

The Office and Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, Part 2

1. The Holy Spirit (Paraclete) in the Gospel of John

John 3:3: There must be a new birth of the Spirit so that spiritual matters can be understood, which is in contrast to the flesh. The Spirit must not only create a newness but also new faculties so that spiritual matters can be understood.

- Born of Water and the Spirit: This new begetting and new birth cleanses and renews. This is the promise of Ezekiel 36:25-27; a cleansing, and a new heart that will regenerate. This is partially fulfilled after Christ's resurrection and ascension. Jeremiah (31:33-34) speaks of the LORD writing His law on their hearts, which is in reference to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

***John 3:36:** "Whoever has the Son has life..."

John 7:37-39: The Spirit was to be received (future) because the Spirit had not been given yet. Why? Jesus was not "glorified" yet.

- Feast of Booths/Tabernacles: This feast was a celebration of God's faithfulness to the nation during the wanderings in the wilderness; it was the most joyful festival. Devout Jews would live outdoors in booths made of tree branches for seven days as a reminder of God's goodness. Two practices of the Jews not mentioned in Scripture:
 - Special commandment of the willow
 - Pouring out of water into a silver basin by the altar

In John 7:39, the disciples have not "received" the Spirit because Christ had not yet been glorified. The pouring out of the Spirit occurred partially in John 20:22 and Acts 2:1-13.

John 14:15: The disciples loved Jesus, yet they had not "received" the Spirit (John 7:39).

- Genuine love precedes obedience. While the disciples loved Him, they did not understand what he was saying. Their love for the LORD came because God had wrought the "newness" that was akin to the phenomenon of regeneration that New Testament saints experienced.
- The disciples did not have the Helper (Paraclete) because Jesus had not yet been glorified. There is a Helper that will be with them forever; One Who is with them right now, but not in them (v.17). He was with them through:
 - The Spirit's anointing of Jesus' disciples for public ministry (Matt. 3:16-17)
 - Nature of whatever abiding presence the newness of Old Testament saints experienced

John 16:12: There are many things you can't bear right now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you. He will take what is mine and give it to you.

John 20:22: Jesus exhaling, saying "receive the Holy Spirit."

- This is post-resurrection and prior to our Christ's ascension. This is the fulfillment of John 7:39 and John 14:17. Moving forward, those who are regenerated (born again in union with Christ) will have the Spirit dwelling inside of them.

What about Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)?

- The disciples were "filled" with the Holy Spirit, which was a fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32. The Holy Spirit empowered them to be bold witnesses through the gift of tongues to the proselytes (v.5-13). This was to validate the substance behind their message; the Spirit has been poured out.

2. Paul's Letters and the Holy Spirit

- Regeneration: Christological in nature and is described as causing a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:5; James 1:18).
- Indwelling: Permanent dwelling of the third member of the Trinity Who gives witness to Christ. Paul speaks of Christ and the Spirit of God in us (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27; 2 Timothy 1:14). No Old Testament saint had this, and it is new in the salvific-historical timeline following the glorification of Christ (Resurrection). The Holy Spirit also gives understanding to spiritual matters that was previously hidden (1 Cor. 2:6-16).
- Filling: Unlike the Old Testament leaders who were filled for a particular purpose, all New Testament saints are able, and commanded, to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
 - The Greek word means: to be filled to the brim, to cause to abound, to diffuse throughout, to pervade or ultimately take over
 - The filling is not us having more of the Spirit, since we are indwelt by Him. Instead, it describes a fullness of the LORD having us. "Let yourselves be filled by the Spirit"
 - There are several occasions in the book of Acts that describe men who were "filled" by the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 4:31; 6:3; 6:5; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9; 13:52). In all occasions of being filled with the Spirit, the common denominator is testimony about Jesus
 - The filling of the Spirit also produced joy (13:52), boldness (4:31), power for service (6:3), power in suffering (6:3; 7:55), victory over Satan (13:9-11), and generosity (4:31-33)
- The Spirit-filled life today is not an ecstatic, spontaneous, event that a select few saints in the Old Testament experienced; instead, it is a daily surrendering that involves the redeemed saint willingly bringing his whole being under the control of God. While those in Christ are sealed, and indwelt, they are not always filled. Letting the Word of God dwell in you richly, through prayer, meditation, and the forsaking of sin, will produce a Spirit-filled life.

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