



Does the Holy Spirit Speak?

Hebrews 3:7-8: (NIV) “⁷So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,”

One of the things that separate true Christianity from other religions is the way in which we profess that God works in our lives. According to the Bible, the true Christian is given a special brand of help for their life. This help is called the Holy Spirit and it is the awesome power and influence of God working in our lives to help us to not only cope with a world that we are in but not of, but it is there to help us become Christ-like from the inside out. So, how does the Holy Spirit work? Does it really guide us? Stay with us as we look into this mighty power of God to try and grasp just how significant its influence is in our lives.

Questions for Consideration:

1. How did the Holy Spirit enter the Christian world?
2. Does the Holy Spirit actually have a voice?

1. How did the Holy Spirit enter the Christian world?

The context of our discussion actually begins in Luke 3:7-17. We will begin by inserting the Matthew 3:7 rendering of this account to clarify some detail.

Matthew 3:7: “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them...”

Luke 3:7-17: (KJV) “⁷...O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ⁹And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire...”

Jesus is not yet on the scene. This is John the Baptist speaking to a great crowd. He is talking about the coming of Jesus and the potential difficulties the Pharisees and Sadducees are about to face.

¹⁰...And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? ¹¹He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. ¹²Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? ¹³And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you...”

As he is preaching, each of these different groups are feeling the message and want to know what they can do to get back to righteousness in their lives. “What should we do?”

¹⁴...And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. ¹⁵And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; ¹⁶John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: ¹⁷Whose fan is in his hand,



and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable."

Notice the Pharisees and the Sadducees never asked him, "What should we do," like the other groups of people. John's audience is a wide cross-section of the Jewish population. His work is preparatory - the work of opening the door of repentance for sin, so the remission of sin through Jesus can have a people in which to flourish. John prophesied to this mixed crowd the fact that all will not accept the coming Lord - some will need to be cut down and some will be destroyed. It is in this context that the baptism of the Spirit is introduced. John was baptizing with water for repentance, but tells the people that Jesus will baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

This is the first real introduction of the Holy Spirit as a mechanism of baptism. This is the beginning of something very new, even before Jesus is active.

Next, we jump to the risen Lord appearing to his disciples:

Luke 24:45-49: (KJV) *"⁴⁵Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And ye are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*

This is before Jesus' ascension. He tells his disciples that something different will begin at Jerusalem.

The risen Lord's eleventh and final appearance:

Acts 1:3-9: (NRSV) *"³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight."*

Observations so far know about this coming baptism of the Spirit:

- It was typified in the rituals of the Law, shown by its arrival on Pentecost;
- It was clearly prophesied by John the Baptist before the BEGINNING of Jesus' ministry;
- It was to be a critical event - the risen Lord labeled it as a "new beginning;"
- It was to be a one-time event - the risen Lord instructed their whereabouts emphatically.





We now examine the actual baptism and arrival of the Spirit:

Acts 2:1-4: (KJV) *"¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

Something miraculous and dramatic took place here.

Verse 1: Prophetic timing - The day of Pentecost had arrived.

(Source: Bible Commentary by C. Russell): PENTECOST signifies fiftieth, and was used amongst the Jews as the name of one of their most important feasts or religious celebrations. As their fiftieth "Jubilee" year followed a cycle of seven times seven years, so Pentecost, as a jubilee day, followed a cycle of seven times seven days, from the time of the gathering of the sheaf of first-fruits which was presented before the Lord as a "wave-offering." This sheaf of the first-fruits evidently typified our Lord in his resurrection on the sixteenth of Nisan—he having been slain as the Passover Lamb on the fourteenth of Nisan.

There is a typical picture that the Day of Pentecost (50 days after) was very significant. In the Jewish cycle of living, the seventh day of rest was the Sabbath. After seven Sabbaths was a 50th day - a day of Pentecost - in which this particular celebration was to take place. The Jewish Law reflected some of the important things that were happening here.

Verse 1: In addition to prophetic timing, this verse also shows obedience - the Apostles were where they were supposed to be: **Acts 1:4:** *"While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father."*

Verse 2: *"And suddenly there came a **sound** from heaven as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."*

Sound: Strong's #2279 echos (ay'-khos); a loud or confused noise ("echo"), i.e. roar;

Perhaps this was a sound like a tornado? Let's look at some other scriptures that use this exact Greek word for "sound:"

Luke 4:37: *"And the **fame** <2279> of him went out into every place of the country round about."*

Think of the roar of the crowd, the energy and activity involved with fame.

Hebrews 12:19: *"And the **sound** <2279> of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:"*

So the sound in **Acts 2:2** was the audible announcement of the monumental change to come.

Rushing: Strong's #5342 phero (fer'-o); to "bear" or carry
Lexicon: to be conveyed or borne, with the suggestion of force or speed

So, this "rushing" means that something is being born or carried, not just something going by fast.

Also see: **2 Peter 1:21** and **Romans 8:5**. We have to listen to the voice of the Spirit; we have to see if we are truly a dedicated Christian who has been set apart for the purpose of working the will of God in your life through Jesus. This "spirit begetting" is not some haphazard thing. God is not careless with this great power.



John 15:2: "Every branch in me that **beareth <5342>** not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that **beareth <5342>** fruit, he purgeth it, that it **may bring forth <5342>** more fruit."

The Greek word for "rushing" is the same word for "carrying" or "bearing." This helps us to understand that the rushing sound in Acts 2:2 was carrying something very special.

Hebrews 13:12-13: (KJV) "¹²Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. ¹³Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, **bearing <972>** his reproach."

Mighty: Strong's #972 biaios (bee'-ah-yos); violent: Lexicon - forcible

Acts 2:2 is the only text in the Bible where this particular word **#972** is used.

Wind: Strong's #4157 pne (pno-ay'); respiration, a breeze:
KJV-- breath, wind.

Acts 17:23-25: (ASV) "²³For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. ²⁴The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and **breath <4157>**, and all things;"

The Apostle is preaching to those in Athens on Mars Hill. He talks about God giving breath to all things, such as when God the breath of life given to Adam when he became a living soul.

Think about this: the "**sound** from heaven as of **a rushing mighty wind**" was the audible announcement that bore to those present the mighty respiration of the Holy Spirit! Just as God had breathed into Adam the breath of life, the Almighty would now impart the mighty breath of New Creature life into what would become the true Church! This was the beginning of something dramatic, something that would change them and eventually the world forever.

Acts 2:1 finishes with "and it filled all the house where they were sitting." The word "baptize" means to immerse, not just sprinkle. This scripture indicates their complete immersion, their "baptism by the Spirit."

There is a difference between living life following after Jesus and trying to keep up and being baptized with God's power and influence that works within you.

This day, the day of Pentecost, was the birth of the Bride of Christ. This baptism of the Spirit was the proclamation and proof of the separation of this "little flock" from the world.

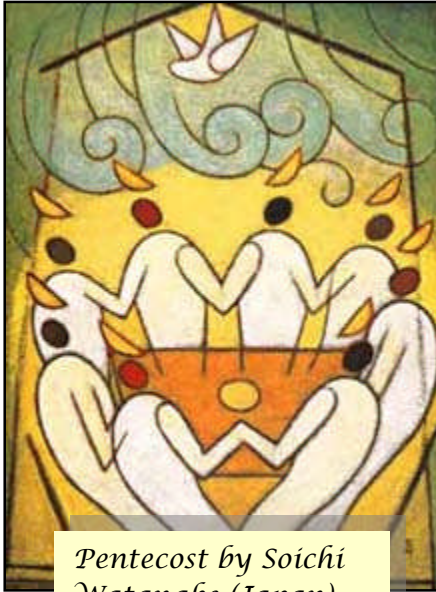
1 Peter 2:9-10: (KJV) "⁹But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: ¹⁰Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

How were they "not a people but are now the people?" The Holy Spirit came and gave them a different perspective on life, because this is the power and influence of God working from the inside out, rather than from the outside in. It is absolutely different and is important groundwork for understanding how the Holy Spirit's power and influence works in our lives.

This "chosen generation" was not made up of only Jews.

Continuing with the next verse:

Acts 2:3: (KJV) *"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."*



Pentecost by Soichi Watanabe (Japan)

(Source: Commentary by Matthew Poole:) Like as of fire; which represented,

1. The light that the apostles should impart;
2. The fervent heat and zeal which they should be endowed with;
3. The gospel's spreading in the world, and carrying all before it, prevailing over all errors;
4. The purity and holiness which they and all that preach the gospel ought to appear withal.

Birth is a dramatic event, filled with awe towards the miracle of life. So it was at the birth of this, the true church, the consecrated (set apart for holy service), the bride of Christ.

Acts 2:4: (KJV) *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

If the gospel was to be preached throughout the world, there had to be a way to communicate. They could transcend natural barriers. This was such a significant sign of what was happening here.

(Source: Bible Commentary by C. Russell): The number of believers who were together in the upper room at the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was about one hundred and twenty. They were all immersed in the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit filled the house...

One last marked change occurring at this baptism:

Luke 22:31-32: (KJV) *"³¹And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: ³²But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."*

Jesus already had Simon Peter following him for a long time. But Jesus is saying, "When you are converted..." Jesus knew that Peter wasn't yet strong enough until this event of Pentecost. Peter becomes the spokesman at this event, "strengthening thy brethren," just as previously instructed.

Acts 2:12-16: (KJV) *"¹²And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? ¹³Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. ¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ¹⁵For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;"*

There was some measure of chaos, and the apostles were accused of drunkenness. Peter, imbued with the Holy Spirit, is transformed from follower

to leader, from questioner to teacher, from human mindedness to spirit mindedness.

The baptism of the Spirit was a one-time event, signifying the birth of the body of Christ. It would never again be repeated, for the Spirit would abide with, comfort, and teach those chosen followers throughout the entire Gospel age.

2. Does the Holy Spirit actually have a voice?

Let's backtrack to Jesus prophesying about the arrival of the Spirit:

John 16:8-11: (NKJV) *"⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."*

Jesus is talking about this helper coming, and it sounds like a person will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.

Let's go back to our context of when the spirit came: Pentecost!

Reading only selected verses of Acts 2:14-43: (NKJV)

Verse 14: *"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words."*

These next verses show the Spirit (through Peter speaking) convicting the world of sin because they do not believe:

Verses 22-24: *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—²³Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."*

The Apostle Peter is convicting the world of sin because they did not believe. Jesus predicted this would happen by the Spirit.

These next verses show the Spirit (through Peter speaking) convicting the world of righteousness by the raising of Jesus to power with the Father:

Verses 32-33: *"³²This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."*



British library Pentecost Description: (Whole folio) The descent of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a large flattened dove flying down directly over the head of the Virgin and the twelve apostles. In the foreground, the Virgin and St. John are seated on a stone bench Title of Work: Psalter of Robert de Lisle Author: - Illustrator: Majesty Master Production: England [London?]; 1330-1340 www.art-bible.net



The world was shown righteousness because Jesus was raised.

These next verses show the Spirit (through Peter speaking) convicting this world of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged:

Verses 34-36: ³⁴"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" ³⁶"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

The Apostle Peter is speaking the words that convict the world of judgment because the ruler of this world (Satan) is judged.

Who is speaking the words? Peter.

Who prophesied the words would be spoken? Jesus.

How did Jesus say they would be spoken? Through the Holy Spirit.

This tells us how the Spirit works. How does the Spirit say all of these things? Through the words and explanations of the Apostle Peter regarding events and prophecies! This gives us a huge clue as to how the Spirit - the power and influence of God - was to work in the Christian age - it would work through the hearts, minds, words and actions of the begotten...the spirit does not have a voice of its own - it is the power and influence of God expressed through prophecy or a begotten one!

Spirit: Strongs #4151 pneuma (pnyoo'-mah); a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze

The word "spirit" gives you a sense of something that has power but can't be seen. When you think of wind as an example, wind is very powerful but it can't be seen.

A few of the varied uses of this word:

Mark 2:8: "And immediately when Jesus perceived in his **spirit <4151>** that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"

Romans 1:9: "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my **spirit <4151>** in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"

2 Timothy 1:7: "For God hath not given us the **spirit <4151>** of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

What is the "spirit of fear?" Is it an individual? Or is it a power that overwhelmingly pushes you in a different direction.

Romans 8:15: "For ye have not received the **spirit <4151>** of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit <4151>** of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

What is the "spirit of bondage?" It is a power that binds you and is in direct comparison with the "spirit of adoption" that frees you.

We learn by choosing which spirits (influences) we listen to:

1 John 4:1-3: (ASV) ¹"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ²Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³and

Also see
John 14:26 and
John 15:26 to
read about the
Holy Spirit as a
teacher and
the Spirit of
truth.

every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God: and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and now it is in the world already."

How do we listen to these spirits/influences? Sometimes things "speak to us" without words. Here's a great example - dessert! Have you ever heard cookies calling you?



Can a piece of chocolate cheesecake tempt you using literal words? These foods have no voice or will of their own - it is our will (or lack thereof) that gives them a voice!

This helps us to understand that the Holy Spirit does not need to have a physical voice for it to provide a spiritual conscience.

Is the human spirit a being within a being? Are we willing to say that the spirit of the world is a being within a being? No, yet we can choose to learn from them.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16: (NRSV) *"⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."*

What is the spirit of the world? It is the sense of carnality that directs us in our daily human, physical lives. It is not a separate entity, but it is the power and influence of worldliness. This is being directly compared with the spirit that is from God.

What does it mean, *"But we have the mind of Christ."* Does it mean that we have Christ's literal brain transplanted into our bodies? Not at all. We have the mind of Christ because the power and influence of God works within us and gives us a sense of understanding what the mind of Christ was all about - the



sacrifice, the devotion, the spirituality, and doing the will of God rather than our own will.

God's spirit given to the body of true Christianity is great ability (through no ability of our own) to help direct us. We don't want to crowd out that spiritual conscience and ignore it.

Here are some expressions we use that give things a voice:

"Experience is the best teacher!"

"Boy, did I learn from that mistake!"

"Losing taught me how to win!"

Now let's put the idea of the Spirit speaking through individuals to the test:

The Holy Spirit speaking:

Acts 28:24-27: (KJV) *"²⁴And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. ²⁵And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, ²⁶Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: ²⁷For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."*

Paul is quoting Isaiah, so let's go back to the actual quote from the Old Testament. Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord speaking:

Isaiah 6:8-11: (KJV) *"⁸Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. ⁹And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. ¹¹Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate..."*



The Holy Spirit Speaking:

Hebrews 3:7-8: (NIV) *"⁷So, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,'"*

Our theme text is quoted from the following verses in the Old Testament and refers to the voice of God:

Psalms 95:6-11: (NIV) "⁶Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, ⁹where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. ¹⁰For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' ¹¹So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

Hebrews 10:15-18: (NIV)

"¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says ¹⁶This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." ¹⁷Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." ¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin."

Here is another New Testament verse talks about the Holy Spirit speaking, but the original quote shows it was the voice of God Himself. That helps us to understand how the Holy Spirit works. It finds a voice through the sanctified conscience of the true followers of Christ.

Jeremiah 31:31-33: (NIV) "³¹The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."



However you define the Holy Spirit, it is something so great, deep, and comprehensive; that influence is working in the life of a true Christian only by God's grace.

The Spirit of God is something that is a life changing thing. By its coming at Pentecost, it forever changed the course of humanity and it could only do that because of the life, death, resurrection and sacrifice of Jesus. This would give the true followers to overcome the world that would otherwise be impossible. The power of God's own character is in us and we become "new creatures." By that power we are able to be Christ-like.

*So does the Holy Spirit speak?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

We ran out of time!

Here are some additional thoughts for your continued study:

Some additional uses of **Spirit**: Strong's #4151

Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in **spirit <4151>**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 22:43: "He saith unto them, How then doth David in **spirit <4151>** call him Lord, saying,"

John 4:24: "God is a **Spirit <4151>**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit **<4151>** and in truth."

Romans 8:6: "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be **spiritually <4151>** minded is life and peace."

Romans 11:8: "(According as it is written, God hath given them the **spirit <4151>** of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."

1 Corinthians 2:11-12: "¹¹For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the **spirit <4151>** of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the **Spirit <4151>** of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the **spirit <4151>** of the world, but the **spirit <4151>** which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

1 Corinthians 14:32: "And the **spirits <4151>** of the prophets are subject to the prophets."

2 Corinthians 7:1: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and **spirit <4151>**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Galatians 6:1: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the **spirit <4151>** of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

James 4:5: "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the **spirit <4151>** that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?"



1 Peter 3:4: "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet **spirit <4151>**, which is in the sight of God of great price."

1 John 4:1: "Beloved, believe not every **spirit <4151>**, but try the **spirits <4151>** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:6: "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the **spirit <4151>** of truth, and the **spirit <4151>** of error."

The spirit as a "witness"

Acts 5:32: (KJV) "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

Witness: Strongs #3144. *martuv martus mar'-toos*; of uncertain affinity; a witness (literally [judicially] or figuratively [genitive case]); by analogy, a "martyr":—martyr, record, witness.

Some uses:

Romans 1:9: "For God is my **witness <3144>**, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"

2 Corinthians 1:23: "Moreover I call God for a **record <3144>** upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth."

Context:

Acts 5:29-32: (NKJV) "²⁹But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

...*"we are His witnesses to these things"* - The apostles were the living record that Jesus was raised, for if he was not raised, there would have been no following!

The Holy Spirit is a "record" (witness), a proof of the plan of God being carried out. Its coming to humanity at Pentecost marked a significant change in the plan. Its staying with humanity in the form of a New Creation sealed that change in the plan.

1 Corinthians 2:1-14: (NRSV) "¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"--¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.



¹²*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.* ¹³*And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.* ¹⁴*Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

The unseen power and influence of God, teaches us, gives us gifts, and moves us to action.

- Verse 4 the spirit and power of God clearly are God's - one is not an entity and the other a characteristic
- Verses 10-11 likens the spirit of God to the spirit of a man - one is not an entity and the other an internal force
- Verse 12 compares the spirit of God with the spirit of the world - both can be received in the same way and no one believes that the spirit of the world is an entity
- Verse 14 speaks of gifts of God's spirit - influence/power, not the gifts of another entity.