

The Spirit at Work: Present with Life & Power

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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God [ruach Elohim] was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1–2

Ruach: breath, wind, spirit, mind (inner state)

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath [ruach] of his mouth all their
host.

Psalm 33:6

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath [human ruach],
they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your Spirit [divine ruach], they
are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

Psalm 104:29–30

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them.

Nehemiah 9:20

But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 63:10

See, I have chosen Bezalel . . . and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.

Exodus 31:2–3

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him. . . . And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 16:13

The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.

2 Samuel 23:2

And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh . . .
Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Joel 2:28–29

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to
walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my
rules.

Ezekiel 36:27

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse . . .

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:1–2

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.

Isaiah 61:1

. . . and when Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21–22

I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

John 14:25–26

It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment. . . . When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:7–8; 13–14

- The Spirit is coming, and Jesus leaving for now is best for us.
- The Spirit will teach us and remind us of what Jesus told us.
- The Spirit will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- The Spirit will guide us into truth.
- The Spirit will speak what he hears from the Father and the Son.
- The Spirit will declare to us what is to come.
- The Spirit will glorify Jesus as he declares Jesus's words.

Like a floodlight, the Spirit shines on Jesus, and makes “us aware of all that Jesus is . . .”

Because the Spirit’s ministry is to shine on Jesus, “The Spirit’s message to us is never, ‘Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me,’ but always, ‘Look at him, and see his glory; listen to him and hear his Word; go to him, and have life; get to know him, and taste his gift of joy and peace.’”

—J.I. Packer, *Keep in Step With the Spirit*

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:21–22

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

Revelation 22:17

Theme #1: The Spirit sets us free from the law of sin so that we can walk in obedience as he conforms us to Christ's image. **(Romans 8:1–11)**

“It is eminently appropriate that the Holy Spirit should be designated as the Spirit of life because the power he exercises is unto life as distinguished from the power of sin which is unto death. ‘The law of the Spirit of life’ is, therefore, the power of the Holy Spirit operative in us to make us free from the power of sin unto death.”

—John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans*

Theme #2: The Spirit bears witness to our new-creation identity: We are now children who belong to God's family. **(Romans 8:12–17)**

“The Holy in [the Holy Spirit’s] name calls attention to the focal point of His work in the economy (plan) of redemption. The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier. He is the One who applies the work of Christ to our lives by working in us to bring us to full conformity and the image of Christ.”

—R.C. Sproul, *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit*

Theme #2: The Spirit bears witness to our new-creation identity: We are now children who belong to God's family. **(Romans 8:12–17)**

Theme # 3: The Spirit groans with and for his people, as he waits eagerly with us for the fulfillment of our adoption. **(Romans 8:18–27)**

“Paul asserts that Christians groan...because we are still in a body subject to futility, sin and decay, and are part of a groaning creation.” The Spirit does not free us from this but “actually creates or at least heightens the tension and brings it to more anguished expression. This is...the groaning of frustrated longing and hope. We share the ‘futility’ and ‘the bondage to decay’ that characterize life in this world but do so as those who know the love of God and are confident about ultimate deliverance. So the ‘Spirit of adoption’ (v15) enables us to wait eagerly for the final manifestation and full enjoyment of our sonship.”

—David Peterson, *Romans*

