

Pneumatology – **Words about the Spirit**

Pneuma – Greek word for breath, translated in the NT as “spirit.” The two concepts are intimately combined.

John 20:22 - And when He had said this, He breathed (emphusao, em-foo-sah'-o) on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (hagion pneuma)

God is a Spirit. He is not corporeal or physical.

Gen. 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

There are over 100 references to the Spirit of God in the Old Testament. And, according to the NT writers, they refer to the Holy Spirit who is promised by God to His people, whom Jesus explained in John 14:16-17 -- “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, that He may be with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

Acts 7:51 - “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”

It is through the Spirit of God that we received the Scriptures -- **2Pet. 1:20** - But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Acts 1:15 - And at this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, 16 “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17 (quoting Psalm 41) “For he was counted among us, and received his portion in this ministry.”

Acts 4:24 - And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, it is Thou who DIDST MAKE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, 25 who by the Holy Spirit,

through the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?'

Acts 28:23 - And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. 24 And some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. 25 And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, 26 saying, 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; 27 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'" 28 "Let it be known to you therefore, that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen."

Heb. 3:7 - Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, (quoting from Psalm 95) "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me*, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. 10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART; AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'" 12 Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

Heb. 10:15 -- And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND UPON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," *He then says*, 17 "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to make manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.” (Wayne Grudem)

It’s not enough to just be saved and going to Heaven. The work of the Spirit guides our lives here and now until we get to Heaven.

Gal. 5:22 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in step with the Spirit. **26** Let us not become those with vain glory, challenging one another, envying one another.

Eph. 4:1-4 - Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

The Spirit brings peace (shalom – everything is right, in ordered harmony).

The Spirit is God’s guarantee (like a downpayment):

Eph. 1:13-14 -- In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge (earnest) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

2Cor. 1:21 -- Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

2Corinthians 5:1-5 – For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be

swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

Holy Spirit purifies (He is Holy), reveals (teaches, guides), unifies, and gives evidence of God's presence. He leads us into the Truth by reminding us of the teaching and life of Christ.

Sometimes the Spirit is treated more like a "force" than a Person. But the Holy Spirit is not an "it", but a "He".

John 16:5-15

As God, the Spirit is also eternal and sovereign. God's creation is sustained, and life itself is dependent on, the Holy Spirit.