

Pneumatology

Wayne Grudem¹ describes the work of the Holy Spirit to *manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church*. For Grudem the Spirit does this in five ways: (1) he empowers; (2) he purifies; (3) he reveals; (4) he unifies; (5) he gives stronger or weaker evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to him.

These are all true. But for the sake of this document I want to focus on the *person* of the Holy Spirit, the *power* of the Holy Spirit, and the *presence* of the Holy Spirit.

Person

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity—meaning the Spirit is God, but the Spirit is not the Father or the Son. The Spirit is the “Spirit of Christ” (Rom 8:9-10), but is distinct from Jesus. As God, the Spirit can be prayed to, must be obeyed, and should be the object of our worship, affection, and communion.

Communion with the Spirit has enabled and empowered saints to sit in dungeons, rejoice in flames, and glory in troubles.

The Spirit is like the wind, it blows where it wishes, you do not know where it comes from or where it goes—we can’t control the Spirit. We have communion with the Spirit because Jesus sent Him, and we are in Jesus.

Because the Spirit is *personal*, he can be lied to (Acts 5:3, 9); he can be resisted (Acts 7:51); he can be grieved (Is 63:10; Eph 4:30); and he can be blasphemed (Mt 12:31).

- The Spirit helps the believer remember Jesus’ words and teaches us what they mean (John 16); thus we enjoy the Spirit through the Word and prayer.
- The Spirit glorifies Christ (John 16); thus we commune with the Spirit when we worship Jesus.
- The Spirit pours out the love of God in the Christian’s heart (Rom 5:5); thus we commune with the Spirit when we believe that God loves us.
- The Spirit testifies to the believer that he is a child of God (Rom 8:15); thus we enjoy the Spirit when we pray “Abba, Father.”

We are to commune and enjoy and worship the Holy Spirit as God.

Power

Though the Holy Spirit is “veiled” in the Old Testament (much like the Son is), what we do see of the Spirit in the Old Testament is the dominant theme of *power*:

But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the Spirit of the LORD—Micah 3:8

The Spirit (*ruach*) is not meant to denote immateriality (even when juxtaposed with “flesh”), but the emphasis is on the Divine Energy, the power—where flesh denotes “weakness.” *So the results of the Spirit are in keeping with his nature:*

- The Spirit creates the host of heaven (Ps 33:6)
- The Spirit gives power to judge (Judges 3:10, 14:6)
- The Spirit snatches up prophets and places them wherever he wants (Ezk 3:12, 14; 11:1)
- The Spirit empowers angels (Ezk 1:12, 20)

The Spirit fell on Samson and he tore a lion to pieces (Judges 13:25, 14:6); later the Spirit fell on Samson and he killed thirty Philistines by himself (Judges 14:19). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of power.

Thus, in the New Testament, Jesus says that the Apostles “will receive power when the Holy Spirit falls upon you” (Acts 1:8).

¹ Much of this document is taken from Grudem’s chapter on the person of the Holy Spirit from his great work, *Systematic Theology*.

Paul says that his preaching was not a demonstration of wisdom and eloquence, but “of the Spirit and of power” (1 Cor 2:4). When you preach or share the Gospel with someone, remember Samson tearing a lion to pieces: *that same Spirit is in you!*

As well, it was the Spirit’s power that raised Jesus from the dead:

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.—Romans 8:11

And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead . . .
—Ephesians 1:19-20

The resurrecting, lion-tearing, Gospel-preaching power of the Spirit is in you!

Presence

The work of the Holy Spirit is “to manifest *the active presence* of God in the world, and especially in the church”:

And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”—Ezekiel 39:29

God is essentially saying that his *active, intimate, presence-to-bless*, was, for a time, removed from his people (“hide my face”), but that now, through his Spirit, he will be with them.

The presence of the Spirit of God is a governing, ruling presence:

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.—Ezekiel 36:27

Additionally, the presence of the Spirit is described in Jesus’ word, *paraclete*, in John 14. *Paraclete* means “to call” and “to come alongside.” This word is a union of prophetic challenge and priestly support (Keller). The Spirit is our advocate, our counselor, our comforter:

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.—John 14:26

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.—John 16:12-14

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.—John 14:16-18

And finally, the presence of the Spirit is our promise and guarantee:

- The Spirit was promised by the Father – Acts 2:33, 39
- The Spirit is promised to all who are called by God – Acts 2:39, Gal 3:14, Eph 1:13
- Spirit is a guarantee of our inheritance – Eph 1:14
- Spirit is our assurance that God abides in us – 1 Jn 3:24, 4:13
- Spirit is a seal and guarantee – 2 Cor 1:22, 5:5
- The gift of the Spirit is a seal or mark by God for redemption – Acts 15:8, Eph 1:13, 4:30, 2 Cor 1:22

Appendix

Works of the Holy Spirit:

- Access to God – Eph. 2:18
- Anoints for Service – Luke 4:18
- Assures – Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:6
- Authors Scripture – 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- Baptizes – John 1:23-34; 1 Cor. 12:13-14
- Believers Born of – John 3:3-6
- Calls and Commissions – Acts 13:24; 20:28
- Cleanses – 1 Thess. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:2
- Convicts of sin – John 16:9, 14
- Creates – Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4
- Empowers – 1 Thess. 1:5
- Fills – Acts 2:4; 4:29-31; 5:18-20
- Gives gifts – 1 Cor. 12:8-11
- Glorifies Christ – John 16:14
- Guides in truth – John 16:13
- Helps our weakness – Rom. 8:26
- Indwells believers – Rom. 8:9-14; Gal. 4:6
- Inspires prayer – Eph. 6:18; Jude 20
- Intercedes -Rom. 8:26
- Interprets Scripture – 1 Cor. 2:1, 14; Eph. 1:17
- Leads – Rom. 8:14
- Liberates – Rom. 8:2
- Molds Character – Gal. 5:22-23
- Produces fruit – Gal. 5:22-23
- Empowers Believers – Luke 24:49
- Raises from the dead – Rom. 8:11
- Regenerates – Titus 3:5
- Sanctifies – Rom. 15:16
- Seals – Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30
- Strengthens – Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 1 Cor. 2:4
- Teaches – John 14:26
- Testifies of Jesus – John 15:26
- Victory over flesh – Rom. 8:2-4; Gal. 4:6
- Worship helper – Phil. 3:3

Not only does the Spirit exercise his ministry to us, but he also works in us in numerous ways:

- Brings liberty – 2 Cor 3:17
- Brings wisdom – Eph 1:17, Acts 6:3
- Capable of producing new life – Mt 1:18, 20, Lk 1:35
- Delivers of from bondage – Phi 1:19
- Dwells among people – Hag 1:14, Gen 6:3
- Exceeds the glory of the old law – 2 Cor 3:8
- Flows like living water from our heart – Jn 7:38-39
- Gives eternal life – Rom 8:11
- Gives life – Jn 6:63
- Gives orders on behalf of God – Acts 1:2, Acts 15:28
- Gives rest and provision – Is 63:14
- Gives us love – Col 1:8
- Guides us in truth – Jn 16:13
- Is our comforter – Jn 14:26, 15:26, 16:7, Acts 9:31
- Is our peace – Jn 14:27, 20:19-20
- Pours out love of God – Rom 5:5
- Sanctifies us – Rom 15:16, 2 Thes 2:13, 1 Pet 1:2, 1 Cor. 6:11
- Spirit dwells in us – 2 Tim 1:14, 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, Rom 8:9, Jn 14:16-17, 2 Cor 1:22, Gal 3:6, Eph 2:22, Jas 4:5
- Transforms us into the glory of the Lord – 2 Cor 3:18
- Upholds us – Ps 51:12
- Wars with the flesh – Gal 5:17, 1 Pet 2:11

- Washes and renews us – Tit 3:5, 1 Cor. 6:11

The Spirit is our teacher:

- Instructed people in the wilderness – Neh 9:20, Is 63:11
- Is the writing on our heart – 2 Cor 3:3
- Reveals deep things of God – 1 Cor 2:10-12
- Reveals future – Lk 2:26, Acts 11:28, 20:23, Jn 16:13, Eze 3:25
- Teaches us all things and helps memory – Jn 14:26
- Teaches us doctrine- 1 Cor 7:40
- Teaches us to speak spiritual things – 1 Cor 2:13
- Teaches us what to say – Lk 12:12, 1 Cor 2:13

The Spirit speaks to people:

- Speak by the Spirit, or the Spirit speaks through people – Mk 13:11, Acts 2:4, 4:8, 21:4, 11, 1 Cor 2:4, 2 Sam 23:2 (David)
- Spoke through O.T. prophets – Eze 2:4, 3:24-27, 11:5, Zech 7:12, Mt 22:43, Acts 28:25, Heb 3:7, 10:15, 1 Pet 1:11, 2 Pet 1:21, Mk 12:36, Acts 1:16, Neh 9:30
- Speaks directly to people – Acts 8:29, 10:19, 11:12, 13:2, 1 Tim 4:1, Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6,13, 22, 14:13, Eze 2:2, 3:24,
- Speaks only what he hears – Jn 16:13-15

The Spirit is our counselor:

- John 14:26: But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
- John 16:12-14: "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.
- John 14:16-18: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Filling, Anointing, Baptizing of the Spirit:

- Jesus baptizes with the Spirit – Mt 3:11, Mk 1:8, Lk 3:16, Jn 1:33, Acts 11:16
- People baptized by the Spirit – Acts 1:5
- Spirit “fell upon” and “baptism” are the same – Acts 11:15-16
- People filled with the Spirit – Lk 4:1 (Jesus), Lk 1:15 (John the Baptist), Acts 2:4 (apostles), Acts 4:8 (Peter), Lk 1:41 (Elizabeth), Lk 1:67 (Zacharias), Acts 4:31 (Peter, John, and companions), Acts 13:52 (disciples), Acts 13:9, 9:17 (Paul), Acts 11:24 (Barnabas), Acts 6:3,5 (seven servants and Stephen), 7:55 (Stephen),
- Artisans filled with the Spirit of wisdom – Ex 28:3
- Master craftsman filled with Spirit of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and workmanship – Ex 31:2, 35:31
- Joshua full of the Spirit of wisdom – Deut 34:9
- Spirit was in Joshua – Num 27:18
- Paul commands the Ephesians to be filled with the Spirit – Eph 5:18
- Spirit “upon” people – Mt 12:18, Lk 4:18 (Jesus), Lk 2:25 (Simeon), Acts 1:8 (apostles), Acts 19:6 (Ephesians), Acts 11:15, 10:44 (gentiles), Acts 8:16 (Samaritans), Acts 2:17, 18 (all flesh), Jgs 3:10 (Othniel), Jgs 6:34 (Gideon), Jgs 11:29 (Jephthah), Jgs 13:25 (Samson), Eze 11:5 (Ezekiel)
- Spirit comes on David with anointing of oil – 1 Sam 16:13
- Spirit comes on Amasai and he sings – 1 Chr 12:18
- Spirit can be taken away – Ps 51:11
- Spirit departed from Saul – 1 Sam 16:14
- Prediction of the Spirit being poured out on all and the land being renewed – Is 32:15, 44:3, 59:21, Ez 36:26-27, 37:14, 39:29, Zech 12:10

Walk by the Spirit:

- Those who live in the Spirit should walk in the Spirit – Gal 5:25
- No condemnation for those who walk according to the Spirit – Rom 8:1
- Law is fulfilled for those who walk so – Rom 8:4
- Those led by the Spirit are not under the law – Gal 5:18
- Those who walk so have their mind on spiritual things – Rom 8:5
- Those who walk in the Spirit will live – Rom 8:13
- Those who walk in the Spirit will not fulfill fleshly lusts – Gal 5:16
- If we spend our energy for the Spirit, we will reap spiritual rewards – Gal 6:8
- Spirit aids us in following God's commands – Ez 36:27

The Spirit's leading:

- Spirit can cause people to move physically (or leads them) – Eze 2:2, 3:12, 14, 24, 11:1, 1 Kgs 18:12, 2 Kgs 2:16, Lk 2:27, 4:1, Mt 4:1, Mk 1:12, Acts 8:39, Rev 17:3
- Barnabas and Saul sent out by the Spirit – Acts 13:4
- Spirit sent men – Acts 10:20
- Those led by the Spirit are sons of God – Rom 8:14

There are numerous places in scripture that describe the Holy Spirit being given or received:

- The Spirit is a gift – Acts 2:38, 10:45
- The Father will give the Spirit to those who ask him – Lk 11:13
- Spirit is given to those who obey God – Acts 5:32

Sending of the Spirit:

- Spirit sent by the Father in Jesus' name – Jn 14:26
- Spirit poured out through Jesus – Tit 3:5
- Sent by Jesus from the Father – Jn 15:26, 16:7
- Given by God – Acts 15:8, Gal 4:6, 1 Thes 4:8, 1 Jn 3:24
- Given by God in our faith – Gal 3:5

Receiving the Holy Spirit:

- Spirit is to be received – Jn 20:22, Acts 2:33, 38, 19:2, 10:47, 8:15, 17, Rom 8:15, 1 Cor 2:12, Heb 6:4,
- Those believing in Christ receive the Spirit – Jn 7:39
- Received by faith – Gal 3:2, 14
- We must have the Spirit of Christ to be his – Rom 8:9
- Spirit is a spirit of adoption – Rom 8:15
- Spirit testifies to our adoption as sons – Rom 8:16, Gal 3:6

The Spirit is our promise and guarantee:

- The Spirit was promised by the Father – Acts 2:33, 39
- The Spirit is promised to all who are called by God – Acts 2:39, Gal 3:14, Eph 1:13
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