

Meet the Holy Spirit #4

The OT Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

1. We must remember that the work of the Holy Spirit does not begin in the NT era
2. In the OT, the Holy Spirit was involved in creation
3. He was active in indwelling believers

I. The Holy Spirit and Creation

- Often creation is attributed to God without distinction as to Father, Son or Holy Spirit
- In the OT, God the Father is given prominence in the work of creation
- In the NT, God the Son is given prominence – Jn 1:3; Col 1:16-17

A. Gen 1:2

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.

1. At this point the earth was unformed - “without form”
2. At this point the earth was unfilled – “and void”
3. At this point the earth was unilluminated – “darkness”
4. HS began to hover over this blob of dark, empty, formless material
5. The verb translated “moved” is found only 3x in the OT
 - a) It is translated “fluttereth” in [Deut 32:11](#)
 - b) It is translated “shake” in [Jer 23:9](#).
 - (1) De 32:11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:
 - (2) Jer 23:9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.
 - c) *The verb rachaph from which the piel participle is used... signifies a vibrant moving, a protective hovering” (Leupold).*
 - d) *The picture of the eagle moving over its young in the Deuteronomy text is the picture of protection.*
 - e) *Therefore the “moving” is a patrolling action for the protection of the created material.*
6. This also refers to activation and energizing of the creation
 - a) *The back and forth action spoken of here has the idea of vibration*
 - b) *For there to be energy in the universe, there must be an energizer*
 - c) *If things are to be set in motion, then there must be a prime mover*
7. The Spirit also energizes the Christian to be more like the Savior
8. This process did not take billions of years

B. Psalm 104:30

30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

1. The context does not clearly indicate that original creation is in view
2. The use of “bara” does point to the original creation

C. Isaiah 40:12-14

12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his counsellor hath taught him? **14** With whom took he counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

1. Here the Holy Spirit is described as the untaught, uncounselled and omnipotent God
2. Without need of instruction or assistance measured the waters, the heavens, the dust of the earth and the mountains
3. His intimate connection with the plan, and management of the universe is apparent

II. The Sovereign Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

A. The OT in Contrast to the NT

1. In the NT era, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer from the moment of regeneration
2. If you are a believer today, then the Holy Spirit lives in you and you are his temple
3. In the OT, there was no universal indwelling of believers
4. In His mercy and grace, the Spirit did indwell select OT believers

B. OT References to Indwelling

1. **Ge 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?*
 - a) *Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh and he was duly impressed*
 - b) *Pharaoh realized that Joseph was indwelt by God's Spirit or else he could not have known and interpreted the dreams*
 - c) *Pharaoh knew that the program to store food and then hand it out during the 7 yr famine would be complicated and he would need someone with special abilities*
 - d) *One indwelt by God's Spirit who could interpret dreams would be the ideal candidate for such a position*
 - e) *This is the first reference to indwelling of the Spirit*

2. **Ex 28:3** And thou shalt speak unto all *that are* wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.
 - a) *The taylor's who made the garments for the priests were filled with the Spirit of wisdom*
3. **Ex 35:30** And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; **31** And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; **32** And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, **33** And in the cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. **34** And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, *both* he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. **35** Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, *even* of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.
 - a) *Bezaleel and Aholiab, and other craftsmen who helped build the tabernacle were Spirit indwelt*
4. **Nu 11:17** And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which *is* upon thee, and will put *it* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear *it* not thyself alone. **25** And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that *was* upon him, and gave *it* unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.
 - a) *The 70 elders who assisted Moses in leading the children of Israel were indwelt by the Holy Spirit*
5. In the period of the judges several of the judges were said to have been filled with the Spirit
 - a) **Jg 3:10** *And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, [Othniel] and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.*
 - b) **Jg 6:34** *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.*
 - c) **Jg 11:29** *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.*

- d) **Jg 13:25** *And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him [Samson] at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.*
 - e) **Jg 14:6** *And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, [Samson] and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.*
 - f) **Jg 15:14** *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.*
6. The Spirit indwelt both Saul and David
- a) **1Sa 10:9** *And it was so, that when he [King 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.*
 - b) **1Sa 16:13** *Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him 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.*
7. No doubt all the prophets were indwelt by the Spirit

C. Important Features of Indwelling in the OT

1. The indwelling of the Spirit in the OT and NT are quite different
2. In the OT, the indwelling of the Spirit was not related to spiritual qualities whereas only believers in the NT were indwelt
3. In the OT, indwelling was a sovereign gift usually associated with a special call to service and the Spirit enabled for completion of that task.
4. In the OT, the indwelling was often temporary while the NT said need never fear losing the Spirit
 - a) *The Spirit left King Saul*
1Sa 16:14 *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*
 - b) *King David prayed to not lose the Holy Spirit*
Ps 51:11 *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*
 - c) *No Christian need ever pray the prayer of David*

III. Work of the Spirit in Restraining Sin

A. References in Scripture

1. From the very nature of the Holy Spirit one could anticipate that He would be engaged in a ministry designed to restrain sin not only the lives of saints but also among unbelievers
2. A study of the various ministries of the Holy Spirit will reveal that many of them tended to restrain sin
3. In reference to the antediluvian civilization – Gen 6:3
Ge 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
 - a) *Since God said that the striving with man would cease tells us that it had been going on*
 - b) *Before the flood, the Holy Spirit worked to restrain the power of Satan and the display of sin in the human heart*
4. In the NT, the Spirit still restrains from sin
2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

B. Works Related to Restraining Sin

- Though the work of the Spirit in restraining sin is mentioned directly in a few passages,
 - His other ministries reveal several which have a direct bearing on the restraining of sin
1. His work in revealing the will of God and warning against judgment tended to restrain sin
 2. The inspiration of the Scriptures tended to restrain sin
 3. He is called the Holy Spirit – Ps 51:11; Isa 63:10-11
 - a) **Ps 51:11** *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*
 - b) **Isa 63:10** *But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them. 11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?*
 4. He is called the Good Spirit
 - a) **Ne 9:20** *Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and witheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.*
 - b) **Ps 143:10** *Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*

IV. Illumination and Enablement for Service

- The most frequent mention of the Holy Spirit in the OT is in connection with enablement for various kinds of service including illumination and bestowal of wisdom

A. Gift of Wisdom

1. First to be mentioned in Scripture is the work of the Holy Spirit in connection with enablement for various kinds of service
2. Joseph was recognized by Pharaoh as possessing more than human attainments
3. Joshua was specially enabled by the Spirit – Num 27:18
18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;
4. Othniel, Gideon and Jephthah were given divine enablement for their tasks
 - a) *Jg 3:10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.*
 - b) *Jg 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.*
 - c) *Jg 11:29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.*

B. Gifts of Unusual Physical Strength

1. The outstanding illustration of the gift of unusual physical strength is Samson
 - a) *Jg 13:25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.*
 - b) *Jg 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.*
 - c) *Jg 15:14 And when he 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.*
 - d) *Because of persistent sin, his power was lost for a time only to be regained in the final act of his life*
2. Without doubt many of the feats of OT heroes were accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit though explicit reference is lacking