

Notes on the Nature of the Holy Spirit

Key Texts: Isa 11:2; Rom14:17

I. Creation

- A. Of the **universe** (Gen 1:2; cf. 2:7) in partnership with Jesus (Jn 1:1-4; Col 1:16).
- B. **Life force** of a person (Gen 6:3; Job 32:8; 33:4; 34:14-15; Psa 104:24-30; Ecc 12:7; Isa 42:5; 57:16; 63:14).
 - 1. He impregnated Mary (Mt 1:18, 20; Lk 1:35). Isaac was also a product of the H.S. in a different way (Gal 4:29).
 - 2. Our own spirit/breath is strong with the Lord's help but weak and broken without him. The Hebrews considered a person's spirit physical vigor. The N.T. seems to expand that to one's emotional and/or mental attributes (Mk 2:8; Jn 11:33; Acts 17:16; 18:26; 2 Cor 2:13; Eph 4:23), or even the ethereal spiritual essence of a person (Lk 24:38-39; 1 Cor 14:2, 14-17, 32).
- C. **New Birth**
 - 1. Our conversion is contrasted to physical birth (Jn 3:5-6). "The Spirit gives life," particularly through the words of Jesus (Jn 6:63; Rom 8:6, 9-11; 2 Cor 3:6).
 - 2. This often demarks a reversal in our direction and/or condition (Acts 9:17).
- D. Renewal of **social justice** (Isa 32:15-20; Isa 44:3), which is the proper use of power (Micah 3:8)
 - 1. Especially through the Messiah (Isa 42:1-4; Mt 12:18-21).
 - 2. Not only will our physical bodies be restored (Rom 8:23), even ecology will be renewed from man's curse (Isa 34:16-35:3).
 - 3. It is interesting that the principle of "life force" [I2 above] applies to the restoration of the whole nation of Israel as well (Eze 37:14; 39:29).

II. Power (Zech 4:6; Acts 1:8), which can at times be transferred (Elijah [2 Ki 2:9, 15] and Moses [Num 11:17, 25-29]).

A. Supernatural abilities

- 1. Joseph who **interpreted dreams** (Gen 41:38)
- 2. **Prophecy** was innate to **leadership**:
 - a. Saul prophesies as part of his leadership (1 Sam 10:6, 10).
 - i. Yet it was clearly temporary for the individual (1 Sam 16:14; cf. Psa 51:11; Isa 63:10-11).
 - ii. Although the Spirit of God is an enduring promise to the nation of Israel (Hag 2:5).
 - b. **Prophecy, Visions, Dreams**: One of the characteristics of the last days will be that ALL God's people will have access to the Spirit and his power (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21).
- 3. **Exorcizing** demons (Mt 12:28).
- 4. **Miracles** validated the message (2 Ki 2:9, 15; Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 2:4; Heb 2:4).

B. Natural abilities, supernaturally empowered

- 1. Bezalel who **crafted** the tabernacle (Exo 31:3; 35:31) and David was given architectural plans by the Spirit (1 Chr 28:12).
- 2. Moses who **judged** disputes – his power could be transferred to the 70 elders (Num 11:17, 25-29). It included prophecy, but only as initiation.

3. **Leadership** was passed from Moses to Joshua, especially military ability (Num 27:18; Deut 34:9).
 - a. Likewise, Othniel (Jdg 3:10), Gideon (Jdg 6:34), and Jephthah (Jdg 11:29) became a powerful military leaders while Samson became physically overpowering (Jdg 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14).
 - b. Saul's **righteous indignation** was stirred (1 Sam 11:6; cf. Eze 3:14) as part of his leadership.
 - c. David becomes "**kingly**" (1 Sam 16:13).
 - d. Micah takes this to an ethical dimension when he **preaches social justice** (Micah 3:8).
4. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit and **preached**, especially social justice for the oppressed (Lk 4:14, 18), the execution of which brought Jesus **joy** in the H.S. Likewise the disciples were empowered to preach (Acts 1:8).
5. In the church:
 - a. leaders are empowered by the Spirit to carry out the ministry (Acts 6:3, 5; 20:28), defend the gospel (Acts 6:10; 11:24; 1 Thess 1:5,2 Tim 1:14), and even punish deviants (Acts 5:3, 9; 13:9).
 - b. Christians in general are strengthened by the Spirit to comprehend the love of God and live lives of faith (Eph 3:16).

III. Communication – it is innate to having the Spirit (Jn 3:34)

- A. **Prophecy** (2 Peter 1:21) – this is a major way of contacting the Spirit (Zech 7:12). [Although this make one spiritual: 1 Sam 18:10; 19:20] These were for instructions (Neh 9:20, 30) and a major part of the promise of the new covenant (Isa 59:21).
 1. Balaam (Num 24:2)
 2. Saul prophesies as part of his leadership (1 Sam 10:6, 10; 19:23).
 3. Saul's men prophesy, stymied from their task of capturing David (1 Sam 19:20)
 4. David's last words testify to how he knew God spoke through him (2 Sam 23:2).
 5. Azariah prophesied success to King Asa (2 Chr 15:1).
 6. Jehaziel prophesied success to King Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 20:14)
 7. Zechariah prophesied destruction to the people because of their disobedience (2 Chr 24:20).
 8. Isaiah speaks against Judah (Isa 48:16; 61:1).
 9. Ezekiel is empowered to prophesy in Jerusalem (Eze 2:2; 11:5).
 10. John the Baptist would have the Spirit even from birth (Lk 1:15-17).
 11. Zechariah prophesied at the birth of John (Lk 1:67).
 12. Agabus predicted a famine (Acts 11:28) as well as Paul's arrest (Acts 21:11).
- B. **Declarations**
 1. Amasai, chief of the thirty, pledged his loyalty to David (1 Chr 12:18).
 2. Elizabeth declared Mary blessed (Lk 1:41-42).
 3. Peter spoke boldly the gospel to the Jewish leaders (Acts 4:8).
 4. Paul's "judgment" was Spirit led (1 Cor 7:40); as are all Christian confessions of Christ (1 Cor 12:3).
- C. **Evangelism/Preaching**
 1. The Spirit speaks through us (Mt 10:20; Mk 13:11; Lk 12:11-12).
 2. Even Jesus taught by/through the Spirit (Acts 1:2).

3. This is the primary purpose of his empowerment (Acts 1:8).
 4. It is often accompanied by miraculous confirmation (Acts 4:31; 5:32).
 5. Even making our lives a letter to the world (2 Cor 3:3-10).
- D. **Inspiration** of the prophets and hence of the Scriptures (Mt 22:43; Mk 12:36; Acts 1:16; 4:25-26; 28:25; 1 Thess 4:8; Heb 3:7; 10:15), described as the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph 6:17).
- E. **Teaching**
1. *Revelation*
 - a. Simeon was “told” he would see the Messiah (Lk 2:25-27).
 - b. Paul was told he would receive persecution (Acts 20:23) and that there would be deceiving spirits in the last days (1 Tim 4:1).
 - c. The mind of the Christian is transformed to receive the things of God which the world cannot understand or receive (1 Cor 2:10-16; Eph 1:17). In fact, the entire message of God’s grace is a new revelation to the apostles and prophets (Eph 3:5; 1 Pet 1:11-12) as well as existentially to each believer (1 Jn 4:2, 6).
 - d. He demonstrated how the first tabernacle was insufficient (Heb 9:8).
 - e. A vision to John concerning the state of the saved after death (Rev 14:13).
 2. *Orders*:
 - a. Philip was commanded to join the Ethiopian’s chariot (Acts 8:29).
 - b. He ordered Peter to go with the delegates from Cornelius (Acts 10:19; 11:12).
 - c. The elders of Antioch were to send out Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:2-3).
 3. *Prompting* – Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem (Acts 20:22), which may have, in fact (also) been his own desire (Acts 19:21). On the other hand, the believers urged Paul NOT to go (Acts 21:4).
 4. *Counsel/Truth* – Jesus promised the *Paraclete of Truth* (Jn 14:17-18; 15:26; 16:13; Acts 28:25; Rom 9:1; 1 Jn 5:6). He is unknown by the world but intuitively and existentially perceived by believers. He teaches us all we need and prompts our memory (Jn 14:26). [This has specific reference to the Apostles but the principle certainly applies more broadly in the ministry of the church.]
 5. *Warnings* – (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:13, 22).
- F. **Tongues** (Acts 2:4)
- G. **Prayer** – When we can’t pray the Spirit groans on our behalf (Rom 8:26-27; Eph 6:18; Jude 1:20).
- IV. Feminine attributes
- A. Wisdom
1. **Practical guidance** (Psa 143:10). He replaces our old spirit (Eze 36:26-27 cf. 11:19; 18:31)
 2. Embodied in the **Messiah** who will have this Spirit of God, described as wise, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, and fear of the Lord (Isa 11:2).
 3. Embodied in church leaders, with faith and wisdom (Acts 6:3, 5), enabling them to be formidable proponents of the gospel (Acts 6:10; 11:24). It also allows them to imitate Jesus and die well as martyrs (Acts 7:51, 55).
- B. Vindictive:
1. The Spirit killed Ananias and Sapphira who lie to him (Acts 5:3, 9).

2. Blasphemy of the Spirit is a terminal offense (Mt 12:31-32; Mk 3:29; Lk 12:10).
3. It's not a good idea to stand in his way (Acts 13:9); insult him (Heb 10:29); grieve him (Eph 4:30), or quench him (1 Thess 5:19).

C. Nurturing:

1. He **validates** those who are his own (Acts 15:8; 2 Cor 6:6) by sealing us (2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:13). Expresses God's love (Rom 5:5; 15:30; Col 1:8) and prompts us to call God *Abba* (Rom 8:14-17, 23; Gal 4:6); and intercedes for us with the Father (Rom 8:26-27).
2. He **protects** his children from excessive burdens (Acts 15:28); he liberates us to live for God apart from the law (Rom 7:6; 8:4-16) in freedom (2 Cor 3:17). Sometimes he intervenes to rescue us (Php 1:19); other times he sustains us in our suffering (1 Pet 4:14).
3. Omnipresent (Psa 139:7); yet **abides** in the Christian Church (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19 [cf. v. 15]; Eph 2:22; 1 Jn 4:13).
 - a. He has fellowship with us (2 Cor 13:14; Php 2:1; Heb 6:4; 1 Jn 3:24) and worship (Php 3:3; Rev 1:10; 4:2; cf. Jn 4:23) who believe (Gal 3:2-5, 14).
 - b. He is deeply concerned about the unity of the family (1 Cor 12:9, 13; Eph 4:3-4, 29-30; cf. Jude 1:19).
4. This includes his nurture and **edification** of the church (Acts 9:31),
 - a. The Spirit gives a variety of Gifts but all are for the edification of the body (1 Cor 12:1-11; Heb 2:4).
 - b. With an emphasis on joy (Lk 10:21; Acts 13:52; Rom 14:17; 15:13; Gal 5:22; 1 Thess 1:5-6) and peace (Acts 9:31; Rom 8:6; 4:17; 15:13; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:3).

V. Like the wind (Jn 3:8).

A. He is unpredictable, and so are his children (Jn 3:8).

B. He moves people

1. Obadiah feared the Spirit would whisk Elijah away (1 Ki 18:12). He was, in fact, upon his death (2 Ki 2:16).
2. Ezekiel was raised to his feet or transported (Eze 2:2; 3:12-14, 24; 8:3; 11:1, 24; 37:1; 43:5) – synonymous with his empowerment to prophesy.
3. Movement of the seraphim *may* relate to the Holy Spirit (Eze 1:12, 20-21; 10:17)
4. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert (Mt 4:1; Mk 1:12; Lk 4:1).
5. Simeon was moved by the Spirit in the temple courtyard to meet Jesus (Lk 2:27).
6. Philip was transported from the road to Gaza to Azotus (Acts 8:39).
7. Paul & Co. were ushered toward Macedonia (Acts 16:6-9).
8. John (in a vision) was taken to a desert (Rev 17:3) and a mountain (Rev 21:10).

VI. Holy

A. He demands us to be holy and accomplishes that by transforming our minds (Rom 8:4-16; 14:17) and changing our allegiances (Gal 5:16-25; 6:8). This has practical implications like sexual purity (1 Cor 6:15-19), gossip and anger (Eph 4:29-32), and drunkenness (Eph 5:18).

B. He sanctifies us through the atonement of Christ (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Thess 2:13; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet 1:2) by our faith we wait for it (Gal 5:5).

VII. Evil Spirits

A. Judges 9:23, between Abimelech and Shechem.

- B. Judges 13:25 & 14:4, Samson is intoxicated with a Philistine woman.
- C. 1 Sam 16:14-16, 23; 18:10; 19:9, the evil spirit may come from the Lord but it is clearly differentiated from the Lord's Spirit.
- D. God asked for spirit volunteers to entice Ahab. Several made suggestions but one "won" the bid with the suggestion of deceiving him through false prophets (1 Ki 22:21-24; 2 Chr 18:20-23).
- E. 2 Ki 19:7 & Isa 37:7, the king of Assyria was deceived into retreat by a spirit.
- F. God will cleanse Zion by a spirit of judgment and fire (Isa 4:4).
- G. Egypt was given a spirit of dizziness so they would stagger (Isa 19:14).
- H. A spirit of prostitution (Hosea 4:12; 5:4), although this looks like something they generated, not the Lord.
- I. A spirit of impurity (Zech 13:2).
- J. A spirit of "stupor" (Romans 11:8, cf. Isa 29:10 says "deep sleep").

VIII. The Spirit's relation to Jesus

- A. He cooperated in **creation** (Gen 1:2) in partnership with Jesus (Jn 1:1-4; Col 1:16 cf. 1 Cor 15:45) and continues to work with Jesus to grant access to the Father (Eph 2:18, 22). They both invite people to come to Jesus (Rev 22:17).
- B. He was **validated** by the Spirit at his baptism (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:22; Jn 1:32-33; cf. Rom 1:4) **led** by the Spirit into the wilderness (Mt 4:1; Mk 1:12; Lk 4:1); empowered by the Spirit to perform his ministry, both preaching and miracles (Acts 10:38), even his death on the cross (Heb 9:14), was raised from the dead by the Spirit (1 Pet 3:18-19), and was vindicated by the Spirit at his ascension (1 Tim 3:16).
- C. Jesus **baptizes** his followers in the H.S. (Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; Acts 1:5; 10:44-45, 47; 11:15-17; cf. Rom 2:29). Christian baptism is in solidarity with the trinity (Mt 28:19).
 1. Although it is the Father who gives the Spirit to those who ask (Lk 11:13; Jn 15:26; 1 Thess 4:8), it appears that the Spirit gives deference to the Son (Jn 15:26; 16:13-15). The Father is spirit (Jn 4:24) as is Jesus (1 Cor 3:17-18). The three are one (2 Cor 13:14; Rev 1:4-5).
 2. At the same time, Jesus bestowed/sent the Spirit (Jn 15:26; 20:22) because God gave the Spirit to him which he then poured out (Acts 2:33 [since he holds the Spirit in his hand (Rev 3:1; 5:6)?]). The Spirit is intimately connected with Jesus (Acts 16:7) and connects the Christian to Jesus (Rom 8:9-11).
 3. Accompanies water baptism (Acts 2:38; 19:2-3; 1 Cor 12:13; Titus 3:5; cf. 1 Jn 5:7-8), although there are exceptions (Acts 8:15). In those instances, the laying on of hands [of the Apostles] grants the gift (Acts 8:17-19; 19:6).
- D. You can **blaspheme** Jesus and live through it, but not the H.S. (Mt 12:31-32; Mk 3:29; Lk 12:10).
- E. He could only be given after Jesus was **glorified** (Jn 7:39).

Notes on the Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian
By Mark Moore

Used 358 times in the N.T.

I. Empowerment

1. Miracles
 - a. Immaculate Conception (Mt 1:18-20; Lk 1:35)
 - b. Baptism of the H.S. (Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16); and Baptism in general (Mt 28:19; Jn 3:5-8; Acts 2:38 [although cf. Acts 8:15-17]; 19:2-3; 1 Cor 12:12)
 - c. Tongues and/or prophecy (Acts 2:4, 17-18; 10:44-47; 11:15; 11:28; 19:6)
 - d. Demon exorcisms (Mt 12:28)
 - e. Miracles which validated Jesus' ministry (Acts 5:32* He is given to those who obey him; Heb 2:4), as well as Paul's ministry (Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 2:4), and the Galatians' conversion (Gal 3:5)
2. Filled with the Spirit
 - a. John the Baptist (Lk 1:15)
 - b. Elizabeth (Lk 1:41)
 - c. Zechariah (Lk 1:67)
 - d. Simeon (Lk 2:25-26)
 - e. Jesus (Lk 4:1, 14; Lk 10:21; Jn 3:34; Heb 9:14)
 - f. To those who ask (Lk 11:13*)
 - g. The Apostles (Jn 20:22)
 - h. Peter (Acts 4:8)
 - i. Seven "deacons" (Acts 6:3), especially Stephen (Acts 6:5; 7:55)
 - j. Saul (Acts 9:17; 13:9)
 - k. Barnabas (Acts 11:24)
 - l. Disciples (Acts 13:52)

II. Guidance

1. Physical movement
 - a. Jesus into the wilderness for temptations (Mt 4:1; Mk 1:12; Lk 4:1)
 - b. Simeon into the Temple courts (Lk 2:27)
 - c. Philip to the Ethiopian (Acts 8:29) and then "whisked" away to Azotus (Acts 8:39)
 - d. Peter to the three messengers of Cornelius (Acts 10:19; 11:12)
 - e. Paul & Co hindered from going into Asia & Mysia (Acts 16:6-7) and Paul was "compelled" to go to Jerusalem (Acts 20:22)
2. Specific instructions (Acts 13:2, 4; 15:28; 20:23 & 21:4, 11; 1 Cor 2:10-14; Heb 9:8) or Spiritual wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17; 3:5; 1 Tim 4:1; 1 Pet 1:11; Rev 14:13; 22:17). "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says . . ." (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)
3. Preaching
 - a. Promise to the Apostles when they stand before authorities (Mt 10:20; Mk 13:11; Lk 12:12)
 - b. General preparation for preaching (Acts 1:8*; 4:8, 31; 6:10; 1 Th 1:5-6; 1 Pet 1:12)
4. Prophecy (Mt 22:43; Mk 12:36; Acts 1:16; 4:25; 28:25; Heb 3:7; 10:15; 2 Pet 1:21*)
5. Counselor -- the Spirit of truth (Jn 14:16-17*; 14:26*; 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 1:2)
6. Provided encouragement to the church (Acts 9:31), strength (Eph 3:16), and help (Php 1:19; 2 Tim 1:14), especially through corporate singing (Eph 5:18-19)

7. Installs Elders in the church (Acts 20:28)

III. Validation

1. Of Jesus at his baptism (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:22; Jn 1:32-33)
2. Of Jesus in his ministry and preaching (Mt 12:18 [cf. Isa 42:1-4]; Lk 4:18 [Isa 61:1-2]; Acts 10:38; 1 Jn 5:6-8) and resurrection/ascension (Acts 2:33; Rom 1:4; 1 Tim 3:16)
3. Of the Gentiles (Acts 15:8*)
4. Of Paul's honesty (Rom 9:1) and ministry (2 Cor 6:5)

IV. Transformation of the Christian

1. Conversion (Rom 1:29; Gal 3:14; Titus 3:5) and sanctification (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Th 2:13*; 1 Pet 1:2), Sealing us as God's possession (2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:13), so that our lives and confession align with the Spirit's (1 Cor 12:3; 1 Jn 4:2-3, 6)
2. New life (Jn 6:63*; 7:38-39*; Rom 8:11), even to Jesus at the resurrection (1 Pet 3:18)
3. We accept God's love and are filled with it (Rom 5:5; 15:30; Col 1:8)
4. We live by the Spirit and not by the law or the flesh (Rom 7:6; 8:1-16*; 2 Cor 3:3, 6*, 8; Gal 3:2-3; 5:16-18; 5:25), being transformed into God's spiritual nature (2 Cor 3:17-18), as opposed to fleshly men who live by natural instincts and not by the Spirit (Jude 1:19)
5. Confirmation that we are God's children (Rom 8:16-17; Gal 4:6) and thus grants us access to God (Eph 2:18)
6. Intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray (Rom 8:26-27; Jude 1:20)
7. The true nature of the kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the H.S. (Rom 14:17*; 15:13)
8. The Spirit indwells our bodies (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:22; Php 2:1; Heb 6:4; 1 Pet 4:14; 1 Jn 3:24; 4:13) and unifies the body of Christ (Eph 4:3-4); Through him we contact and worship God (Php 3:3)
9. He grants us spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4, 7-12), fruit (Gal 5:22-23), and armament (Eph 6:17-18)

V. Miscellaneous

1. Sins Against: Blasphemy of the H.S. (Mt 12:31-32; Mk 3:29; Lk 12:10; Heb 10:29); and lying to the H.S. (Acts 5:3, 9); resisting the H.S. (Acts 7:51), and grieving the H.S. through gossip (Eph 4:30); or putting out his fire (1 Th 5:19)
2. Salutations: (2 Cor 13:14)
3. "In the Spirit" (Rev 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)

Uncategorized (Rom 8:23; 1 Cor 7:40; Gal 4:29; 5:5; 6:8; 1 Th 4:8)