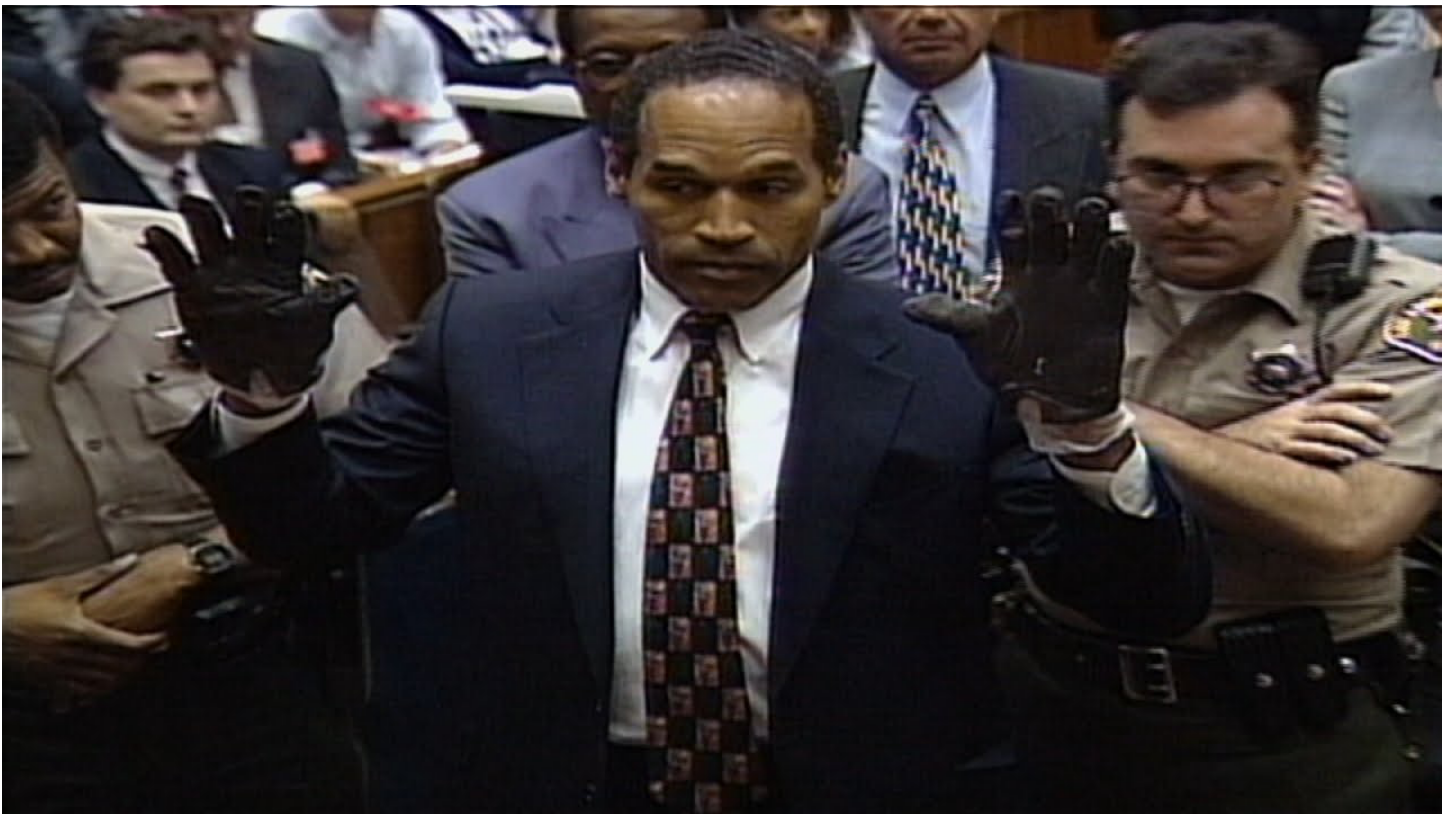


Like A Glove

Turn to two books in your Bible and follow along with me today – Ephesians 1 and Judges 6...

I want to start today's teaching in a very unusual way. I would like to throw out two extremes that seem so far away from each other. At first this might seem a little confusing, but I believe that I can make a parallel that will unveil a revelation for you. – **Let Pray...**

If I make this statement what to do you think of: **If it doesn't fit, you must acquit...** January 15, 1995 – Johnny Cochran made this statement in that famous trial. A scene unfolded that we will never forget (**PUT UP PIC**). It was probably the single tactic in the trial that cast reasonable doubt and led to O.J.'s judgment of *not guilty*.



This whole scene emphasized the point that a glove is supposed to fit... hence the phrase – *Like a glove*. Now just hold onto that thought for a moment and let

me go to another extreme about another historical figure – **The Person of The Holy Spirit**

Introduction

- The Holy Spirit is not an energy, whisper, or force—He is a Person.
- He has been actively working in the universe for eternity. He has also been actively engaged in the earth since its creation. In fact, he was the person of the trinity that put all the pieces together like a jig saw puzzle.
- For 4 thousand years He would come upon men to accomplish divine purposes in the earth.
- Then He is there from the conception of Jesus to his water baptism by John, the temptation in the wilderness...Leading Jesus every step of the way through the fulfillment of redemption plan.
- Then He comes into a body of believers on Pentecost and from that moment forward he becomes the dominant reality within the Church.
 - **The Holy Spirit was the source of all guidance**
 - Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8: 29)
 - Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)
 - Agabus foretelling a famine (Acts 11: 28)
 - Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles (Acts 13)
 - Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
 - **All the leaders of the church were men of the Spirit**
 - Deacons (Acts 6: 3)
 - Stephen and Barnabas full (Acts 7: 55, and Acts 11)
 - Acts 20: 28 – Holy Spirit made them the overseer
 - **The Holy Spirit was their source of courage and strength**
 - Acts 1: 8 – Power...
 - Acts 4: 31 – Persecution
- Of all the characters in the Bible, we have more detail about Jesus than anyone else – that is purposeful. Because He was the fulfillment of every type and shadow in the OT. From Genesis to Malachi everything pointed to the Messiah – Jesus. But after Jesus’s ascension he sent the HS to fill us.

This is why Acts seems to highlight the demonstrations of the Spirit as they exalted Christ. The HS has been on this earth now for over 2000 years working in and through the church. He is my question?

Why do we know more about Jesus' three-and-a-half years of ministry than we do about the Holy Spirit's two thousand years of work among us.

The answer is because we don't focus on the person of the Holy Spirit. I believe this is grave mistake for a couple of important reasons:

- **We focus more on a Bible that they did not have than we do on the person and power of the Holy Spirit that they did have.**
- **We focus more on creeds and traditions of the early church fathers that the early church did not have, than we do on the leadership of the Holy Spirit that they did have.**

God's presence in the person of The Holy Spirit is the most dominant feature in this room and in our lives.

- God's Mysterious Glue - *By God's Word, all things are held together (Colossians 1:17).*
 - The Spirit is the divine force binding all creation.
 - ***The Spirit of God is the glue holding the universe together—and He lives in you.***
 - The Spirit is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
 - Romans 8:11: *"If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you..."*
 - *The resurrection power that lifted Christ from the grave resides in you.*

God's ultimate intention for you is "fullness"

- Ephesians 3:19 - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with **all the fullness of God**.
- Ephesians 1:22-23 - And He put all *things* under His feet and gave Him to be head over all *things* to the church, ²³**which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

- Ephesians 4:13 - till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of **the fullness of Christ**.
 - **You are not full until you are overflowing!**
- **Why is fullness so important?**
 - When there is fullness barren fields look fertile, dead relationships seem alive, and hopeless situations look promising. **Fullness allows you to see what God sees before it becomes visible to others.**
- **We have corrupted “fullness”**
 - **The fullness of the Holy Spirit is not about ministry performance but valuing a Person.**
 - The Spirit doesn't fill us for ministry; **He fills us for relationship—and ministry overflows.** His fullness is both vertical and horizontal!

A warning of Blasphemy - Using the Holy Spirit Without Knowing Him

Jesus said, *“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come”* (Matthew 12:32).

- While many of us may not blatantly reject the Holy Spirit, there is another way we can grieve Him—**by reducing Him to a tool for ministry instead of seeking Him as the One who deepens our relationship with God.**
- **It's easy to fall into the trap of viewing the Holy Spirit as the “power source” for gifts, miracles, and anointing, while neglecting the intimacy He offers us with the Father and the Son.**
- **The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or a resource** we tap into for ministry success. He is the third Person of the Trinity, the very presence of God dwelling within us. His ultimate purpose is to lead us into a deeper relationship with God, transforming us into the image of Christ.

A DEEPER LOOK AT BLASPHEMY...

In Hebraic thought, **blasphemy** is understood as an offense against the sacredness of God's name, character, or reputation. This concept is deeply

rooted in the Torah and is integral to Israel's understanding of their covenant relationship with God.

Key Aspects of Blasphemy in Hebraic Thought

1. Violation of God's Holiness:

- In Leviticus 24:16, blasphemy is explicitly condemned: *"Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death."* The focus here is on verbal abuse or desecration of God's holy name (YHWH), which represents His essence, authority, and being.
- God's name was so sacred that it was often not spoken aloud, and any misuse of it was considered a grave sin.

2. Misrepresentation of God:

- Blasphemy is not limited to speech; it can also include actions that misrepresent God's character or will. For example, claiming divine authority for false actions or attributing evil to God is blasphemous.
- Ezekiel 36:20-23 (Message Translation) - God's Message came to me: "Son of man, when the people of Israel lived in their land, they polluted it by the way they lived. I poured out my anger on them because of the polluted blood they poured out on the ground. And so I got thoroughly angry with them polluting the country with their wanton murders and dirty gods. I kicked them out, exiled them to other countries. I sentenced them according to how they had lived. Wherever they went, they gave me a bad name. People said, 'These are God's people, but they got kicked off his land.' I suffered much pain over my holy reputation, which the people of Israel blackened in every country they entered. "Therefore, tell Israel, 'Message of God, the Master: I'm not doing this for you, Israel. I'm doing it for me, to save my character, my holy name, which you've blackened in every country where you've gone. I'm going to put my great and holy name on display, the name that has been ruined in so many countries, the name that you blackened wherever you went. Then the nations will realize who I really am, that I am God, when I show my holiness through you so that they can see it with their own eyes."

3. **Tying God's Name to Profane or False Things:**

- The third commandment, “*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain*” (Exodus 20:7), includes both verbal misuse of God's name and falsely attributing God's power or approval to ungodly actions.

4. **Challenging God's Sovereignty:**

- In Isaiah 37:23, King Sennacherib's defiance against God is labeled as blasphemy because it was a direct challenge to God's sovereignty.

5. **Profaning Sacred Spaces or Practices:**

- Desecrating the Temple, mishandling sacrifices, or disrespecting sacred objects and rituals were also considered forms of blasphemy.

6. **Disrupting Communal Harmony:**

- In Eastern cultures, religion and society were deeply intertwined. To blaspheme a god was not only a personal offense but also a societal disruption. It undermined the religious foundation of the community's moral and legal systems.
- **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** - ¹⁶Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

Jesus' Warning About Blasphemy

In the Gospels, Jesus provides a stern warning about a specific type of blasphemy: **blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**. This occurs during an incident recorded in Matthew 12:22–32, Mark 3:22–30, and Luke 12:10.

Context of Jesus' Warning:

1. Attributing the Holy Spirit's Work to Satan:

- Jesus had just healed a demon-possessed man, and the Pharisees accused Him of performing miracles through the power of Beelzebul

(Satan). In response, Jesus declared this accusation as dangerously close to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

- This blasphemy is uniquely serious because it involves willfully attributing the clear and undeniable work of God's Spirit to evil.

2. The Unforgivable Sin:

- Jesus said, *"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come"* (Matthew 12:32).
- This statement emphasizes the gravity of rejecting the Holy Spirit's testimony, which is the ultimate means through which people come to salvation.

Jesus' warning about blasphemy emphasizes the need for reverence, discernment, and a humble heart before God. It calls us to honor His Spirit's work and avoid the danger of a hardened heart that rejects Him.

If we seek the Holy Spirit only for what He can do through us rather than what He can do *in us*, we are in danger of treating Him as a means to an end rather than the end itself.

Ephesians 4:30, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption"

- We grieve the Spirit when we ignore His work in our hearts, focusing on the outward manifestations of power while neglecting the inward transformation He desires to produce.
- **The Holy Spirit isn't for ministry; He is for intimacy. Pure ministry flows out of a place of intimacy.** His role is to make us one with the Father and the Son (John 17:21-23).

Seal of Ownership

- The Spirit marks us as belonging to God and protects what He has deposited in us.
- *The Spirit in you is God's signature proving you're His.*
- What does a Biblical seal do?
 - It proves ownership
 - It protects important contents
 - **2 Corinthians 4:7** - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Gifts vs. Fruit – *The Important Contents*

- Gifts – Demonstrations of power
 - The **gifts of the Spirit** and the **fruit of the Spirit** are both vital aspects of a Spirit-filled life, but they serve different purposes and develop in distinct ways.
 - The gifts of the Spirit, such as prophecy, healing, and speaking in tongues, are divine endowments given for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and advancing God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). **These gifts are not earned or developed through personal effort; they are sovereignly distributed by the Holy Spirit to empower believers for specific tasks.**
 - Gifts are immediate and powerful manifestations of God's presence and purpose in our lives. They reflect His divine authority and are meant to point people to Jesus. **While gifts can be impressive and impactful, they are tools for ministry rather than measures of spiritual maturity.**

A person can operate in spiritual gifts while still lacking spiritual depth or character.

Examples:

1. Samson

- **Gift:** Spirit-empowered strength to deliver Israel (Judges 13–16).
- **Great strength means nothing when you can't control your own weakness.**
- **Charisma without character always leads to collapse.**

2. Balaam

- **Gift:** Heard from God and prophesied accurately (Numbers 22–24).
- **Balaam's words blessed Israel, but his heart betrayed them.**
- **Beware of "Prophets" chasing "Profit"!**

3. King Saul

- **Gift:** Anointed to lead and empowered to prophesy (1 Samuel 10:9–10).
- **Saul could prophesy in the palace but couldn't obey in the field.**
- **Spiritual gifting without obedience turns kings into rejects.**

4. The Pharisees

- **Gift:** Experts in the law and leaders of God's people (Matthew 23:2–3).
- **The Pharisees knew the Scriptures but missed the Savior.**
- **Head knowledge without heart change makes religion deadly.**

5. Ananias and Sapphira

- Participated in the powerful early church movement (Acts 5:1–11).
- **They wanted applause for fake generosity—and got judged for real hypocrisy.**

6. The Corinthian Church

- **Gift:** Overflowing in spiritual gifts like tongues and prophecy (1 Corinthians 12–14).
- **A church full of gifts but empty of love is just noise.**
- God cares more about the fruit of the Spirit than the flash of the gifts.

- **Fruit – Demonstrations of personal growth**

- The **fruit of the Spirit**—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)—is the evidence of God’s transformative work within us. Unlike gifts, which are given instantly, fruit is developed over time.
- **It is the result of a seed that has been cultivated** through daily obedience, prayer, and reliance on the Holy Spirit.
- Fruit matures as we remain connected to the Vine, Jesus Christ (John 15:5).

- **Gifts Display Power - Fruit Display Character**

- Gifts can dazzle and amaze, but fruit sustains and nurtures.

- **Gifts are God’s power flowing through us; fruit is God’s character growing in us.**

God can use anyone for His purposes by enabling a gift. However, true life and ministry flows out of the fullness of the Holy Spirit working in our life. Everything is about fullness...

Transition: remember, when I told you everything in the Old Testament was about the Holy Spirit coming upon people for divine purposes in the moment? Now let me show you why Jesus died on the cross and then sent the person of the Holy Spirit to not only come upon us, but to take up residence within us and fill us with all the fullness of God.

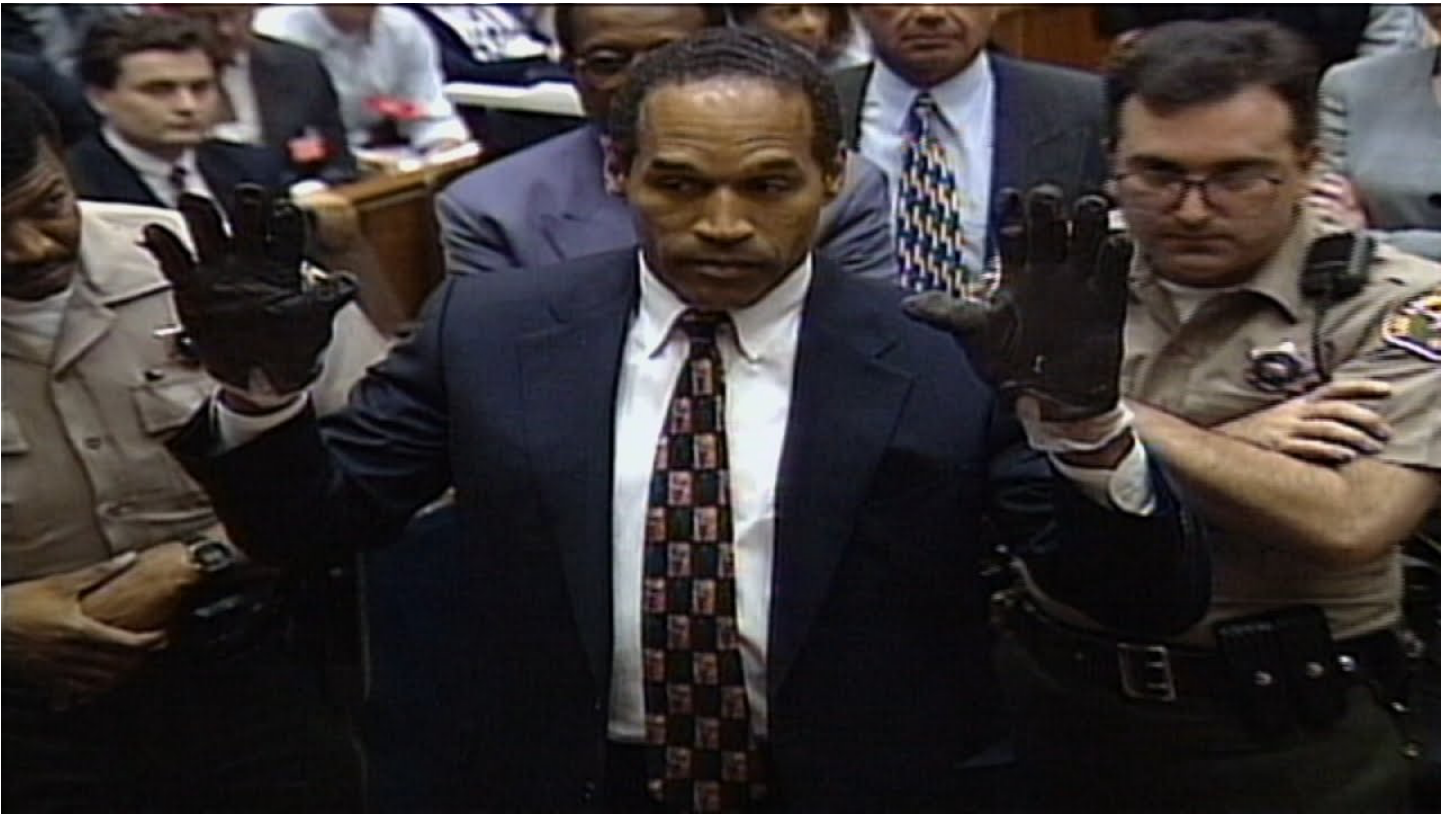
Gideon’s Example

Judges 6:33-34 - Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ But **the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon**; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

- “*The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon.*” The original Hebrew means the Spirit “**PUT GIDEON ON LIKE A GLOVE.**”

God wants to wear you like a glove to reveal Himself to the world.

NOW, LET ME MAKE A VERY IMPORTANT STATEMENT...I WANT US TO PUT UP THE PIC I SHARED AT THE FIRST OF THE SERVICE...



HEAR MY HEART TODAY: **IF IT DOESN'T FIT, WE MUST ACQUIT!**

Self-willed people cannot reveal Christ; only surrendered people can...

Invitation to Surrender

- Yield to the Spirit and let Him clothe Himself with you.
- **The Spirit can do more with your surrender than you can with your strength.**