

## The Holy Spirit Comes

### Acts 3

According to Science Magazine, on January 20, 2016

(<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/01/feature-astronomers-say-neptune-sized-planet-lurks-unseen-solar-system>)

two scientists announced that our solar system has a 9<sup>th</sup> planet. You may remember that Pluto was demoted some time back from a planet because astronomers do not believe that it has all of the qualities of a planet, so we were down to just 8 planets. Well, according to Konstantin Batygin and Mike Brown of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena we now have a 10<sup>th</sup> planet. This planet is named Planet “X” for now, but it is believed to be about the size of Neptune, or about the size of 10 Earths.

The interesting thing about this discovery is that they have not observed this planet. They only have seen the effects of it. I think in many ways, this is how we see the third member of the trinity, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells us that everyone who is born of the Spirit will be like this in John 3:8

#### John 3:8

The wind<sup>[e]</sup> 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.”

Jesus tells his disciples in John 14:16-17 that he is going away, but he will not leave them as orphans – rather that He will send another comforter. This word comforter is also translated advocate, or counselor. It has the idea of another, not as a different, but the same. A same comforter – who dwells in you. This is the mystery of the Holy Spirit.

#### John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,<sup>[f]</sup> to be with you forever,<sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be<sup>[g]</sup> in you.

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is real, active in all of Scripture, and is the third member of the Trinity. He shows up as early as Genesis 1:2 and is all over the Bible. We often think we know little about him, but it might be that we know more about this part of the Trinity than the other two.

#### First referred to in Genesis 1:2

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.

#### Instrumental in Leading the Israelites across the desert to the Promised Land

He was instrumental in Moses leading the people of Israel. He gave Moses the power and guidance that was needed. Numbers 11 tells the story of when God added 70 men to assist Moses in leading the people. God did this and confirmed it by adding the Spirit to impact these 70 men.

### **Numbers 11:25**

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

In Numbers 11:29 Moses makes an interesting comment about the need for God's Spirit for all God's people. An observation that will be fulfilled in Acts 2

### **Numbers 11:29**

But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

## The Spirit came on to people to accomplish God's purpose

The Gospel Transformation Bible (<http://gospeltransformationbible.org/>) study notes (Joel 3) describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament as follows:

*"The Lord promises not only provision and protection but the pervasive power of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament narratives, the Spirit was primarily depicted as an instrument or expression of God's power that visited only certain people at specific times to accomplish certain divine purposes."*

This is seen in some of the stories of the judges and kings in the Old testament as well as in the stories of early New Testament followers of God.

### **Samson lost the Spirit of God**

Judges 16:20

And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

### **Saul Lost the Spirit of God**

1 Samuel 16:14

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.

### **David Received the Spirit of God**

1 Samuel 16:13

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

### **New Testament**

### **Elizabeth received the Spirit of God and magnified Jesus**

Luke 1:41-42

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

### **Zechariah received the Spirit and prophesied of Jesus**

Luke 1:67

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

### **Mary received the Holy Spirit**

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[e]</sup> will be called holy—the Son of God.

## **The New Promise: I will send you (all) another comforter.**

After Christ’s Assentation and after Acts 2 it seems as if the Spirit is poured out on all flesh in a way that is much broader and more abundant than in the past. Joel 2:28-29 is referenced in Acts 2 as Peter’s description of the coming of the Holy Spirit and look at what it says about how the Holy Spirit will be shared.

### **Joel 2:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> [a] “And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

### **All Christians receive Him**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves<sup>[d]</sup> or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

#### **Romans 8:9**

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

## What does the Spirit of God do in us?

### He imparts knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

<sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. <sup>[d]</sup>

### The Spirit helps us to understand the things of God

**John 16:13**

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.

### He helps us to submit to God

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

### The Spirit convicts of sin

**John 16:7-8**

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. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

### He helps Believers to hate our Sin

**Romans 8:22-23**

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

### He gives out gifts and abilities as He Wills

1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the*

*Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

### **The Spirit will bring Glory to Jesus**

John 16:14-15

He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

### **He has a mind**

Romans 8:27

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because <sup>[a]</sup> the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### **The Spirit interceded for us**

**Romans 8:26**

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.

### **The Spirit is grieved by our sin**

**Ephesians 4:30**

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

### **The Fruit of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## **The Commission – Impossible**

The disciples had spent 3 years with Jesus. Learning directly from his words, and sitting at his feet. They had a lot of knowledge, no doubt, but still exhibited many failings.

- They disputed about their position in the kingdom – Pride Luke 22:24-28
- They lacked courage to defend Jesus – Cowardice Mark 14:50
- They denied Him Luke 22:54-62
- They did not know the plans of God Acts 1:6

Soon we will see a new group of people, men who will stand and boldly proclaim the Gospel. Men who will risk their lives for the message of the Gospel. These men are radically transformed from the disciples that we have watched and followed for the past three years. They are different, they have power.

Jesus tells them in Matthew 28 to do three things, all three are impossible. He tells them this and surrounds it with two promises. The First that All authority is Given to Jesus, the second that He will never leave them.

### **Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[b]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- **make disciples** – That is to make followers of Jesus. They need to know the Gospel, be filled with the knowledge of God, and living a life in the obedience and pursuit of Jesus.
- **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is a physical act, but I believe is also representative of a complete understanding of the Gospel of Grace. The act of baptism is a representation of the knowledge of God’s washing away our sins in the blood of Christ.
- **teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.** Impossible – without Grace. This is the essence of the Christian life, and the source of the proclamation of the Gospel. This part of the command we said last week we could not do – how are we going to share this with others – the answer is Grace.

The Great Commission is impossible by our means, but possible only with the power of God. Jesus leaves them promising to give them Power from on-high. This power is the coming of the Holy Spirit.

### **I Will Never Leave You**

I saw this line in the Great Commission in a completely new way this week. As we discussed already, the Holy Spirit is present in all of the Scripture. He is, perhaps, the most active member of the Trinity. He is working to accomplish God’s plans and comes on people for a limited time to do this in the Old Testament. In the New Testament Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive another comforter, and seals the Great commission with the promise that He will never leave them. The Holy Spirit here for us is the fulfillment of this promise. Imagine, the same power that God provided Moses, Joshua, Samson, David, Elijah, and John the Baptist – the same power that guided Jesus ministry – is in us.

## You will receive Power

Acts 1 restates the Great Commission with an emphasis on the power of God.

### Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In Acts we see the Great Commission less as a command and more as a prophesy. Jesus tells his disciples that they will: receive power and be His witnesses to the ends of the Earth (All nations)

### 1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

## What's going on in Acts 2?

It would seem as if the visual that we see in Acts 2 is unique. It is never repeated in Scripture, and we don't see tongues of fire on people's heads today. The Spirit is alive and active in the books of Acts, and the act of speaking other languages is mentioned as happening at least 3 other times in the book. It would seem as if God ordains this dramatic scene in Acts 2 to emphasize the coming of the Spirit in a different way than has happened in the past.

Drama teachers tell students to over-emphasize their actions and expressions so that the audience sees them. Vocalists, and public speakers make sure to try to enunciate their “T”s and the “D”s to make sure that they sound clear to the audience. I believe this scene in Acts 2 is there to enunciate the coming of the Spirit for us to see it two thousand years later.

## Speaking in Other tongues

Is it possible that these three occurrences were a continuation of God's emphasizing His Spirit is involved in the spread of the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the Earth? Is it possible that God reversed the effects of Babel for a short time in a specific location to accomplish His purpose and to validate the spread of the Gospel to Samaria and to the Gentiles?

An Excellent resource for the speaking in tongues is John Piper's Sermon from April 29,1984 titled, [How to Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit](http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/how-to-receive-the-gift-of-the-holy-spirit).

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Acts 2:2-4 - Jews

Acts 10:44-46 – Cornelius's house (Caesarea) Samaria

Acts 19:6 – Paul in Ephesus (Gentiles)

