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# | Chapter 5



## | 5.1 The Realm of the Spirit

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In this final section we will be broadening our perspective to consider the realm of the Spirit. What does it mean to be “in the Spirit”; what is the nature of the corporate anointing on the people of God who *“in one Spirit were all baptized into one body, and all were made to drink of one Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 12:13).

We will also be looking at the purpose of this anointing – many people throughout the Scripture received an anointing, and it was always an anointing to... We will begin by considering what is meant by “in the Spirit”.

## 5.2 In the Spirit

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As God's spiritual people we are to live "in the Spirit": and this is our natural inclination:

In order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**Romans 8:4 ESV**

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

**Romans 8:9 ESV**

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:25 ESV**

When we worship it is "in spirit" – which is exactly the same Greek phrase *en pneumati* as "in the Spirit"<sup>1</sup>. So what does it mean? The bible uses this phrase to describe a number of related ideas.

### In the Spirit is "In the Spiritual Realm"

We know that what is unseen is more real than what is seen, and this unseen realm is the spiritual realm. The Holy Spirit empowers us to see into this realm – to see the eternal realities of heaven and the purposes of God. It is from out of this realm that comes prophecy and vision. When the result of being "in the Spirit" is that a prophetic word is spoken, we can take this word to be spoken "by the Spirit".

He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls Him Lord, saying,...

**Matthew 22:43 ESV**

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<sup>1</sup> John 4:24

Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and to go to Jerusalem saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”

**Acts 19:21 ESV**

Which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 3:5 ESV**

I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.

**Revelation 1:10 ESV**

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

**Revelation 4:2 ESV**

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

**Revelation 17:3 ESV**

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

**Revelation 21:10 ESV**

## In The Spirit is “Full of the Spirit”

“In the Spirit” is often used to convey the idea of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and his accompanying work, power and manifestation.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

**Romans 8:9 ESV**

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 Corinthians 6:11 ESV**

And has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

**Colossians 1:8 ESV**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

**1 Peter 3:18 ESV**

For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

**1 Peter 4:6 ESV**

## In the Spirit is “Guided by the Spirit”

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law.

**Luke 2:27 ESV**

The leading of the Holy Spirit is vital to worship, he is the guide, the counsellor, our leader!

## In the Spirit is “In Tongues”

Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?



## 1 Corinthians 14:16 ESV

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

## Ephesians 6:18 ESV

This could be seen as a specific development of ‘in the Spirit is “In the Spiritual Realm”, as the gift of tongues ushers us into the realm of the Spirit. We need to see the significance in this use of the phrase: it is not a curious euphemism, it reveals to us something of the “mechanics” of entering into the realm of the Spirit: the gifts of tongues are a gateway into another realm!



## 5.3 The Spirit of Elijah

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### The Elijah Expectation

Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

**Malachi 4:4 ESV**

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

**Malachi 4:5-6 ESV**

Elijah was a powerful prophet at the time of the apostate kings of Israel. He turned the hearts of the people away from their false God (Baal) and back to the true God. His prayers shut the heavens for three and a half years, and his prayers opened them again. He called down fire from heaven on Mount Carmel, witnessed the glory of the Lord pass him by on Mount Sinai, and was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind to meet the Lord in the air with his chariots of fire. He became the figurehead of the Old Testament prophetic writings in the same way that Moses represented the Law. That is why in several passages, including this one, Moses and Elijah appear together representing the two witnesses of the Old Covenant who testify to the coming of the Lord Jesus.

There is a marked distinction though. The people were commanded to *remember* Moses, but to *behold* Elijah. Moses has been and gone, but Elijah was coming again! Thus the concluding words of the Old Testament leave us with a great expectation; not just of the coming of the Lord, but also of one like Elijah who will prepare the way for his coming. [Because Elijah never died a physical death, some believed that this would literally be the prophet Elijah returned to earth.]

### The Elijah Who Came

The first fulfilment of this was John the Baptist. Before he was born the angel Gabriel prophesied over him these words:



And 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.

**Luke 1:17 ESV**

Jesus himself confirmed that John was the Elijah that was to precede his first coming.

But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

**Matthew 17:12-13 ESV**

John fulfilled the ministry of Elijah by preparing the people's hearts, through repentance and baptism, for the coming of the Lord. The first prophet Elijah prepared the way for Elisha, whose name literally means, *Lamb of God*. But while previous prophets pointed towards Jesus through type and shadow, it fell to John, the last and greatest Old Covenant prophet to point to the reality himself and declare.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

**John 1:29 ESV**

## The Elijah Who Will Restore

...But there is more to the coming Elijah than was fulfilled in John the Baptist. After the transfiguration, where Peter, James and John witness Moses and Elijah speaking to the glorified Christ, they ask Jesus why Elijah must come before the Lord is revealed. Jesus replies:

Elijah **does come**, and **he will** restore all things.

**Matthew 17:11 ESV**

This is three chapters after John was beheaded by Herod, yet Jesus says that Elijah *comes and will restore all things!* It is clear that John did not restore all things to their rightful place in God's kingdom order and rule, so Jesus is speaking of yet another fulfilment to the ministry of Elijah. A greater ministry that will prepare for a greater day of the Lord when Jesus is revealed in greater



glory. It will be this fulfilment of the ministry of Elijah that will usher in the fullness of the eternal kingdom purpose of God by restoring all things to their rightful place under the feet of Jesus. A ministry that, like John's, and Elijah's before him, will turn the wayward hearts back to the Lord, and build up a spotless community of believers who are ready for the Lord's return. It is the ministry that is fulfilled by the Church!

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

**Luke 7:28 ESV**

We are part of a greater expression of the spirit and power of Elijah than John the Baptist. John prepared for his first coming, but we as the church are to prepare the way for the ultimate and final coming of the Lord.

On the cross, when Jesus cried out his great anguished cry of "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" The people who were listening made a mistake in what they thought they heard... but at this pivotal moment in history, even the mistaken understanding of the scornful onlookers proved to be highly prophetic!

And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

**Mark 15:-36 ESV**

Through his death on the cross, and his victorious resurrection from the dead, Jesus did indeed call forth Elijah. He even now calls forth a people who in the spirit and power of Elijah will be his prophetic witnesses, to restore a wayward world, and ultimately to bring him down... not from the cross, but from where he sits in glory at the right hand of God waiting for the ministry of Elijah to be fulfilled.

## **The Spirit of Elijah - The Prophetic Witness of the Church**

The Spirit that is on us then, is the Spirit of Elijah. Just as Elijah's spirit was communicated to Elisha, and then John the Baptist, his great mantle has now passed to us. We are now those who go out in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the disobedient to the way of the Lord. This is the primary reason the anointing of the Holy Spirit comes upon us - to make us witnesses.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

**Acts 1:8 ESV**

Elijah with Moses represents the two witnesses of the Law and the Prophets - the Old Testament scriptures. But Moses and Elijah are also the two witnesses to the *glory of the Lord*. Both beheld the glory of God pass by on Mount Sinai, and both beheld the glory of the Lord on the mount of transfiguration.

This is also the job of the Spirit. Not just to reveal the glory of the Lord *to* us. He desires us to reflect that glory *through* us. He does this as we are transformed into his image as the Spirit cultivates his fruit in our lives, and he does it as we transform situations around us by the gifts of power that he graces us with. Through the Spirit we too are witness of Christ's glory.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV**

## The Spirit of Elijah – Opening and Shutting the Heavens

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

**James 5:17 ESV**

The fact that Elijah's nature was representative of ours as the New Covenant people of God is taken up by the apostle James in his letter to the churches. This time it comes in the context of prayer. Just as Elijah opened and shut the heavens with his prayers, so as we pray in the Spirit we too have the power to move heaven and to bind and loose on earth.

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.



## Matthew 18:18 ESV

When we pray we should pray knowing that Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. We pray in expectation not just because the spirit and power of Elijah is on us, but because by his Spirit one greater than Elijah is in us!

## The Spirit of Elijah – Making Ready a People Prepared

The ministry of Elijah was not just outward to reach the world; it was inward to prepare a people. When Elijah complained that he was the only one of the Lord's prophets left, the Lord corrected him that there was still a prophetic company of seven thousand that remained loyal to him. Elijah, and later even more so with Elisha, became the leader of a company of the prophets who are a little paradigm of the New Covenant community within the pages of the Old Testament.

The ministry of a prophet, and all the activity of those who minister in the Spirit of the Lord, is to build up the body of Christ. It is not just as the prophets do their work that this happens, but it is as all of us as God's prophetic company find and move in the part of the body assigned to us. This is the way the body is built up and reaches maturity, and this maturity is one of the things that must be made ready before the Lord returns. Jesus is coming back for his bride when she has made herself ready, and we have a part to play in that process as we respond to the Holy Spirit.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ**, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV

## The Spirit of Elijah – Preparing the Way for the Lord

Of course the most important aspect of the ministry of Elijah is it is the ministry that welcomes in the coming of the Lord. This is the ultimate context into which



all our efforts and endeavours must fit. We are strangers and aliens here on earth, not settling for worldly comforts and goods, but seeking his kingdom first, hastening his coming, and continuing on towards the heavenly city that has captured our hearts - seeing it come down from heaven to earth. For once the kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven, then the king will return in glory. The Spirit within the church longs for the return of the bridegroom. If we have caught the heart of the spirit of Elijah then that will be our passion too.

The Spirit and the Bride say, “**Come!**”

**Revelation 22:17 ESV**

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

## 5.4 The Corporate Anointing

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

**1 Corinthians 12:11-14 ESV**

It is obvious but well worth stating that it is the same Holy Spirit in all of us and that he is the Spirit who knows the deep things of the mind of God.

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"--these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-11 ESV**

The baptism in the Spirit produces an interconnectivity amongst believers: not just a shared source, but a shared mission and mind.

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Now the full number of those who believed were **of one heart and soul**, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

**Acts 4:31-32 ESV**

This corporate anointing is fundamental to how God wants to work by his Spirit through his people - none of us are Lone Rangers! We depend on one another in the realm of the Spirit and can draw on one another in the things of the Spirit. When moving in a gift or a manifestation of the Spirit we can consciously draw on the anointing and gifting in others to complete the task that the Spirit desires.



In receiving ministry from men and women of God we can participate in the activity of the Spirit by activity laying hold of what they have to impart – sometimes without them even being aware that that is what we are doing.

One mark of a time under the corporate anointing is that we find it difficult to distinguish who said what or who did what – so conscious are we of the Spirit that the mouth-piece becomes irrelevant. This is true body ministry, where the anointing is everything and the individuals retreat into the background. Amen!

In our pursuit of God and the things of the Spirit we must remain conscious that it is in rightly discerning the body that we will find blessing and it is through an active sharing of spiritual life in unity that God pours out his anointing:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

**Psalm 133:1-3 ESV**

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