



the book of acts WEEK THREE

ACTS 1:15–26

The 120 Gather — Obedience Before Outpouring

The Number 120

120 disciples gathered — enough to constitute a formal Jewish community council. This was not a coincidence; it was a Spirit-ordered quorum.

Peter rises as the leader — a transformed man. This is not the denier of Gethsemane but one reshaped by resurrection encounter.

Judas & Scripture

κληρον — "lot" / portion (v.17)

Judas's betrayal is reframed through Ps 69:25 and Ps 109:8. Peter does not avoid the tragedy — he places it inside God's sovereign narrative.

Guzik: "Peter knew that Jesus' death was in the plan of God. Yet those who acted were still responsible."

Matthias Chosen

ἐκλέγομαι — chosen out

The method: prayer + discernment + community decision + lot (κληρον). No single authority decides alone.

Waiting is not idle. The 120 prayed and ordered themselves before power fell. Obedience precedes empowerment.

Pentecost

Prepares Harvesters for the Fields

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into his harvest field."
— Luke 10:2*

UNDERSTANDING PENTECOST

The Name & The Season

Fifty Days

Pentecost (Greek: pentékosté) means "the fiftieth."

The Old Testament Feast of Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after Passover.

Seven Weeks

Pentecost was also known as the Feast of Weeks because it falls seven weeks after Firstfruits — the offering of the first of the barley harvest to God.

The Harvest

Agricultural Harvest

A day of celebration for the end of the barley harvest, including the firstfruits of the new wheat harvest.

Missional Call

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers." — Luke 10:2

Spiritual Harvest

God poured out His Spirit to enable believers to reap the spiritual harvest of souls.

Formational Purpose

Pentecost prepares harvesters for the fields.

Feasts That Foreshadow New Testament Events

Feast	OT References	NT References
Passover	Ex. 12:1–14; Lev. 23:5; Num. 9:1–14; 28:16; Deut. 16:1–8	Matt. 26:17; Mark 14:12–26; John 2:13; 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:28
Unleavened Bread	Ex. 12:15–20; 23:15; 34:18; Lev. 23:6–8; Num. 28:17–25; Deut. 16:3–8	Mark 14:1; Acts 12:3; 1 Cor. 5:6–8
Firstfruits	Lev. 23:9–14	Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 15:20–23
Pentecost (Feast of Weeks / Feast of Harvest)	Ex. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 23:15–21; Num. 28:26–31; Deut. 16:9–12	Acts 2:1–4; 20:16; 1 Cor. 16:8

Suddenly

The Three Signs of Pentecost

Wind (v.2)

πνοή — *breath / wind*

"A sound like a rushing mighty wind" filling the whole house. In Hebrew and Greek, spirit, breath, and wind share the same root (רוח / πνεῦμα). Echoes: Gen 1:2, Gen 2:7, Ezek 37:9-10.

Guzik: "The sound of a fast, mighty wind would make any who knew the Scriptures think of the presence of the Holy Spirit."

Fire (v.3)

γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός

Divided tongues as of fire — one sitting upon each of them. Fire = purification and divine pleasure (cf. Lev 9:24; 1 Kgs 18:38). Under the New Covenant the Spirit rests on each individual — not on a nation or an office.

Guzik: "The tongues of fire sat upon each of them — emphasis on this point: the Spirit was upon each individual."

Tongues (v.4)

ἐπλήσθησαν πάντες

They were ALL filled — ἐπλήσθησαν (aorist passive) — the Spirit is the active agent. They began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance (ἀποφθέγγομαι — ecstatic, Spirit-prompted speech).

Speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of Spirit-baptism — not the goal, but the overflow.

"What Does This Mean?" — Babel Reversed

The Crowd's Experience

Devout Jews from every nation under heaven gathered for Pentecost. Many were the same pilgrims present at Passover when Jesus was crucified.

Each person heard their own language spoken — 15+ language groups listed (vv.9-11). They were not preaching to the crowd in tongues — the disciples declared the wonderful works of God to God, and the crowd overheard.

Two responses: "Whatever could this mean?" (honest inquiry) vs. "They are full of new wine" (dismissal). The supernatural always divides.

Pentecostal & Charismatic Lens

Babel reversal. At Babel (Gen 11), language was divided and humanity scattered. At Pentecost, the Spirit unifies across language lines — not by erasing difference but by speaking into it.

Guzik: "Ever since the early church fathers, commentators have seen the blessing of Pentecost as a deliberate and dramatic reversal of Babel."

The gift of tongues is a personal language of prayer between the believer and God (1 Cor 14:2). It is not primarily a missiological tool — but the Spirit uses it as a sign to draw people to inquiry.

In the Last Days

Peter Quotes Joel 2:28–32

"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." — Joel 2:28, 32 (Acts 2:17, 21)

Not drunk — it's 9am

Peter answers mockery with Scripture. A model for explaining Spirit manifestations with theological precision. Guzik: "Peter didn't wake up knowing he would preach to thousands — but his life with God prepared him."

All flesh — no hierarchy

Sons AND daughters. Young AND old. Servants AND free. This is a radical democratization of the prophetic. Under the Old Covenant the Spirit rested on offices; under the New, on persons.

Last days = now, still

Pentecostals affirm we remain in the 'last days' — a season, not a moment. The outpouring is ongoing. The invitation to call on the name of the Lord is still open and still produces salvation.

The Gift Our Father Promised

The Promise of God

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy..." — Joel 2:28–29

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

"You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." — Acts 2:38

The Command of Jesus

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised... you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." — Acts 1:4–5

The Baptizer, Jesus

"He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." — Matthew 3:11

Appendix

Written By: Jessica Ellertson

Charismatic comes from the Greek word *charisma* which is used 17 times in the New Testament. Its use is restricted to the epistles and is found in 1&2 Corinthians, 1&2 Timothy, Romans, and 1 Peter. It is derived from the Greek word *karis*, meaning grace. A good way to look at *charisma* is an operation of grace or a grace-endowment. The -ma suffix of the word makes the focus the end-result of the endowment of grace—that is the edification of the church.

Spiritual Gifts are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:29-30, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, Hebrews 2:4, and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Description	Scripture Reference
Source of all gifts to the Church	1 Corinthians 12:7-11
Prophecy	1 Corinthians 14:1-40
Miracles and Healing	1 Corinthians 12:4, 28-30
Tongues	1 Corinthians 12: 4, 10
Teaching	1 Corinthians 12:4, 28
Faith	1 Corinthians 12:8-9
Serving	1 Corinthians 12:4, 28; Ephesians 4:12
Encouraging	Romans 12:8; c.f. 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7

Another way to look at the spiritual gifts:

Hebrews 2:4	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:29-30	Romans 12:6-8	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:10-11
	Word of wisdom				Speaking oracles of God
	Word of knowledge				
	Gifts of healing	Gifts of healing			
Signs and wonders and miracles	Miracles	Miracles			

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	Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	
	Discerning of spirits	Discerning of spirits			
	Tongues	tongues			
	Interpretation of tongues				
		Apostles		Apostles	
		Teachers	teaching	Teachers	
		Helps			
		Administration			
			Ministry		Serving
			Encouraging		
			Giving		
			Leadership		
			Showing Mercy		
				Evangelist	
				Pastors	
					Serving by strength

In order to better understand the Holy Spirit , it is important to understand who the Holy Spirit is and what He Does.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Names	Description/ Definition	Scripture
	Holy Spirit	Luke 11:13; John 20:22; Acts 1:5; c.f. Ps 51:11
	Spirit of Grace	Hebrews 10:29
	Spirit of Truth	John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13: c.f. 1 John 5:6

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	Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge	Isaiah 11:2; c.f. 61:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:17
	Spirit Of Glory	1 Peter 4:4; c.f. Exodus 15:11; Psalm 145:5
	Counselor	John 14:16; 16:7

Personality	Description/ Definition	Scripture
	He is the third person of the Godhead, the Trinity.	Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:16; Acts 10:38
	He has knowledge	Isaiah 11:2; Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
	He has feeling	Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30; c.f. Acts 7:51; Romans 15:30
	He has will.	1 Corinthians 12:11

Attributes	Description/ Definition	Scripture
	He is divine	Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:18
	He is eternal	Hebrews 9:14
	He is omnipresent	Psalm 139:7
	He is omniscient	John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Description of Activity	Scripture Reference
He was active in creation	Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30
He inspired the bible writers	2 Peter 1:21
He empowered the conception of Christ	Luke 1:35
He resurrected Christ.	Romans 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18
He convicts of sin	John 16:8; c.f. Genesis 6:3

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Through the ministry of the Spirit a person is regenerated or born again, receives eternal life, and is renewed.	John 3:3-8; 6:63; Titus 3:5
The Spirit abides in the believers. Without the Spirit's indwelling the person does not belong to Christ.	John 14:17; Romans 8:9,11; 1 Corinthians 3:16;6:19
Believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit by Christ, uniting them into one body.	Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13
God seals believers with the Holy Spirit, providing a statement of ownership and guarantee of final redemption.	2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; c.f. Romans 8:16
Believers are command to be "filled with the Spirit." The filling ministry of the Spirit can be divided into the general filling related to spiritual growth and maturation and to special capacities given by the Spirit for special tasks by God.	Ephesians 5:18; c.f. Acts 4:8; 4:31; 6:3; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9
Believers are commanded to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. The Spirit keeps the believer from enslavement to legalism and also provides discipline and direction to the Christian life.	Galatians 5:16, 25; c.f. Acts 8:29; 13:2; 15:7-9; 16:6; Romans 8:14
He counsels.	John 14:16-17; 16:7, 12-14
The indwelling Spirit provides victory in the Christian life, development of Christian truth, and the ability to win against the work of Satan.	Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:17-18; 22-23
He calls to service.	Acts 13:4
Jesus promised that when the Spirit came he would lead believers into truth. The Spirit illuminates the mind of the believer to the revelation of God's will through His word.	John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27
He aids in prayer by intercession.	Romans 8:26-27
He works in the Church.	1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Why It's Important to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

1

The Task Is Bigger Than You Are

No matter how bright, gifted, or strong you are, you must rely on a power greater than your own.

2

The Task Is Too Hard Without the Spirit

You need the Spirit's power to do what Jesus has called you to do.

3

The Task Is Not Finished

Not everyone has heard the gospel. The mission continues.

Steps to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1 Obedience

"God has given [the Holy Spirit] to those who obey him." — Acts 5:32. The path of obedience always leads to God's blessings.

3 Prayer

"Pray continually." — 1 Thess. 5:17. Developing constant prayerfulness opens the door to a fresh move of God.

2 Unity

"They were all with one accord in one place." — Acts 2:1. We must rise above differences with forgiveness and love.

4 Study & Application of Scripture

"All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." — 2 Tim. 3:16

Four Purposes of Speaking in Tongues Today

1 Acts 2:4

The initial physical evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2 1 Cor. 12:7–11

One of the nine gifts of the Spirit for Christian worship.

3 1 Cor. 14:13–19

A regular means of personal prayer.

4 1 Cor. 14:21–25

A sign to unbelievers.

Benefits of Regularly Praying in the Spirit

Build Up Yourself

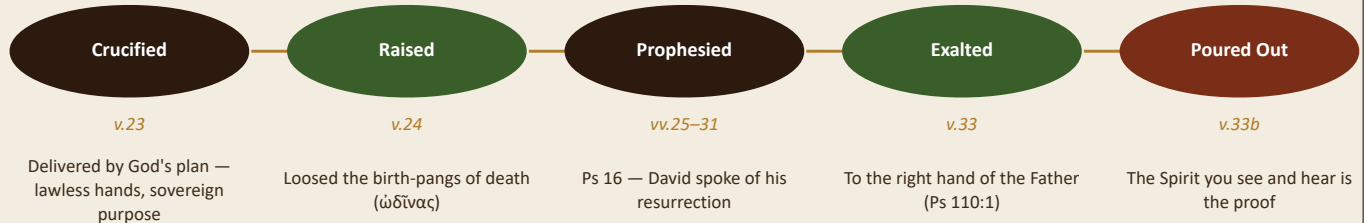
"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself." — 1 Corinthians 14:4

Release Your Spirit to Fully Express Itself to God

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us... the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." — Romans 8:26–27

Whom God Raised Up

Death · Resurrection · Exaltation · Spirit Poured Out



Pentecostal Insight · Acts 2:33

The Spirit's outpouring is the proof of Christ's resurrection and exaltation. When we encounter the Spirit, we encounter the enthroned Christ. Tongues are not emotion — they are christological evidence.

"Apart from the resurrection, we have no proof that Jesus successfully paid for our sins. The resurrection was absolutely inevitable — God's Holy One could not remain bound by death." (Guzik)

Cut to the Heart

Peter's Four-Part Answer · 3,000 Saved

01 · Repent

μετανοέω — change of mind, direction, loyalty

Not mere remorse but reorientation toward Christ. Guzik: "Repentance must never be thought of as something we must do before we come to God — repentance describes what coming to God is."

02 · Be Baptized

βαπτισθήτω — in the name of Jesus Christ

Public declaration of death and resurrection. For Jewish listeners this was radical — Jews were not commonly baptized. It showed total need for Jesus.

03 · Receive Forgiveness

εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν — remission of sins

The gospel promise. This is what we receive — not what we earn. The cross deals fully with the record of sin for all who turn to Christ.

04 · Receive the Spirit

τὴν δωρεάν — the gift (of the Holy Spirit)

Guzik: "The promise is for all who are afar off — includes all people to the present time." Pentecostal theology: Spirit-baptism is available and expected for every believer.

Acts 2

Benjamin Bloom identified three domains of learning.

Peter's sermon touched all three.

Cognitive

The audience heard and mentally processed Peter's message. Teaching that touches this domain encourages acquisition and meaningful processing of information.

Affective

They were "cut to the heart." Emotionally affected, resulting in a change of attitude and values.

Psycho-Motor

"Brothers, what shall we do?" The teaching motivated a behavioral response.

ACTS 2:42-47

Continuing Steadfastly

Four Pillars of the New Community

Apostles' Teaching

διδασχῆ — doctrine

They devoted themselves to doctrine. Guzik: "Every pastor should seek to be unoriginal — not having their own doctrine, but the apostles' doctrine." Signs don't replace the Word; they validate it.

Fellowship

κοινωνία — communion, sharing

Community so radical they held possessions loosely. Spirit-baptism produces generosity. Guzik: "The Christian life is meant to be full of fellowship — sharing the same Lord, struggles, and victories."

Breaking of Bread

κλάσει τοῦ ἄρτου

House to house — Eucharist and table fellowship woven together. They never wanted to forget what Jesus did on the cross. Guzik: "How much more important for us not to forget."

Prayer

ταῖς προσευχαῖς — the prayers

Not occasional but continual — note the definite article (formal gathered prayer). The community born in prayer stays alive in prayer. Signs followed praying people.

Awe Upon Every Soul

Signs & Wonders in the Early Church

Enduring Word Commentary

Guzik notes two simultaneous evidences of God's power in v.43:

φόβος (awe/fear) came upon every soul — the deepest work God can do is to cultivate reverent honor of the Lord in the human heart. Holy fear and holy boldness coexist in Spirit-filled community.

Many wonders and signs through the apostles — miracles authenticated the message. The exercise of tongues produced astonishment; it wasn't until the gospel was preached that conviction came. This was what God really wanted to accomplish.

Signs and wonders were not the church's objective — they were the overflow of Spirit-filled proclamation.

Charismatic Theology

Gifts continue today. Healing, prophecy, tongues, miracles — Pentecostals affirm these gifts are active (1 Cor 12–14; Heb 13:8).

God is consistent. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" — the Age of Miracles did not end in Acts.

Atmosphere matters. Where God is genuinely at work, lives are touched, and reverence increases. Awe is the atmosphere of authentic revival.

Living Acts 2 Today

The Promise Is for You — Acts 2:39

Wait actively

The 120 didn't wait passively — they prayed, unified, and ordered themselves. Obedience precedes empowerment. Don't rush the Spirit; don't starve the preparation.

Ask for the filling

Luke 11:13 — if you, being evil, know how to give gifts, how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask? Asking is the posture.

Preach the Word

The gift of tongues produced astonishment; the preached Word produced conviction. Spirit boldness is Word boldness. Don't separate them.

Build the community

The four pillars — teaching, koinonia, Eucharist, prayer — are a blueprint, not a museum piece. A Spirit-filled church is Word-saturated and table-centered.

Expect the harvest

God added to their number daily. Sustained revival flows from sustained devotion. Guzik: "If we care for Acts 2:42–47a, God will take care of growing the church."

Live in holy awe

φόβος came upon every soul. Spirit-filled community is marked by reverence, not just enthusiasm. Holy fear and holy boldness belong together.

The Promise Is Still for You

*"The promise is for you and your children
and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

— Acts 2:39

Pentecost is not a past event to study.

It is a present reality to inhabit.

The Holy Spirit



STUDY NOTES

Breath, Wind, Spirit, & Mind

Get ready to clear your throat and enjoy reading through some excerpts of scripture! Where you see the words **spirit, wind, or breath** in bold, say “*ruakh*” instead for Old Testament passages or, for New Testament passages, say “pneuma.”

The first time God’s Spirit appears in the Bible is on Page 1!

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit** of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.



GENESIS 1:1-3

1 | Breath

The first and most basic meaning in the Hebrew Bible for *ruakh* is “breath.” The invisible life-energy that you breath in and out is actually God’s gift to humanity.

Then Yahweh God formed Adam of dirt from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath** of life; and man became an animated being.

...as long as I have life within me, the **breath** of God in my nostrils...

When you die, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the **spirit** returns to God who gave it.

If God decided to take back his **spirit/breath** and gather his **breath** back to himself, all mortal creatures would expire and humanity would return to the dirt.

GENESIS 2:7

JOB 27:3

ECCLESIASTES 12:7

JOB 34:14-15

2 | Wind

Wind is an invisible power that animates humans (breath) and all creation. God's presence appearing is often connected to wind.

Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the **wind** rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

1 KINGS 18:45

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden **in the wind** of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

GENESIS 3:8

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east **wind** and turned it into dry land."

EXODUS 14:21

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind (pnoe) came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting... and they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** (pneuma).

ACTS 2:2, 4

Ruakh is an invisible energy that animates things and makes them move. God's *Ruakh* is animating everything.

3 | Spirit

Spirit is the invisible, life-animating energy of God that is present in his creation, sustaining all life.

If you hide your face [from any creature], they are dismayed when you take away their **breath**, they die and they return to the dirt.

When you send forth your **spirit/breath** they are created, and you revitalize the surface of the ground.

PSALM 104:29-30

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the **breath of his mouth**.

PSALM 33:6



4 | Mind

This usage concerns a frame of mind, or conscious purpose.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose **spirit** is no deceit.”

PSALM 32:2

Do not be quickly provoked in your **spirit**, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

ECCLESIASTES 7:9

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast **spirit** within me.

PSALM 51:10

Activities of God’s *Ruakh*

1 | God’s *ruakh* can ‘enter’ human beings in order to influence and empower them by enabling their human abilities with divine enhancement.

Who was the first spirit-empowered person in the Bible? Joseph! Pharaoh elevates him to a position of authority because he is “... one in whom is the **spirit** of God.” The second? Bezalel.

GENESIS 41:38

See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the **Spirit** of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge, and with all kinds of skills – to make artistic designs...

EXODUS 31:2

When the people rebelled in the wilderness, Moses wished that God would send his Spirit on all of God’s people.

If only all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put His **Spirit** upon them!

NUMBERS 11:29

God’s Spirit empowers rulers to be wise, powerful, and perform acts of salvation.

Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the **spirit** of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him.

DEUTERONOMY 34:9

In the Book of Judges, God’s Spirit comes upon tribal rulers like Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson despite some of them having terrible character flaws). God’s *Ruakh* empowers prophets to speak on God’s behalf.

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.

MICAH 3:8

2 | When the Biblical authors look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in the new creation, they envision a world permeated with the spirit of God.

The Messiah will come to rule and be empowered by the Spirit:

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
The **Spirit** of the Lord will rest on Him,
The **spirit** of wisdom and understanding,
The **spirit** of counsel and strength,
The **spirit** of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

ISAIAH 11:1–2

When Ezekiel envisioned how the transformation of rebellious Israel would take place, he envisioned a new creation act—new humans by way of God's Spirit.

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new **spirit** within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. "I will put My **Spirit** within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

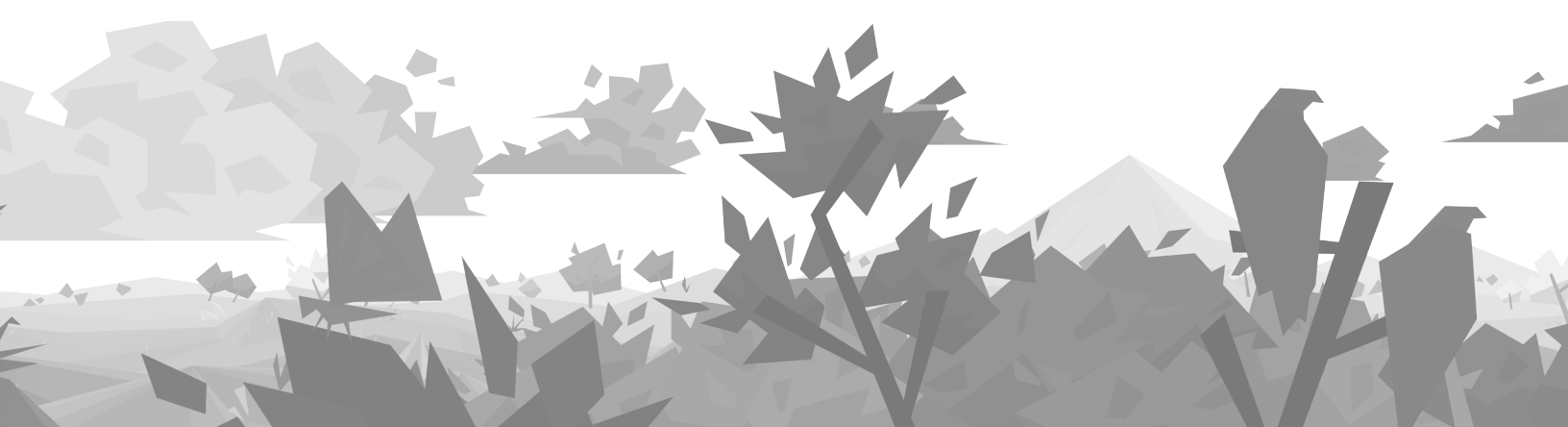
EZEKIEL 36:26–27

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast **spirit** within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy **Spirit** from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing **spirit**, to sustain me.

PSALM 51:10–12

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the **Spirit** of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones... Thus says the Lord God to these bones, "Behold, I will cause **breath** to enter you that you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put **breath** in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no **breath** in them. Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the **breath**, prophesy, son of man, and say to the **breath**, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Come from the four winds, O **breath**, and **breathe** on these slain, that they come to life.'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the **breath** came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

EZEKIEL 37



Summary of Old Testament Usage

1 | Spirit of Creative Life

God's *ruakh* is the invisible, personal presence of the creator God that animates and sustains all creation.

- God's *ruakh* is associated with the wind, an invisible powerful energy.
- Creator *ruakh*: Living creatures have borrowed *ruakh*, invisible life-energy that sustains their existence; when they die their *ruakh* goes back to the creator.

2 | Spirit of Empowering Presence.

- The Spirit can enhance or use a person's own thoughts, abilities, and purposes to accomplish God's purposes.
- The Spirit "comes upon" someone to do God's will: Bezalel, Gideon, Samson, Saul, David, *etc.*
- The Spirit influences someone's mind so that what they speak is what God wants people to hear, *e.g.*, the prophets.

SEE MICAH 3:8

3 | Spirit of New Creation

Just as God created through his Spirit, so God's future purposes to restore all things will also take place through the work of his Spirit.

- The messianic king is empowered by the Spirit.
- The new covenant people of God are transformed by God's Spirit in such a major way that only the language of "new creation" is adequate.
- The Spirit will be "poured out" to bring about the flourishing of creation itself.

SEE ISAIAH 11

SEE EZEKIEL 36, 37

SEE ISAIAH 32:15



The Spirit in the New Testament

1 | Jesus' origins are traced to the creative work of the Spirit.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 1:18

Jesus' baptism is a deliberate recall of Genesis 1:2.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

LUKE 3:21–22

The Gospel of Luke highlights more than any other gospel the role of the Spirit in empowering Jesus and his mission.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness.

LUKE 4:1

At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants."

LUKE 10:21

2 | Jesus' resurrection was the new-creation work of the Spirit.

God's Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, by the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 1:3–4

Jesus' resurrection life of the Spirit was then passed onto his followers.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

JOHN 20:21–22



3 | In Acts, the coming of the Spirit is equated with the arrival of God's temple presence.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2:1-3

In Acts, the Spirit and Jesus are nearly identical, guiding and directing the followers of Jesus.

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."

ACTS 13:2

They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.

ACTS 16:6-7



4 | In Paul's letters, the Holy Spirit is equated with the presence of God and the presence of Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:10

For Paul, the Spirit brings the divine resurrection life of Jesus into the life of his followers.

But 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

The Spirit is the very life of God joined to humanity, and so through human suffering and anguish over the pain of the world, God's own Spirit prays to God himself.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

ROMANS 8:26–27

God gives gifts to his followers through the Spirit to empower them for ministry.

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:11

The Spirit is bringing about new creation in the lives of Jesus' followers, producing new 'fruit.'

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:22–25



Discussion Questions

- 1 | Does thinking of God as breath, wind, or animating energy depersonalize God or make God seem closer and more intimate with us?
- 2 | Consider Acts 16:6–7. Where, if at all, might one draw a line between Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
- 3 | Why does God partner with us to create life through the invisible means of the Spirit rather than through more empirical means?
- 4 | Does God's Spirit only hone innate talents and abilities within us so that we can serve God, or does God's Spirit grant us entirely new talents and abilities that we previously did not have?
- 5 | Is it possible to resist God's Spirit? If so, how? If not, where does human free will come in?
- 6 | In what ways is God's Spirit specifically working through you and your faith community today to create life within the New Creation?