



The Promise of the Spirit

Part 2

April 18, 2021

Today I will continue our Series addressing the Promise of the Spirit. Pastor Beck did an amazing job teaching this past Wednesday and I can assure you that you need to make Wednesday night church a priority in your family. Big things are happening here at TAWM!

In this series we are searching the Scriptures to see what the Words of God has to say on this topic. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit continues, even to this day, to be a highly contested arena of Theology and more specifically when it comes to Pentecostal Expression such as the manifestation of Spiritual Gifts as are recorded by the Apostle Paul

in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-15. As an Assembly of God Church, we hold fast to our Pentecostal doctrine and believe firmly in the manifestation of Spiritual Gifts, the Fruit of the Spirit, and the Move of the Spirit of God in our services.

But even beyond our belief in the Manifestation of Spiritual Gifts, I firmly believe that the Scriptures bear out that there is much proof to justify the claim that the Holy Spirit doesn't just manifest through fruit or gifts but has actually been involved in the Narrative of the Bible since the very beginning. The Holy Spirit is not a New Testament concept but a Biblical doctrine found throughout the scope of Scripture. This truth lends all the more to the fact that we are in desperate need of the Holy Ghost! Why is the Holy Spirit such an important piece of the puzzle regarding the emphasis that Christ placed upon the receiving of the Holy Spirit and the need for this empowerment by His Consubstantial Spirit; consubstantial meaning of the same substance or essence? Notice the words of Christ with me found in the Book of Acts 1:6-9...

Book of Acts 1:6-9, “⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

Notice the Progression that would follow after they had received power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them; we will be Christ's witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and then to the end of the Earth. Notice how the Holy Ghost empowers the Church to take the Gospel beyond boundaries and to literally cover the world with the message of the Cross! But it was strictly quantified to being a witness; let me explain.

They didn't need the Holy Spirit to help them testify to what they had seen. They had seen the resurrected Lord and His subsequent ascension; they saw what they saw and they could easily attest to what they saw. They weren't given the Holy Spirit to cause them to tell the truth of what they saw. The Holy Spirit was given to enable them to not only preach the Gospel with boldness but to also manifest the power of the Kingdom of our Christ in the earth. Only the Holy Ghost can do that because the Holy Spirit has been involved since the very beginning, so with that said Point #1...

1. The Spirit was involved in the Creation Story

a. Genesis 1:1-2, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

b. Notice that the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep which tells me that the Holy Spirit was involved in the Creation Story from the very genesis of the Book of Genesis!

- c. Church Family, the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit is not a New Testament Concept but an Old Testament Reality!
- d. The Hebrew Word used here in Genesis 1:2 for “the Spirit of God” is the word “Ruach”, Strong’s reference number 7307 which interprets to mean, “air, anger, blast, breath”
- e. So the Spirit of God or the “Ruach” of God, the very Breath of God was present in the creation narrative of Genesis chapter 1! Which lends to the reasoning behind the Psalmist’s words found in Psalm 33:6
- f. Psalm 33:6, “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”
- g. Let’s go a little deeper here with this thought. What is necessary for you to speak? Breath. If you can’t breathe then you can’t speak; you have to have breath to speak.
- h. Thus if God the Father was to create all things in existence by His Word, then He must have the Breath of God involved to Speak the Word of God! Thus the reasoning why the Holy Spirit was hovering upon the face of the Deep! The Lord God used the Ruach of God to empower the Word of God to manifest the Will of God which it was sent forth to perform!
- i. Remember the Words of the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 55:11
- j. Isaiah 55:11, “so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

k. Why can't His Word return unto Him void? It will accomplish what His Word was sent to achieve because it is the Spirit of God that empowers the Word of God to Perform its tasks! Now how can I prove that?

l. The Gospel of Saint John 1:1-5, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

m. In the beginning was the what? The Word! And notice the words used here, the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God (what beginning? The creation story in Genesis) and yet the previous verse says he was with God and was God. It goes on to say that ALL things were made THROUGH Him and without him was not anything made that was made; thus all things exist because of Him being the Word. The text goes on to say that in him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it!

n. The light shines in the darkness... what is interesting in this passage of Scriptures is that it is clear that all things were made by the Word and that nothing exists apart from the Word and yet in this last verse it says, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

o. What is so fascinating to me about this text is that in the creation story of Genesis chapter 1:3-5, the text records, “³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.” And yet, God does not create the Sun and the Moon until day four. Notice Genesis 1:16-19, “¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.”

p. So where did the light come from on day one noted in verse 3 if the Sun didn’t exist until day four noted in verse 16? The Word illuminated the cosmos in Genesis 1 just as the Apostle John wrote in the Gospel of Saint John 1:5, “⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” It wasn’t the first time that the Word had illuminated the darkness...

q. The Spirit of God is what causes the Word of God to have the Power to perform what the Lord says! This is the reason why John the Baptist was telling everyone that the one who comes after me will Baptize you in the Holy Spirit and with Fire!

- r. Because the Word has not power apart from the Spirit and the Spirit has no function apart from the Word!!! This is why the Gospel of Saint Mark 16:20 records, “²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”
- s. Why does it record it in this manner? Because the Word of God has no power to manifest itself apart from the Spirit of God! It was the same in Genesis chapter 1 as it is today! And we cannot separate the Word of God from the Spirit of God! Both hinge upon one another and to say that one is more important than the other is to dismiss both.
- t. Notice the Words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”
- u. It is the Spirit of God that enables the Word of God to accomplish the Will of God by demonstrating the Power of God! You cannot separate the Spirit from the Word! We cannot segregate the Author of the Word from the Word of the Author!

v. The Holy Ghost has been involved in the Plan of God since the very beginning! But not only was the Spirit involved in the Creation story, Point #2...

2. The Spirit was involved in the Creation of the First Adam

- a. Genesis 2:7, “⁷ then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”
- b. Note how that God used His Word by the empowerment of the Breath of God to create all things in existence by His Word but when it came to man, God formed man from the dust of the Ground and then breathed into man and man became a living soul.
- c. God used His Word to create all things in existence but He used His Hands to form and His Spirit to breathe life into man. God breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and man became a living soul. Notice in last part of verse 7, “and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”
- d. The Word Breath in the statement “Breath of Life” is the Hebrew Word “Neshamah”, Strong’s Hebrew Reference Number 5397, which interprets to mean, “breath, spirit, breath of God, spirit of man” Thus God breathed the “Neshamah” into man and Man became infused with Life and Existence! It wasn’t the Ruach as noted in Genesis 1:3, but a different manifestation of the same Spirit.

- e. Sound familiar when compared to the Apostle Paul's teaching on Spiritual Gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
- f. Just as the Word of God cannot exist apart from the Spirit of God, nor can the creation of Man nor his function be found apart from the Spirit of God! The Holy Ghost was the very factor that caused the man, made from dirt, to breath!
- g. But not only was the Spirit involved in the Creation of the First Adam, Point #3...

3. The Spirit was involved in the Creation of the Last Adam (Second Adam)

- a. Notice the Words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, "⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall ^U also bear the image of the man of heaven."

- b. Jesus is the Second Adam; Both the first and the second Adam were born or created, if you will, supernaturally and just as Paul noted in Romans 5:17, through the first man death reigned through sin but by the second man, death was defeated and life was given.
- c. Romans 5:17, “¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”
- d. The title, "Lord Jesus Christ," is His proper name according to Romans 1:7, “To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the Son of Man. He is both the Son of God and the Son of Man; He is God of very God.
- e. He is therefore acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man is "Immanuel," God with us according to the Gospel of Saint Matthew 1:23, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”. In Genesis, God formed the First Adam from the Dust and breathed into a mound of dirt formed into a man and man became a living Soul!

- f. In the Gospel of Saint Matthew, God overshadowed the virgin womb of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed her and she received a miraculous conception which God Himself prophesied to the Serpent during the judgments of the Man, the Woman and Serpent in Genesis chapter 3.
- g. And We, The Assembly West Monroe, stand firmly in the truth that Christ was born of a virgin womb, lived a sinless life, His bruises were for our iniquities, His chastisement brought us our peace, His stripes healed us, His sacrifice on the Cross atoned for us, His Spirit was sent us, the Holy Ghost, to us to empower us to live for Him in this present age unto He returns for His Glorious Church at the Rapture of the Saints!
- h. And since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His deity, and the title, Son of Man, indicates His humanity.
- i. Thus, the title Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man, to the order of time. Therefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption.
- j. Hence, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of

the Father, and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is an absolute attack against Apostolic Doctrine.

- k. The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high according to Hebrews 1:3, “³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Furthermore, 1 Peter 3:22 records that angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him.
- l. Notice the text attributed by the Apostle Peter found in **1 Peter 3:22**, “...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.”
- m. Since the Father has delivered all judgment into the hands of the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow their knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father.

- n. The Spirit was involved in the Creation of the Second Adam and for anyone to seek to state the Holy Spirit is not “necessary” has a significant failure in their understanding and comprehension of Theology! The Father and the Son have done nothing noted in the Course of Scripture apart from the Spirit’s involvement!
- o. But not only was the Spirit involved in the Creation of the Second Adam, Point #4...

4. The Spirit is involved in the Recreation of You

- a. The **Gospel of Saint John 3:1-8** records a conversation between a man named Nicodemus and Jesus concerning being born again, Let’s pick up in verse one of this text, **“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’⁸The wind blows where**

it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.””

- b. Do you see a perpetually repetitive phrase in this passage of Text? “Born of the Spirit” or the reference there to is repeated 3 times in the course of 8 verses so it would seem that the Holy Spirit is a very important piece of the puzzle concerning the born again experience and salvific work of Christ and His Cross.
- c. Church family, the cosmos would not exist without the work of the Holy Spirit, Man would not exist without the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus would have never been born apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, and none of us can be born again apart from the work of the Holy Spirit of God moving on us to lead us to repentance, and then in us by the work of salvation unto regeneration and then through us by the manifestation of Gifts and Fruits to be a witness of His Resurrection power; a living epistle written by the Spirit known and read of all men.
- d. We need the Holy Spirit to baptize us into Christ, so that our name might be known in heaven. We then need Christ to baptize us in the Holy Spirit, so that the name of Jesus might be known here on earth.