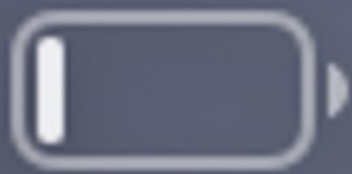




# The Power of the Holy Spirit through God's Word

November 13, 2022





## The gift of the Spirit energized the devotion of first Christians

- “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.””

(Acts 2:38–39)

- “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

(Acts 2:42)

## What was the promise?

- The Spirit would witness to the truth about Jesus
  - “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:20; cf. Acts 1:8)





The gift of the Spirit's witness comes through the obedience of faith.

- “And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”” (Acts 5:32; cf. Acts 15:8)



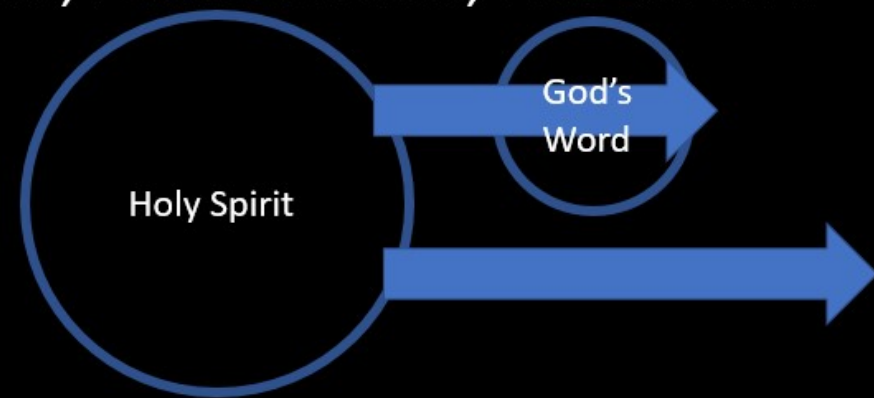
## This gift of the Spirit's word gives confidence

- In [Christ] 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13–14; cf. Rm 8:16)
  - “Sealed” = Identified as Christians (We belong to Christ)
  - “Guaranteed” = Confirmed as Christians (We experience this saving relationship with Jesus)



## Three views of the Holy Spirit today:

1. The Spirit continues today to witness directly apart from the Word through miraculous grace/gifts.
  1. “The Holy Spirit must directly prepare the heart to believe.”
  - “The Spirit spoke this to me and revealed this . . .”
    - E.g., Montanism, Pentecostalism, Post-modern Gnosticism.





## Problems with this view

- The miraculous gifts of tongue or prophecy (Acts 2:4; cf. 8:17; 10:44; 1 Cor 12; Hebrews 2:3–4) were temporary and ceased
- “As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.” (1 Cor 13:8)
- I.e., When the perfect/full knowledge came, partial revelations would cease.
- Today the witness of the Spirit is completely through the Word of God as revealed in Scripture and its proclamation.





## Dangers of this first view


1. Resist the Spirit (Acts 7:51)
  - We reject what God has revealed in Scripture.
2. Lie to the Spirit (Acts 5:1-11)
  - We lie to God about whether we are obeying His Word.



## Three views of the Holy Spirit today

### 2. The Spirit is the Written Word.

- “the Holy Spirit is inseparable from the written Word”
- “The Holy Spirit is the facts, the information of Scripture.”
- “The Holy Spirit is not active in the life of the Christian today.”



God's  
Word      Holy Spirit



## I.e., the Written Word of God is the Spirit in Christian life

- “and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”  
(Ephesians 6:17)



## Problems with this view

1. The Word actually is the instrument (e.g., the sword) utilized by God's Spirit, a person.
2. The Word is Living: an abiding and active communication of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:23; Hebrews 4:12)
3. The Spirit intercedes on our behalf apart from Scripture
  - "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (Romans 8:26)



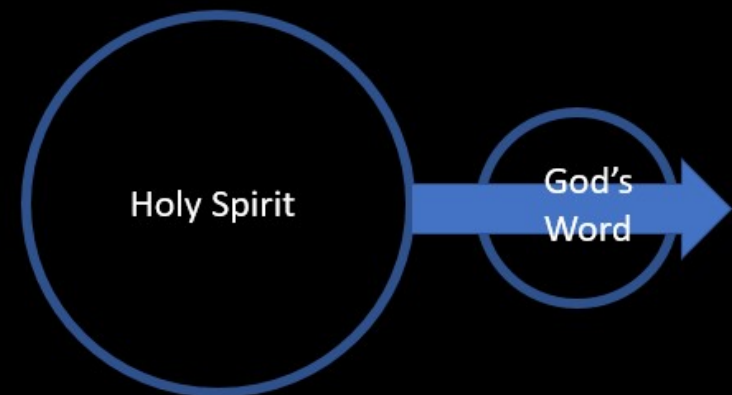
## Dangers of this second view

1. **Blaspheme against the Holy Spirit (Matt 12:31-34)**
  - We deny the personhood of the Spirit, and the witness of the Spirit in Scripture.
2. **Insult the Spirit (Heb 10:26-29)**
  - We deny the power of the Spirit. We keep on sinning.
3. **Grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30)**
  - The Word of God doesn't control our speech. We speak in ways that corrupt others, and don't edify. We speak hatefully, and without kindness.
4. **Quench the Spirit (1 Thess 5:19)**
  - The Word of God doesn't control our mind. We disobey God and despise what God has revealed. We don't test claims against what is good, but allow evil.



## Three views of the Holy Spirit

3. The Spirit fills us through our obedience to the Word.
  - The Spirit witnesses to us through the Word, but works in other ways.
  - We relate to the Spirit not as a page, but as a person
  - We are led by the Spirit by hearing the Word and revering Jesus in obedience.



# How are we filled with the Spirit?

- By learning and serving Jesus through the Word





## The Spirit is in us as a law, a way to live by faith in Jesus

- “for the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2)
- “for those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.” (Romans 8:5)
- “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16)





We are filled the Spirit in lives that  
witness to Lord according to the Word

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is  
debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **addressing  
one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
singing and making melody to the Lord with your  
heart, **giving thanks** always and for everything to God  
the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**submitting** to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

(Ephesians 5:18–2)



## How are we filled with the Spirit?

- By learning and serving Jesus through the Word
- By joy, peace, and hope through the Word



## The Holy Spirit caused joy through the Word in Thessalonica


“Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,”

(1 Thess 1:5–6; cf. Acts 13:48–52; Acts 9:31; Rom 15:13)




## How are we filled with the Spirit?

- By learning and serving Jesus through the Word
- By joy, peace, and hope through the Word
- By boldness in evangelism



## Paul's ministry and his converts were the Spirit's work

- “But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:15-16)
- [And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. (2 Corinthians 3:3 )



The Apostles were emboldened  
by the spirit to speak in Acts

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

(Acts 4:31)



## How are we filled with the Spirit?

- By learning and serving Jesus through the Word
- By joy, peace, and hope through the Word
- By boldness in evangelism
- By unity of faith and fellowship

## A common source of revelation should give a common sense and unity in Christ

- “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind . . ..”(Philippians 2:1–2)
- “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”(2 Corinthians 13:14)
- “. . . eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call . . .”(Ephesians 4:3–4)



# A practical charge to be filled with the Spirit

- Live with gratitude for the gift of the Spirit through the Word,
- Grow in holiness because the Spirit is in you,
- Read and Pray in the Spirit to mature in wisdom
- Share the Spirit in evangelism and encouragement through the Word.

