

Holy Spirit – Conclusion

Introduction

Not all races are run with an eye towards completing them. We undertake some because, by running them, we grow and mature. You may have noticed that I did not complete some sections of the study; Mark's notes, memory verses, and the like. Also, the content was more ... amorphous than I am really comfortable with. Downright nebulous in fact.

I'm thinking this was because there was so much material to wade through (**and I didn't want to miss anything!**). And so, this conclusion will reverse course and strive to be as concise as possible. Given this, we will cherry pick Scripture from each of the sections we've already covered.

Personhood of the Holy Spirit

One of the perennial questions that arise about God concerns His nature. Who is He? What does He want? Why is He interested in us? This first question (**Who is He?**) usually surfaces when someone questions the nature of the Trinity. The standard argument against the Trinity concludes that the Holy Spirit is represented by two words which mean something other than a person; *ruach* (רוּחַ) in the Old Testament, and *pneuma* (πνεῦμα) in the New Testament.

These words have surprisingly consistent ranges of meaning between the two testaments; *spirit, breath, life*. And it's argued that because they do, then the Bible must use them to refer to God's breath, His life, His power, and not to a person within the Godhead.

As a result, the Christian must address the issue of the Holy Spirit being a person. So we have to argue that as a person He reasons, He speaks, He acts in what we may determine to be an independent manner (**but in fact is not**). This is made slightly more difficult because the Bible does not come right out and say, ***Look here! This verse means that the Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity!***

Take, for instance;

Genesis 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (NASB)

This earliest reference to the Holy Spirit tells us that the Holy Spirit moved over the surface of the waters. Does that mean that this was God's Presence, His power, His

Conclusion - 2

breath that did the moving? It's inconclusive, isn't it? And so we look further. In Isaiah 63 we find;

Isaiah 63:10

¹⁰ But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them. (NASB)

In Acts 5 we find;

Acts 5:3

³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?" (NASB)

Acts 5:9

⁹ ... Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? (NASB)

This, of course, is the story of Ananias and Sapphira. In either case, Old Testament or New, we argue that you cannot lie to a thing. You cannot grieve a thing. What you are doing is grieving and lying to a person. God speaks to King David in;

2 Samuel 23:2-3

² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. ³ "The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me ... (NASB)

It is a person who communicates. A person who reasons. The Old Testament prophets relied on God to bring His Word to them so that they can speak it to His people. We clearly see this in;

1 Kings 22:24

²⁴ Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?" (NASB – also 2 Chronicles 18:23)

God instructs His people, He guides them;

Nehemiah 9:20, 30

²⁰ "You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth, And You gave them water for their thirst. ... ³⁰ "However, You bore with them for many years, And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets, Yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. (NASB)

Our conclusion, once we review the whole counsel of God, is that the Holy Spirit is a Person of the Trinity. He speaks, acts, and reacts as we would expect a person to do.

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

If there ever was a point of theology in which I vary from conservative beliefs it concerns the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. My contention is that God does not change. That He treats His Old Testament Chosen People much the same as He does His New Testament believers. And that one of the ways we see this is with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

God gives His Spirit to indwell His believers in order to accomplish some remarkable tasks. Briefly, that they may accomplish tasks that they could not otherwise undertake. He gives them power. And confidence. And motivation. He gives them the will to continue in the face of extreme adversity. Some Old Testament examples include;

Judges 3:10

¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. (NASB)

Judges 6:34

³⁴ So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. (NASB)

Judges 11:29

²⁹ Now the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to the sons of Ammon. (NASB)

Whether it's meek Gideon, or over the top Samson, God's Spirit powered the judges to act as saviors to a people that had turned away from Him. The judges would push back whatever threat came upon them. And prevail because God gave them the power and confidence to do so.

But God also gave His Spirit to impart authority and wisdom to His people;

Numbers 11:16-17

¹⁶ The LORD therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. ¹⁷ "Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* all alone. (NASB)

He gave His Spirit to impart authority and craftsmanship to those who would complete the tabernacle;

Exodus 35:30-33

³⁰ Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³¹ "And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship; ³²

Conclusion - 4

to make designs for working in gold and in silver and in bronze, ³³ and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work. (NASB)

God directed His prophets through the indwelling of His Spirit;

Numbers 24:2

² And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him. (NASB)

In the New Testament, God gave His Spirit to the followers of Jesus, to guide, to help, to teach;

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (NASB)

John 14:26 ²⁶ "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (NASB)

The Holy Spirit indwells us to impart God's power, to accomplish His will;

Acts 1:1-9

⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (NASB)

Acts 2:1-4

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. (NASB)

The church age began with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God empowered the church to go out into the world and spread the gospel good news! The Holy Spirit consecrated His workers in the kingdom;

Acts 20:28

²⁸ "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (NASB)

And finally, receiving the Holy Spirit is equated with faith in God;

Romans 8:9

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (NASB)

1 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? (NASB)

2 Timothy 1:14

¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you*. (NASB)

1 Corinthians 12:7 ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (NASB)

Hebrews 2:4

⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. (NASB)

The Works of the Holy Spirit

There's a lot of crossover of Scripture when it comes to the works of the Holy Spirit. How do you distinguish between His works and who He is, or from His indwelling? But there are unique works that we can focus upon. For instance, His works of creation;

Creation

Genesis 1:1-2

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. (NASB)

Job 33:4

⁴ "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (NASB)

Deceiving Spirit

Exodus 4:21

²¹ The LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. (NASB)

Conclusion - 6

Craftsmanship

Exodus 28:3

³ "You shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have endowed with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister as priest to Me. (NASB)

Wisdom / Authority to Judge

Numbers 11:17

¹⁷ "Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* all alone. ... (NASB)

Prophecy / Prophets

Numbers 24:2

² And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him. (NASB)

1 Samuel 10:6-7

⁶ "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you (Saul) mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man. ⁷ "It shall be when these signs come to you, do for yourself what the occasion requires, for God is with you. (NASB)

Leadership

Numbers 27:18-19

¹⁸ So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; ¹⁹ and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. (NASB)

1 Samuel 16:13

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. (NASB)

Warriors / Judges

Judges 3:10

¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. (NASB)

Judges 6:34

³⁴ So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. (NASB)

God Removes His Spirit

1 Samuel 16:14

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him. (NASB)

God Sends an evil spirit

1 Samuel 16:15

¹⁵ Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you. (NASB)

Reveal God's Word / Vision

2 Samuel 23:2

² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. (NASB)

Ezekiel 2:2

² As He spoke to me the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet; and I heard *Him* speaking to me. (NASB)

Ezekiel 11:24-25

²⁴ And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God to the exiles in Chaldea. So the vision that I had seen left me. ²⁵ Then I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me. (NASB)

Protection of His People

Isaiah 63:14

¹⁴ As the cattle which go down into the valley, The Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So You led Your people, To make for Yourself a glorious name. (NASB)

Haggai 2:5

⁵ 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!' (NASB)

Teaching / Instruction

Nehemiah 9:20

²⁰ "You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth, And You gave them water for their thirst. (NASB)

Psalms 143:10

¹⁰ Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground. (NASB)

Conclusion - 8

Admonition / Correction

Micah 2:7

⁷ "Is it being said, O house of Jacob: 'Is the Spirit of the LORD impatient? Are these His doings?' Do not My words do good To the one walking uprightly? (NASB)

Micah 3:8

⁸ On the other hand I am filled with power-- With the Spirit of the LORD-- And with justice and courage To make known to Jacob his rebellious act, Even to Israel his sin. (NASB)

Zechariah 7:12

¹² "They made their hearts *like* flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. (NASB)

Indwelling

Psalms 51:11

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. (NASB)

Isaiah 32:15

¹⁵ Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fertile field, And the fertile field is considered as a forest. (NASB)

Judgment / Wrath

Isaiah 63:10

¹⁰ But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them. (NASB)

Zechariah 7:12

¹² "They made their hearts *like* flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. (NASB)

Direct Intercession with People

Luke 1:35

³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. (NASB)

Indwelling

Matthew 3:11

¹¹ "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (NASB)

Mark 1:8

⁸ "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (NASB)

Authority / Power

Mark 1:10-11

¹⁰ Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; ¹¹ and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." (NASB)

Jesus and the Spirit of God

Matthew 3:16-17

¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (NASB)

Prophecy Fulfilled

Matthew 12:17-21

¹⁷ *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: ¹⁸ "Behold, My servant whom I have chosen; My beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the gentiles. ¹⁹ "He will not quarrel, nor cry out; nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰ "a battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory. ²¹ "and in His name the gentiles will hope." (Isaiah 42:1-3) (NASB)

Prophecy Pending

Mark 13:10-12

¹⁰ "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. ¹¹ "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy Spirit. ¹² "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. (NASB)

Conclusion - 10

A Person of the Trinity

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NASB)

Spirit Being Given

John 14:26

²⁶ "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (NASB)

John 15:26-27

²⁶ "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. (NASB)

Teaching / Instruction

Acts 13:2-4

² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. (NASB)