

PNEUMATOLOGY

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
Bible Institute - *Winter 2025-26*
Gulf Coast Baptist Church

- I. The Holy Spirit was active during Christ's earthly ministry
 - A. The Holy Spirit was active in the birth of Jesus Christ
 - 1. The Spirit came upon Mary to cause her to conceive Christ's human nature (Luke 1:35)
 - 2. The human nature of Jesus was not the result of a physical union between a man and a woman but was out from the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-20)
 - B. The Holy Spirit was active during the life and ministry of Jesus Christ
 - 1. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit when He was baptized in the Jordan River. It was at this point that He officially became the Anointed One, or Messiah (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32-33)
 - 2. The Spirit's anointing was for the purpose of preaching (Luke 4:18, see Isaiah 61:1-2)
 - 3. The Spirit's anointing was for the purpose of doing good and healing (Acts 10:38)
 - 4. Not all the miracles and supernatural works were done by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus did perform some of these by His own inherent power (Mark 5:30; Luke 5:17)
 - 5. Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28)
 - 6. Some Jews blasphemed the Holy Spirit by attributing Christ's power to cast out demons unto Satan (Matthew 12:31; Luke 12:10)
 - 7. The Spirit directed Jesus Christ into the Judean wilderness "to be tempted" of Satan (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1-2)
 - 8. Christ entered this temptation with a fulness from the Spirit (Luke 4:1)
 - 9. Christ was tempted by Satan in the realm of his human nature. This temptation would have been insignificant if he had chosen to face it in the realm of His divine nature. He chose to face it as a man with fullness from the Spirit.
 - 10. Paul states that Christ was declared righteous by the Spirit (1 Timothy 3:16)
 - 11. The Spirit did this by placing Christ in a position to be tempted to prove or declare that He is righteous. The God-head knew He was righteous, He is God, but the temptation proved it to men and angels.
 - 12. The Spirit raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11). This was a cooperative work of the Father, Son, and the Spirit.
 - C. The Holy Spirit in the lives of people during Christ's earthly ministry.
 - 1. The Spirit filled individuals with the ability to proclaim truth.
 - 2. That this was sovereign was evidenced by John the baptizer's being filled from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15, 17). John did not choose to be filled nor had he fulfilled any conditions
 - 3. Elizabeth was filled to proclaim Mary's blessedness (Luke 1:41).
 - 4. Zacharias was filled to prophesy of Christ's coming (Luke 1:61).
 - D. The Holy Spirit gave certain individuals revelation of God's truth. Simeon received a promise of Christ's coming (Luke 2:25-27).

1. Christ told His disciples that the Spirit would give them the words to speak in their defense (Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 12:11-12 cf. 21:14-15).
- II. The Holy Spirit has a ministry today that is different from His work in the Old Testament
 - A. The Spirit changed His residence at Pentecost.
 1. “Residency is the unlimited personal emphasis of the presence of a divine Person in a place in the essence which is contained in the universe. As a result the Person emphasizes His presence in a certain spatial limitation, such as the third heaven or the earth, in such a way that the divine Person is personally present in that space, without losing His possession of or relation to the total divine essence.”¹ Before the birth of Jesus, the pre-incarnate Son was resident in heaven. He, as eternally is true, is omnipresent, but He manifested Himself in the Third Heaven. When He joined His person to a human nature, He became resident in that nature, though He remains omnipresent (cp John 3:13).
 2. Christ had said He would request the Father for another comforter (John 14:16).
 3. Christ said the Father would send the Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26). Note: Christ was also involved in sending the Spirit.
 4. Christ said, “*...for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*” (John 16:7). Christ had to go away, in order to send the Spirit.
 5. During Christ’s earthly ministry the Spirit was not resident on earth because Christ had not been glorified yet (John 7:39).
 - B. The Holy Spirit was promised to the believers, who were told to await His coming.
 1. The Spirit was considered a promise from the Father (Acts 1:4; cp Luke 24:49)
 2. The Spirit was the source of power which the disciples received (Acts 1:8; cp Romans 15:13). That power made it possible for them to be witnesses.
 3. The Spirit was the fulfillment of the promise from the Father. A literal translation would be, “*receiving from alongside the Father the promise consisting of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:33)
 4. The Spirit is called the promise by the Apostle Paul (Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 1:13).
 - a) The Spirit’s present work had a beginning at Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - b) Believers were about to receive the Spirit, producing springs of living water coming out of their hearts (John 7:38-29).
 - (1) These springs of living water consist of eternal life (John 4:13-14)
 - (2) This eternal life is a product of the Spirit’s regenerating work, by joining us to Jesus Christ.
 - (3) The Holy Spirit was at that time alongside the disciples but would in the future be in them (John 14:16).
 - (a) The Spirit would teach and bring to remembrance what Christ had taught them they needed, when He would come (John 14:26).
 - (b) The Spirit would begin a work of glorifying Christ and testifying of Him (John 15:26-27; 16:14).
 - (c) The Spirit would begin a work of convincing the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11).
 - (d) The Spirit would guide the disciples into the truth which they could not then bear (John 16:12-14).

¹H.L. Schafer, The Doctrine of God, Gaston, OR: pub by author, 1994, pp. 10-11.