

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

ruach: At the outset we note the significance of the term itself. From the primary meaning of the word which is "wind," as referring to Nature, arises the idea of breath in man and thence the breath, wind or Spirit of God. We have no way of tracing exactly how the minds of the Biblical writers connected the earlier literal meaning of the word with the Divine Spirit. Nearly all shades of meaning from the lowest to the highest appear in the Old Testament, and it is not difficult to conceive how the original narrower meaning was gradually expanded into the larger and wider. The following are some of the shades of Old Testament usage. From the notion of wind or breath, Heb: ruach came to signify: (1) the principle of life itself; spirit in this sense indicated the degree of vitality: "My spirit is consumed, my days are extinct" (Job 17:1; also Jdg 15:19; 1 Sam :12); (2) human feelings of various kinds, as anger (Jdg 8:3; Prov 29:11), desire (Isa 26:9), courage (Josh 2:11); (3) intelligence (Ex 28:3; Isa 29:24); (4) general disposition (Ps 34:18; 51 17; Prov 14:29; 16:18; 29:23). (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, s.v. Holy Spirit) .

We find that first use of the word Ruach in Genesis 1. It is the Spirit of God that hovers and creates. In the OT the phrase is more often the Spirit of God because of the nature of the Hebrew language. Hebrew tends to use two nouns instead of an adjective and a noun. While some have questioned whether or not the idea of the Holy Spirit is found in the OT at all, the New Testament indicates that many of the uses of the term Spirit of God is to be applied to the Holy Spirit. See Acts 2: 16-21 as an example of the Spirit of God being equal to Holy Spirit.

We can find several major areas of work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Creation: Genesis 1: 2; Job 26: 13

Giving of Prophecy and Scripture: Ezekiel 2:2; 8: 3; 11: 1, 24; 1 Sam 10: 6, 10; 2 Peter 1: 21

Conveying necessary skills: Bezalel, Exod 31: 3-5 Rebuilding the temple by Zerubbabel, Zech 4: 6

Administration: Pharaoh recognized in Joseph Gen 41: 38 Moses's portion of the Spirit of God shared with others who shared in administration of Israel Num 11: 25; Spirit of God came upon Othniel and caused him to judge Jdg 3: 10, Gideon, Samson Jdg 14: 19.

Endowed kings: Saul, 1Sam 10:10; David, 1Sam 16: 13

Holy Spirit involved in the spiritual life of Israel; Neh 9: 20; Ps 143: 10; Ps 51: 11; Isa 63: 10

The Holy Spirit produces fear of God and various qualities of righteousness Isa 11: 2-5.

Devotion to the Lord results from an outpouring of the Spirit Isa. 44: 3-5

There is an anticipation in the OT when the work of the Spirit will be more complete. Isa 11: 1-5; 42: 1-4; 61: 1-3 (Jesus quotes Isa 61: 1-3 as being fulfilled in him Luke 4: 18-21) and see Joel 2: 28-29

Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus

The announcement, conception and birth of Jesus is the work of the Holy Spirit. Luke 1: 35

At the Baptism of Jesus, Matt. 3: 16, Luke 4: 1 Jesus filled with the Spirit was led away to the wilderness for the temptations.

Jesus' Ministry is conducted in the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. Luke 4: 14

Fulfillment of OT prophecy, Luke 4: 18-21

Cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit Matt 12: 25-28 and condemns the words of the Pharisees as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in v. 31 Jesus seems to disavow personal causation of his miracles attributing them to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' life was in the Holy Spirit, Luke 11 17-21 rejoices in the Spirit

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Difficult to understand the Person of the Holy Spirit: 1. Less explicit revelation in the Bible; 2. Lack of concrete imagery—how do we imagine the Holy Spirit to be?

The Deity of the Holy Spirit.,

Various references to the Holy Spirit are interchangeable with references to God.

Acts 5, lying was to the Holy Spirit, next verse to God.

I Corinthians 3: 16-17, Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes or qualities of God.

I Cor. 2: 10-11 omniscience. ALSO John 16: 13

Holy Spirit and power. Romans 15: 19; Luke 1: 35; John 16: 8-11; John 3: 5-8

Holy Spirit is eternal. Hebrews 9: 14 Only God is eternal so the Holy Spirit must be God.

The Holy Spirit performs certain works that are commonly ascribed to God.

The work of Creation, Genesis 1: 2; Job: 26: 13; Ps 104: 30

The work of Regeneration. John 3: 5-8; Titus 3: 5

The resurrection. Romans 8: 11

The inspiration of Scripture. II Timothy 3: 16; II Peter 1: 21

Statements that treat Father, Son and Holy Spirit as equal.

The Baptismal formula Matthew 28: 19

Paul's benediction, II Cor. 13: 14

Spiritual gifts treated as coming from God and the holy Spirit, 1Cor 12: 4-6
Peter's salutation. I Peter 1: 2

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

Use of the masculine pronoun to represent Him.

Πνευμα is neuter yet when referring to the Holy Spirit it is made a masculine pronoun as in John 16: 13-14

There is a close association of Jesus and the Holy Spirit—showing similarity in personality.

As παρακλητος (paraklatos) Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are called the helper, Holy Spirit John 14: 26; 15: 26; 16: 7; Jesus 1 John 2: 1; John 14: 16, will ask the Father for another helper

The Holy Spirit will bring Glory to Jesus which indicates the act of a person, John 16: 14

The Holy Spirit present in the Trinity at various events, Matthew 3: 16-17

The Holy Spirit in association with humans, Acts 15: 28

The Spirit possesses personal characteristics.

Intelligence, will, and other emotions generally regarded as belonging to persons. You can sin against the Holy Spirit, Acts 5: 3-4, grieve the Holy Spirit, Eph. 4: 30; quenching the Holy Spirit, 1 Thess 5: 19, Resist the Holy Spirit Acts 7: 51; Blaspheme against the Holy Spirit Matt. 12: 31; Mark 3: 29

The Holy Spirit carries out moral actions and ministries that can be performed only by a person.

Teaching, regenerating, searching, speaking, interceding, commanding, testifying, guiding, illuminating, and revealing. Romans 8: 26

All of this leads to the conclusion that the Holy Spirit is a person, not an it.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church. Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p.634

The Holy Spirit is the promised Helper, the Comforter, the promised ubiquitous presence of God in the world after the ascension of Jesus. His work is to point to Jesus, to call the world to Christ and to work in the life of the believer. See John 14: 15-26; John 16: 7-16

The work Before Conversion

- The Holy Spirit Convicts the world of sin John 16: 8-11
- The Holy Spirit is the agent of regeneration John 3: 1-8; Titus 3: 5

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer

Empowerment.

- Power for service Joshua with leadership skills Numbers 27: 18;
- Promise to all believers Acts 1:8

- Empowered the early believers who witnessed, Stephen Acts 6: 5, 8, Paul in Rom 15: 19
- Empowerment for the work of service. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to empower the Church for the work of service. 1Cor. 12: 1-11 These gifts are for the benefit of the Church.
- Empowerment in Prayer. Romans 8: 26
- To distinguish between spirits ! Cor 12: 10; sword of the Spirit Eph 6: 17

Purification: Cleansing us from sin and sanctifying the believer

- Convicting us of sin Acts 7: 51, cleansing from sin 1cor 6: 11(washed, sanctified, justified); Titus 3: 5
- Produces the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5: 22-23
- Sanctification is a work of the Spirit, 2 Thess 2: 13; I Peter 1: 2; Romans 8: 4; 15-16
- Changing us into the likeness of Christ, 2 Cor. 3: 18
- Putting to death the deeds of the flesh, Romans 8: 13
- We live by the Spirit not by the Law, Romans 7: 6

The Holy Spirit Reveals

Prophets, Apostles and Scripture.

- Prophets: Numbers 24: 2; Exekiel 11: 5, Zech 7: 12
- Apostles: guided in all truth John 16: 13; Mystery of Christ revealed to the Apostles by the Spirit, Eph 3: 4-5

Makes known the Presence of God.

- Bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God Romans 8: 16 and that we can call God Abba Gal. 4: 6
- Seals us and is our pledge or down payment 2 Cor 1: 22

Guides and Directs the People of God.

- Guided Philip Acts 8: 29; Peter Acts Acts 10: 19-20, The Christians at Antioch Acts 13: 2
- Being lead by the Holy Spirit Romans 8: 14; Gal 5: 16-26
- Gives us assurance. 1 John 3: 24, 4: 13
- Teaches us John 14: 26; times of trial Luke 12: 12; Matt 10: 20;

The Holy Spirit Unifies

- Comes to a community of believers, Joel 2: 28-32 and Acts 2: 16-18,
- Together we have fellowship with the Spirit, 2 Cor 13: 14; United in the Spirit Phil 2: 1-2
- The Spirit makes us dependent on each other 1 Cor 12: 11-12.