gentiles - to know God - to build up church - for witness to world	Poured out by Jesus Ministers to us by words (of Christ) Empowers to speak the word of God To glorify Jesus	Be involved in his ministry

Key point: The Holy Spirit is a speaking Spirit who empowers the church of Christ for a speaking mission

- Look at Ephesians 5:18-21. What are the marks of someone filled with the Spirit?
1. The Spirit in the OT:
 - a. Was often the Spirit of equipping for a particular mission – e.g. warriors like Samson (Judges 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14) and prophets like Ezekiel (Ezek. 2:2; 3:24).
 - b. In particular He was known as the Spirit of Prophecy.¹ As we saw in the last session he was the one who Spoke by the Prophets. The Spirit works mainly through words.
 - c. There was the desire that the LORD would give his Spirit to all his people that they would all be prophets (Num. 11:29; Joel 2:28-32).

¹ See Max Turner, *Power from on High*, 92-101. Turner finds four main activities/gifts usually ascribed in Judaism to the Spirit – 1) Revelation (e.g Daniel 4:8, 18; 5:11); 2) Wisdom (e.g. Num. 11:17); 3) Prophetic speech (2 Sam. 23:1-2); 4) Invasive/ecstatic prophetic praise (1 Sam. 10:6-13; 19:20-24). All these were seen in Second Temple Judaism as the work of the 'Spirit of Prophecy'.

2. This was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2:16-18) and at the corresponding Gentile Pentecost (Acts 10:44-47).
 - a. God's Spirit is now being given to all people, men and women, Jew and Gentile, with no 'special people' within the community – now all a prophetic royal priesthood.
 - b. Notice the reference to 'tongues' of fire and 'tongues' of other languages; 'telling the mighty works of God' – emphasis on intelligible speech brought by the Spirit.
 - c. Notice how Peter in his sermon explains what is going on – no mention of dreams, visions or prophecy. Emphasis on risen and exalted Jesus pouring out Spirit as sign that he is the LORD (of Joel) and Christ (of the Psalms). The Spirit is glorifying Christ.
 - d. The Spirit brings to birth the Church (Acts 2:38-47) – the miraculously loving united community of God's people focused on God's Word.
3. The Spirit in Acts is the power for witness to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 is the key verse in the book.
 - a. This is the baptism of the Spirit promised (Acts 1:5) is fulfilled at Pentecost. This is synonymous with receiving the gift of the Spirit (Acts 2:38; 8:15; 10:47)² and can be synonymous with filling (Acts 2:4) but there can also be subsequent 'fillings' empowering for particular mission works (Acts 4:8, 31 cf. Eph. 5:18).
 - b. Throughout Acts the Spirit is only rarely associated with prophecy (Acts 11:28; 21:11) but more often empowers speaking and preaching, especially of the gospel (Acts 4:8; 6:10), gives courage and boldness (4:31; 9:31) and is associated with faith, wisdom and joy (Acts 6:3, 5; 11:24; 13:52).
 - c. Tongues mentioned 3 times at the reception of the Spirit – an event echoing Pentecost especially when there is a major move of the gospel – e.g. Acts 10 (the Gentile Pentecost); Acts 19 (12 disciples of John the Baptist are gathered into church).
4. In the NT epistles:
 - a. There is far more about the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace...) than the gifts.
 - b. The spiritual gifts are a) largely word/speaking gifts; b) given for the common good to build up the church (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:3-5); c) given to different people – Do all speak in tongues? (1 Cor. 12:30) No.
 - c. The Spirit's most important current work for us is to give us an experience of sonship – Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:6 – notice the emphasis on words/speech here.
 - d. In Galatians to be led by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit is basically the same as to continue in faith and keep in step with the gospel (Gal. 3:1-3). The opposite is self-righteousness and gratifying the flesh.
 - e. The Spirit is the Spirit of Obedience. He is the answer to the OT longing for a circumcision of the heart that God's people would keep his Law (Deut. 30:6; Ezek. 36:27; Rom. 2:29; Heb. 8:10-11).
5. Prayer in the NT is very often specifically for the Spirit (Luke 11:13; Eph. 1:17ff; 3:14-21). We desperately need him to open our eyes more and more to the reality of the risen and returning Christ and all that we have in him and we also desperately need the Spirit to work in us to will and to act if we are to do any good thing.

² The initial reception of the Spirit also seems to be synonymous with the language of the Spirit 'coming on' people (e.g. Acts 19:6).

Further reading:

- J I Packer, *Keep in Step with The Spirit*, IVP.
- [Max Turner, "Spiritual Gifts Then and Now," *Vox Evangelica* 15 \(1985\): 7-63.](#)
- [Max Turner, "Spirit Endowment In Luke/Acts: Some Linguistic Considerations," *Vox Evangelica* 12 \(1981\): 45-63.](#)
- Wayne Grudem, *The Gift of Prophecy*, Kingsway.
- Max Turner, *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts*, Paternoster.
- Robert Gaffin, *Perspectives on Pentecost*, P&R.
- Don Carson, *Showing the Spirit & A Call To Spiritual Reformation*.
- [B B Warfield, *Counterfeit Miracles*.](#)
- Christopher Forbes, *Prophecy and Inspired Speech*.
- [Prophecy?](#)