

Acts Studies: The Role of the Holy Spirit

Pneumatology: An Often Confusing and Controversial Topic

Derived from two Greek words:

πνεῦμα (*pneuma*): breath, wind, or spirit

Λόγος (*logos*): word or study from something said (including the thought); a topic (subject of discourse), or reasoning (motive from counsel)

Usages in Acts so far...

Acts 1:2 - Jesus gave commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles

Acts 1:5 - Jesus promised, “you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8 - Jesus promised, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”

Acts 1:16 - Peter quotes the scriptures, “which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas”

Acts 2:4 - On the day of Pentecost, “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2:33 - Peter explains to the crowd, “having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”

Acts 2:38 - Peter preaches, “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.”

Act 4:8 – “Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit” makes a gospel defense before the Sanhedrin

Biblically, it is, “the Holy Spirit” – not Generic or Individualistic

1st Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Same Spirit: Though the Bible uses Many Complimentary Designations

- The Spirit of God
- The Spirit of the Lord
- The Spirit
- The Spirit of Yahweh
- The Spirit of Truth
- The Helper
- The Spirit of Wisdom
- The Eternal Spirit
- The Spirit of Glory
- The Spirit of Grace



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Learning from the First Usage

Genesis 1:1 – 2

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Explaining the Invisible Power and Presence of God

John 3:3 – 8

3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:31 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 13:9 - 11

9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?”

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

The Functions of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7 – 14

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;

11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

