

# Bringing the Holy Spirit into Focus

## **Part 4 - Bringing into Focus Jesus Giving the Holy Spirit**

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### **4C – Bringing into Focus the Holy Spirit and the New Covenant**

We have been studying the Holy Spirit from the whole Bible and over the last couple of weeks we looked at Jesus' promises of the Spirit coming and what the Spirit would do when he comes.

Part of the relationship between the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit WITH the Christian is not addressed in the **John 13-17** that we have been studying

- The gap or the part of the relationship not mentioned is the New Covenant
  - The New Covenant is extremely important & often under emphasized
  - Role of the New Covenant & the Holy Spirit under emphasized

My goal is to try to explain the complexities of the New Covenant as the relationship between God & Christian and how the Holy Spirit fits

- There are a lot of moving parts
- Some of this will be a bit of review from "The King Revealed" series

### **Jesus Initiates the New Covenant**

John leaves out Jesus proclaiming that he is introducing the New Covenant.

The synoptic gospels (Matt, Mark, Luke) give additional insight to the teaching and events that happened in the upper room on that Passover night.

- John focuses more on Jesus' teaching the disciples all that they need to know as he is leaving, which includes the promises of the Holy Spirit
- Synoptic gospels focus on Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper and pronouncement that the New Covenant will be in His blood.
  - So, all these go together as one teaching – Spirit & New Cov coming

**Matt. 26:26** Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." **27** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, **28** for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

- Luke's parallel passage >> Jesus calls it a NEW covenant
- The bread & the cup are symbolic of Jesus being crushed & his blood spilt
  - His blood is the blood of "the Covenant"
  - And... the blood for the "forgiveness of sins"
    - These are both Shocking statements
      - They Knew Forgiveness of sins was promised in the NC
      - They knew Covenants were made with blood of animals, how could it be the blood of Jesus

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Isaiah goes so far as to say twice that the suffering Servant of God is being given as “a covenant” for the people >>>> The time has come

## **Covenant**

When we think of covenants, maybe we think of 2 people making an agreement with each having responsibilities. (Ex: Marriage, mortgage, work contracts, etc)

- But, the covenants in the Bible have much more to them

Definition: ***A bond of Promise, sovereignly administered, characterized by faithfulness & loyalty in love***

- Bond – means it is relational and it is a serious union between the 2 parties
- Promise – it is about promises
- Sovereignly administered – meaning that they are created, administered, fulfilled, sustained, and accomplished by God.
  - Near Ancient East covenants were made by kings with their people. The OT language and theme is very similar to this with God as king.
- Faithfulness, loyalty, love – characterizes the nature of these bonds

Jesus is pronouncing God is making a new loving & faithful bond with believers

- And he is leaving, and the Spirit is coming to be their helper

Remember Jeremiah’s promise of the new covenant?

**Jer. 31:31** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (speaking specifically of the people he has set aside for himself), **32** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke (talking about the mosaic covenant), though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts (that is new). And I will be their God, and they shall be my people (this is the goal). **34** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me (the goal), from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more (forgiveness of sins).”

- They will know God & there will be forgiveness of sins.
  - He will no longer remember their sins.
  - These are all new aspects of this new bond between God & believers
- We could include **Ezekiel 36** again, which promises the cleansing & purifying work of God by giving them his own Spirit.
  - They will have new hearts
  - It’ll be a heart with God’s character, instruction, desires written on it
    - Not an outside rule by tablets and law, but and inside reality
      - And with new hearts, they will truly Know and obey God

Let’s consider the OT covenants and see how it all relates to the New Covenant as we work towards the Spirit’s role.

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**Relationship in the Garden** – not calling this a covenant, it is very much like a covenant with Adam, but not completely. Not all the pieces are there.

- God creates Adam and gives him a job (expand the kingdom) & commands (don't eat that tree) & gives him many blessings (the Garden)
  - The Promise: eternal life in the Kingdom with God
  - It is very loving, faithful, and enacted by God
  - It is made between God and 1 person, Adam.
  - God was faithful, Adam was not faithful

**Covenant with Noah** – First definite covenant.

- God gives Noah a Job (expand the Kingdom) and gives him command (don't eat flesh with the blood)
- Here now, an animal is sacrificed to make the covenant. Blood is spilt
- The Promise: not destroy the Earth again with flood.
- God did it all, unilaterally and it would be everlasting.
- God gave a sign: The rainbow as a reminder
- God makes it with all people (thru Noah) and all of creation
- God is still faithful to his promise

**Covenant with Abraham** – Immediately after God judges Babel, God calls 1 man to be the father of his people

- Following Babel is important. Because of mankind is so sinful and trying to rule themselves again, God comes down and confuses their languages and creates all the nations and separation of people
- So, this Cov with Abe narrows from all people, to the offspring of Abraham only (thru Abraham) – as a selected people, set apart
- The Promise...there are 4 actually: 1) the son, 2) the land, 3) the nation, 4) bless the nations >>>> the Kingdom of God
  - All 4 fulfilled physically by time of David & Solomon
    - Which only points to the true spiritual eternal reality
      - Jesus is fulfillment of all 4 promises
        - He is ultimately what Cov w/Abe promised
- Enacted by God as unilateral, one sided, with the curses on God
  - Jesus' suffers this curse for the sin of his people
- Animals are sacrificed and blood is spilt for this covenant.
- This is an everlasting covenant
- Condition: you must be circumcised to be a member of this bond.
  - Circumcision is the sign and reminder of the promises
- God was faithful in fulfilling all of it physically for Israel, and eternally in Jesus Christ

**Covenant with Abraham's Children** – This is the Mosaic/Sinai/Old Covenant

- This covenant adds structure & requirements to the bond with Abe's offspring, now called Israel

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- The structure/requirements = the LAW, which does several things:
  - Defines Godlike holiness & sin by 10c's & 600+laws as 1 unit
  - Law provides temporary covering for their sin by sacrifices, so they would be holy by substitutionary death
  - Tabernacle is added so that holy God can dwell with sinful man
    - Points back to garden & points forward to new creation
    - Priests are added, temple furniture, sacrificial procedure, and festivals are added to the relationship bond between God and his people – to make them a holy nation
- Covenant blessings & curses depending on obedience or rebellion
  - This means the covenant had conditional elements to it
  - Israel actually commits to obey God at Sinai, with Moses
    - Oaths are made and sacrifices occur. Shedding of blood
- Promise: They will be God's precious holy nation of priests, and he will protect and love them.
- It's a temporary covenant. Only one NOT described as everlasting
  - Gal 3:24 = Law was our Guardian (babysitter) until Christ comes
- Covenant is made only w/ Abe's offspring thru Moses (Not whole world)
- God was faithful and merciful
- Israel was unfaithful. No one can live holy by the external Law babysitter

**Covenant with David** – The covenant with David comes at the peak of the glory of the Nation of Israel...and it comes with this message: There is a greater one still to come.

- God again narrows the focus from Abraham's offspring (Israel) down to only the bloodline of David
- Promise: The Son of David reign in the kingdom forever.
  - This offspring points back to Abe's offspring, and offspring of the woman promised in the Garden.
- This is unconditional: God does it all.
- It is an everlasting covenant.
- God is faithful as all the promises are fulfilled in Jesus.

## **Still Something Greater**

Now, these are all the covenant bonds of Promise made by God with his people in the OT – all characterized by God's faithfulness and loyalty in Love.

- They all work to make them his people and he their God.
- But, there is a major problem: sin and separation from God still exists
  - That is why a new covenant is promised – something greater
- And...a huge point to be made is that every one of these covenants point to something greater to come.
  - It is like when you are going to Disneyland and you see the website, and you see the big signs advertising, and it looks amazing. But, they are not the real deal. All of them point you to the real thing: Disneyland the park, not Disneyland the website.

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- Each of the OT Covenants are like the signs advertising the real things coming: the ultimate supreme covenant coming
- Hebrews 11 describes how Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and many others were all looking forward to greater promises...promises they did not experience in their life, but it was what gave them eternal hope.

## **New Covenant** – New covenant bond made in & of the Messiah with the Elect

- Jesus comes & lives perfectly under OC – actually holy, righteous, sinless
- Under the OC he is the true priest, true king, true sacrifice, true temple, true blood, true offspring, true son, true lamb, true lawgiver, everything
- He fulfills the OC and becomes the NC (Isaiah language) for his people
  - Listen to Heb 8 which summarizes all this

**Heb. 8:1** Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. **4** Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. **5** They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” **6** But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

- He then Quotes Jeremiah 31 – about the new covenant

**Heb. 8:13** In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

- He fulfills it and encompasses everything that is the new and better
- It is the covenant made in his blood (Heb 9&10 describe all this)
- He is the temple, priest, & sacrifice. His blood is spilt for better Cov
  - Q1: What are the better promises of the New Covenant?
  - Q2: Who does this covenant bond with God?

## Q1: What does the covenant promise or do?

- It promises full eternal redemption by Jesus
- It promises adoption as sons and daughters of God
- It promises the eternal forgiveness of sin – not just covering,
- It promises purification and cleansing – being made holy
- It promises that the recipient will truly know God
- It promises reconciliation with God
- It promises eternal life with Jesus in the new creation
- It promises resurrection with new bodies
- It promises the circumcision of the heart

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- It promises the true willing and joyful obedience

Incredible promises – the fulfillment of everything that the others pointed to

Q2: Who is this covenant with?

- It s a covenant between God & the Elect - Spiritual Israel
- Just as old covenants were made with Abe & his children, the nation of Israel and NOT the whole world
  - The new covenant is made with those of faith only – the church
    - Jews & Gentiles – those of faith fro every nation
    - The fulfillment of what the ethnic nation of Israel pointed to

Another way to say it is: The New Cov is made only with the true offspring:

**Gal. 3:16** Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring (Abrahamic Covenant with its 4 promises). It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

- Paul, making huge theological point that the Abe’s true offspring was Jesus

**Gal. 3:29** And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.

- Those with faith in Christ, are Abe’s offspring and therefore heirs
  - Abe by faith with that covenant relationship,
    - Christian’s by faith and the New Covenant relationship

**Eph. 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him (true eternal forgiveness of sins – everything the OC law pointed to). In love **5** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses (redemption through his blood, forgiveness of sins, blood of the New Covenant), according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11** In him (those that love/believe in Jesus) we have obtained an inheritance (the promises), having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

- All the better promises of the new better covenant made in Jesus’ blood

The down payment

Now, we still don’t have the connection to the Holy Spirit yet...but Paul makes it:

**13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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- The “seal” he mentions here is the idea of identification of ownership. Like a rancher brands a cow, we are branded by God as HIS, with the Holy Spirit
  - He says the exact same thing in [2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#)
- Paul doesn’t utter the words “new covenant” in this passage, but the connection is clear, right?
- The promises of the Bond of the New Covenant: adoption, redemption, forgiveness of sins, purification, know God, eternal life, eternal inheritance,
  - Are all guaranteed by the giving of the Holy Spirit as a down payment

Guarantee in the ESV here is describing a down payment or the first installment of payment...the payment being ALL the PROMISES of the New Covenant

- First installment doesn’t just imply, but guarantees there is more coming.
  - [If I buy your truck for \\$10,000 and give you a \\$1,000 down payment as a guarantee, it means it is guaranteeing that I will give you the remaining \\$9000.](#)
  - The Holy Spirit is the first installment of all the Promises of the New Covenant made in Christ’s own blood.

So, now, the believer, indwelt by this down payment of the Promises are transformed and made new.

- They are united to Christ, now offspring of Abe – heirs to all the promises
- They become the Temple of Holy Spirit – God dwelling in sinners
- The Spirit gives them the promised true knowledge of God
- They are purified and cleansed of their sin by the Spirit as promised
- The Spirit gives them the promised circumcision of the Heart
  - Not physical circumcision like Abe’s children, but Spiritual circumcision of the heart by God living within them
    - Like Abe’s circumcision, New Covenant membership requires circumcision of the heart
- The promised new heart and writing of God’s law on our heart by the Spirit
- They are made to be a set apart holy nation of priests because of Holy Spirit
- The believer bears the fruit of the Spirit
- And because of these things brought to our lives by the Holy Spirit, for the first time, God’s people will be faithful to the covenant.

Next week: Pentecost as the final piece of the enactment of the New Covenant.

- We’ll look at all the similarities with the Exodus and the law at Sinai
- We’ll look at the reversal of the isolation of nations
- We’ll look at the Spirit coming down and the spectacular scene