

# Sunday Session 1 Notes: “The Holy Spirit at Work”

Adapted from a Study on the Subject by Dr. Tod Kennedy, Spokane Bible Church

## I. DOCTRINE OF THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. First, note the activity of the TRINITY in Genesis.
  - 1) Man was created in the likeness of God. *Genesis 1:26*, “Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness.....”
  - 2) *Genesis 11:7*, “Go to, let US go down, and there confound the language.....”
2. Second, the Holy Spirit was active at the very beginning, in the creation of the material universe.
  - 1) *Genesis 1:2*, “.....and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”
  - 2) *Job 26:13*, “By His Spirit He hath garnished the heavens.....”
  - 3) *Psalm 33:6*, “By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the BREATH (Spirit) of His mouth.”
    - In both the Old and New Testaments, the Holy Spirit is presented as the agent of God’s power.
    - While verses like *Colossians 1:16-17* and *Hebrews 1:2* attribute the work of creation to Christ (God the Son), it is clear that all three members of the Trinity worked together in forming the universe.
3. Third, the Holy Spirit was directly involved in the creation of mankind. In scripture, the BREATH of God is often used interchangeably for and to illustrate the work of the Holy Spirit of God.
  - 1) *Genesis 2:7*, “.....God.....breathed into his nostrils the breath (Spirit) of life; and man became a living soul.”
  - 2) *Job 33:4*, “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.”

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## II. THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. He shared in the creation of the material universe and of man. ([Genesis 1:2; 2:7](#))
2. He strived with sinners and, thus, “restrained” evil. ([Genesis 6:3](#); Please compare with [2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7](#)) Here also, the restrainer is the Holy Spirit.
3. He INDWELT BELIEVERS.
  - 1) [Genesis 41:38](#), “.....a man in whom the Spirit of God is.”
  - 2) [Psalm 51:11](#), “.....take not thy Holy Spirit from me.”
  - 3) [1 Peter 1:11](#), “.....what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which is IN them did signify.....”
  - 4) [Numbers 27:18](#); “.....Joshua.....IN whom is the spirit.....”
4. He came UPON believers and gave them great power.
  - 1) Upon Eldad and Medad – and they prophesied. ([Numbers 11:26-29](#))
  - 2) Upon Othniel – who judged and made war. ([Judges 3:10](#))
  - 3) Upon Gideon – who won a great victory. ([Judges 6:34](#))
  - 4) Upon Samson – who by hand tore a lion. ([Judges 14:6](#))
  - 5) Upon David – from that day on. ([1 Samuel 16:13](#))
    - As in the New Testament, the UPON ministry of the Holy Spirit is always associated with preaching (prophesying) or some demonstration of power. ([Acts 1:8](#)) It is important to remember this.

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5. He FILLED some believers.

- 1) Bezaleel ([Exodus 31:3](#) and [35:31](#))
- 2) Joshua ([Deuteronomy 34:9](#)) “*And Joshua.....was full of the spirit.....*”
- 3) Elijah ([Luke 1:17](#)) He was filled just like John the Baptist.
- 4) Those who made Aaron’s garments ([Exodus 28:3](#))

The above references teach that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit gave wisdom and skill. ([Exodus 31:2-5](#)), granted special strength ([Judges 14:6](#)) and empowered individuals to prophecy and to do great things. ([2 Samuel 23:2](#) and [Judges 15:14](#))

Bear in mind that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit operated according to His own sovereign will. He filled and came upon whomsoever He would. There were no instructions given to Israel as to HOW they might receive the Spirit or His power. The promise was held out to them that He would be poured out upon all flesh at the future date. ([Isaiah 44:3](#); [Joel 2:28](#))

### III. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO THE SCRIPTURES

1. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.....*” ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)) The word for INSPIRATION is “*theop eustos*” or “*God-breathed.*”

(To be continued in second session Bible Study, 7/26/2015)