

The Spirit of God



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1. God's Enduring Testimony

2. God's Mighty Power

3. God was in Christ

4. God's Good Gifts

5. God's Loving Care

... The Holy Spirit will;
teach you ... what
you should say. (Luke
12.12)

... I will give you words
and wisdom ... (Luke
21.15)

... a voice told him,
“Get up Peter ...”
(Acts 10.13-14)

... the Spirit said to him
... (Acts 10.19)

Peter was kept by the
Holy Spirit from
preaching in Asia
(Acts 16.6)

The Spirit of Jesus
would not allow them
to enter Bithynia
(Acts 16.7)

References to the Spirit in Acts:

TWO
in the
quotation
from Joel 2
in Peter's
Pentecost
speech

FORTY-ONE
specifically
about the
Holy Spirit

ELEVEN
which are
not
preceded
by the word
"Holy"

“ ... there are two influences operating for our good in our probationary life, and not three. The two are the Word of God – the spirit-word – and the angelic ministrations in providence. There is no third one ...”

ACTS 1.1-2

... All that Jesus *began* to do and to teach ...

“Repentance and forgiveness of sins” is to be preached “in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”

“You are witnesses of these things. I am going to end you what my Father has promised ... “

LUKE 24.45ff

ACTS 1.8

ACTS 2: The Day of Pentecost

Note #1

What they heard was *like* the blowing of a violent wind and what they saw *seemed to be* tongues of fire

Note #2

They were “filled with the Holy Spirit” and were *enabled by the Spirit* to speak in other tongues.

ACTS 2.33

1. Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God

2. He received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit (KJV, NASB etc. = the promise of the Holy Spirit)

3. Jesus poured out what you now see and hear

ACTS 2.38-39

ACTS 4.13 and 31

ACTS 6: The Choosing of the Seven

Stephen was:

- full of faith and the Holy Spirit (6.5)
- full of God's grace and power (6.8)
- a match for his opponents who could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom [which] he spoke (6.10)

ACTS 8: Simon the Sorcerer

- was full of self-importance (8.9)
- was acclaimed as being the “Great Power” (8.10)
- he believed and was baptised, but not truly converted(8.19)
- he was still hungry for power (8.19)
- he was “full of bitterness and captive to sin” (8.23)

ACTS 10 and 11: Cornelius

Astonishment that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles (10.45)

“They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have” (10.47; 11.15; 11.17)

ACTS 15: The Jerusalem Council

God made a choice ...

God, who knows the heart,
showed that he accepted them
by giving the Holy Spirit to them,
just as he did to us.
He made no distinction
between us and them,
for he purified their hearts by faith.

ACTS 15.8-9

“We have to beware of artificial or superstitious interpretations of the idea of divine guidance. To pray for the inspiration of the Spirit is right, for this is a prayer for the opening of our hearts to the Spirit of love, and for the overcoming of selfishness and apathy that prevent us from pursuing freedom and truth. It is not a prayer for an infusion of supernatural knowledge, or for our reasoning processes to be by-passed and for God’s Spirit to make our decisions for us. The misunderstanding that sometimes exists about this is surprising.

GEOFFREY LAMPE: God is Spirit

“God influences us by His word, and the ministry of angels in answer to prayer.”

“The angels ... manipulate the circumstances of the lives of God’s children to give, in answer to their prayers, the encouragement they need at any time.”

God is “active through the ways of providence, working in countless ways to influence our attitude and thinking by the pressure of external circumstances.”

PSALM 119

v10: “do not let me stray from your commandments” - how does the LORD prevent us from straying?

v18: “open my eyes that I may see wonderful things from your law” - how does the Lord open eyes?

v28: “strengthen me according to your word” - how does God strengthen us to live like that?

v35: “Direct me in the paths of your commands” - how does God direct those who delight in His commands?

PSALM 119.176

I have strayed like a lost sheep.

Seek your servant,

For I have not forgotten your commands.

QUESTION OF THE DAY #4

How can our community develop a more rounded approach to our understanding of the Spirit of God?

How can we avoid the pitfalls of orthodox doctrine whilst at the same time doing full justice to the richness of the revelation of God by His Spirit?

