

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in the Gospels and the Book of Acts

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For around 400 years the Spirit of God remained silent. And then we have special revelation in a happening of profound importance. A young woman named Mary was found to be of child by the Holy Spirit. That Child is Jesus the Christ, and we call this event the Incarnation. John 1:1-3. From this point on we have a marked, though sometimes brief, allusion to the Holy Spirit in every public book of the NT. The three exceptions are of a private and personal nature, namely, Philemon and the Second and Third Epistles of John.

What John the Baptist taught, what Jesus taught, and what the apostles taught concerning the Holy Spirit never brought opposition. The Messiah was known that He should be anointed with the Spirit; it was not doubted. The title Christ or Messiah means Anointed One.

The anointing on Christ was unique in nature and in degree. Let's read some:

about John the Baptist --

Jesus came having the fullness of the Spirit without measure. Luke 1:15-17; But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." ESV

about Elizabeth, Zacharias, and Simeon – Luke 1:41,42, 67-75, 2:25-27: And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ESV

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we should be saved
from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷²to show the mercy promised
to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to
grant us

⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ESV

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, ...
ESV

about Christ – John 1:14 - 18; Matthew 3:11. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Mt. 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ESV

Jesus came having the fullness of the Spirit without measure. (John 3:34, 35) He is the dispenser of the Holy Spirit; Jesus is the baptizer of those baptized in the Holy Spirit; and so He had to be an accepted Mediator as well as a Divine Person. In fact, Jesus, God Incarnate, is a Divine Person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as rivers of living water (John 7:37-39). We might think of water as cleansing, but here Jesus speaks of it as quenching thirst. When we're thirsty for something, we're experiencing a misery until the pain is removed by something we drink. We can drink some things and we just get a temporary relief or we get more thirsty as a result; Jesus offers living water that satisfies (John 4:14). The water of life that Jesus offers not only satisfies, it overflows to others. The Holy Spirit is as a flowing river that quenches thirst and satisfies desires.

Satisfaction: we find it in Christ alone and by the Holy Spirit only. The Holy Spirit gives life. He is our satisfaction as we are in Christ. Rest, peace, joy, and assurance result from the operation of the Holy Spirit.

In John chapters 14-16 we find Jesus setting forth for His disciples and for the Church's instruction the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Holy Spirit to guide into all truth, and to apply the accomplished work of Christ in redemption. The Father sends the Holy Spirit in His Name (John 14:26), implying that the Holy Spirit had previously withdrawn in consequence of sin but now, on the ground of Christ's redemptive work, would be sent by the Father for all the purposes of that redemption. Also, the Holy Spirit would likewise be given or proceed from Christ as well. The distinguishing characteristic of the Holy Spirit is procession; the fact that He proceeds from the Father and from the Son.

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's work in conversion and Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's work on the mind of apostles and believers in general. Jesus speaks of sending the Holy Spirit (John 15:26), of giving the Holy Spirit (John 7:39; John 14:16), of breathing out the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), and of kindling a fire on the earth (Luke 12:49).

It is the Holy Spirit who would remind the apostles what Christ had taught them. He would provide clear teaching and comprehension of what they did not know prior to Christ's death on the cross. He would be the superintending influence in the proclamation of the gospel, giving promises, comfort, and peace. The Spirit glorifies Jesus. He reveals the divine will of God.

Three levels of anointing:

1. From Luke 4:14 and then Luke 4:18-21, we discover that Jesus was **anointed for "the forming of His human nature and the enduing it with perfect wisdom and faultless holiness."** (Pink, page 20)

2. Jesus was **endowed by the Holy Spirit for the work He came to do.** All of this fulfilled Isaiah 11:2, 3. Christ has the pre-eminence. "In none but the Mediator did 'all the fullness of the Godhead' dwell 'bodily' (Col. 2:9)." (Pink, page 20) Jesus came full of grace and truth (John 1:14), more grace than in all created beings.

3. **Jesus was anointed with the authority to give the Holy Spirit as the culmination of His exaltation.** Psalm 68:18. You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there. ESV

He was to be anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows (Psalm 45:7, 8). Psalm 45:6, 7. ⁶Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; You love righteousness, and hate wickedness: therefore God, your God, has **anointed you with the oil of gladness** above your fellows. ESV The Holy Spirit rested upon Jesus without measure (Isaiah 61). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of joy.

Hebrews 1:1-4, ⁹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs...⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ESV

This was the third degree of Christ's anointing. He is exalted and reigns supreme.

Galatians 3:13, 14 says it. ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—¹⁴so

that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. ESV

The Promise of the Father, procured by the redemptive work of Christ, is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes where the Blood is applied. Leviticus 14:14, 17. The “oil” was placed upon the “blood.” Jesus Christ effected redemption; the Holy Spirit reveals and applies it to all for whom redemption was purchased. The Holy Spirit comes where the Blood is applied.

Finally, the Scriptures affirm that Christ was anointed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38); that He was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit; that He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit to begin public ministry; that He performed miracles by the Holy Spirit; and that He gave commandments by the Holy Spirit to His disciples whom He had chosen. (Acts 1:2).

The two natures of Christ, divine and human, concurred in every mediatorial act. Jesus assumed human nature in union with His divine nature as a Divine Person., unmixed or unconfused, without separation, without change, without division. One is saved by the Son and the Spirit; Jesus Christ accomplishing all that was necessary and sufficient to bring one back to the Father through His life of perfect, personal, perpetual obedience and His being sin-bearer, curse-bearer, and bearer of the wrath of God. In His death, Christ paid the penalty for sin and satisfied divine justice. He merited eternal life for His own; His resurrection being proof that the Father accepted the redemptive work of the Son on behalf of those for whom He died. Exalted, the Father gives the Holy Spirit through the Son by the Spirit, as the Holy Spirit applies the finished work of Christ to the elect from every tribe and tongue and people group and kindred.



As part of God's Eternal plan, from the first entrance of sin, God promised the sending of His Son, who would obey and die and save. The Holy Spirit makes that work effectual. Both came from heaven, being sent. Both can be seen in the O.T. Both have prophecies about their advents. Both came accompanied by visibly glorious signs and wonders. Psalm 68:18; Joel 2:28; Ezekiel 36:26, e.g. and Isaiah 7:14, e.g.

At Pentecost the new wine of the Holy Spirit burst the old wine of Judaism. New wine is not to be put into old wineskins. This outpouring of the Holy Spirit inaugurated a new era, a new power for righteousness, and a new basis of fellowship. A New Covenant is being established, as promised, and everything in this New Covenant is better.

The Holy Spirit was not first given at Pentecost. Nehemiah 9:20; Haggai 2:5. But the Spirit's advent as recorded in the Book of Acts marked the fulfillment of Divine promise: e.g. Proverbs 1:23; Joel 2:28, Luke 3:15, 16; Acts 2:32, 33.

We discover something about Jesus' faith from John 15:26 and John 16:7. Jesus' faith resulted in the fulfillment of Jesus' promise. "And I will send..."

Jesus is Christ our Passover Lamb (Exodus 12). He fulfilled the Feast of Passover, the Feast of unleavened bread and the "wave sheaf" or "first fruits of the harvest." Read Leviticus 23:4-11 and 1 Corinthians 15:23. We learn about the fourth Feast from passages like Exodus 34:22; Deut. 16:10; and Leviticus 23:15, 16. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) required presenting unto God two wave loaves, the first-fruits unto the Lord. (Lev. 23:17), the ingathering. Israel was required to offer a "new meal offering unto the LORD" (Lev. 23:16). The first loaf represented those redeemed among the Jews and the second anticipated the ingathering of God's elect from among the Gentiles, the nations.

Pentecost ushers in something new, the giving of the Holy Spirit who gives the life the Law cannot give. Acts 2:1ff. Tongues like as of fire accompanied the advent of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 15:17; Exodus 3:2; Exodus 13:21) The dividing of tongues in judgment in Genesis 11 is now cloven tongues in grace.

Revelation 7:9, 10: ⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ESV

From Acts 2:1-13, we can identify three outward marks of the Holy Spirit's coming. The purpose of the Spirit's coming includes: witnessing to Christ's exaltation, furthering Christ's cause, and empowering Christ's servants. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Father; the Promise of the Father; the Holy Spirit is God. Relationship with Him in our lives is to be guarded and cherished as He guides us into truth and works in us to sanctify us and conform us to the image of Christ.

Acts 2:1-13: ¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested^a on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." ESV Amen.

PRAY. Lord God, May we not go back but rather press toward the mark of the High Calling of Christ Jesus. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit. May we heed what Paul says in **Ephesians 5:15-21. ESV** **15**Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16**making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17**Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. In His Name, Amen.

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