

The Holy Spirit and the Last Days
Greg Stiekes, BJU Seminary

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is one of the most fascinating and mysterious studies in the Word of God. But while many theologies describe the Holy Spirit and his ministries, few address the Holy Spirit's ministry in the Last Days in particular. In this study, we will examine the Holy Spirit's coming upon the church, signifying the Last Days, and explore what the Spirit's ministry means for us today.

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

A. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

1. The Bible speaks of him with masculine pronouns (John 16:7–8)
2. He has the qualities of personhood.
 - He comforts (John 12:26; 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
 - He teaches (John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:13)
 - He speaks (Acts 8:29; 13:2)
 - He decides (Acts 15:28)
 - He grieves (Eph 4:30)
 - He determines (1 Cor 12:11)
 -

B. The Holy Spirit is God.

1. He is presented as equal with God (e.g., Matt 28:19)
2. He possesses the attributes of God.
 - He is eternal (Heb 9:14)
 - He is omnipresent (Ps 139:7–10)
 - He is omniscient (1 Cor 2:10–11)
 - He is omnipotent (Luke 1:35–37)
 - His is holy (Rom 1:4)

C. The Holy Spirit “Quickens.”

1. Quicken = “To bring to life, enliven.”
2. The Spirit's “Quickening” ministry is seen in the NT:
John 6:63; 2 Cor 3:6; 1 Pet 3:18; Rom 1:4

II. The Holy Spirit before the Last Days

A. The Holy Spirit Was Active in Creation.

Gen 1:2; Job 33:4; Psa 104:30

B. The Holy Spirit Empowered People for Certain Tasks.

1. Joseph (Gen 41:38)
2. Moses and the 70 Elders (Num 11:17, 25–29)
3. Joshua (Num 27:18; Deut 34:9)
4. The Men Who Built the Tabernacle (Exod 31:1–11; 35:30–36:1)
5. Othniel (Judg 3:10)
6. Gideon (Judg 6:34)
7. Jephthah (Judg 11:29)
8. Samson (Judg 14:6, 19; 13:25; 15:14; 16:28)
9. Saul (1 Sam 10:6–7, 10; 11:6; 16:14)
10. David (1 Sam 16:13; 2 Sam 23:2; Acts 1:16; 4:25)

And many more!

C. The Holy Spirit Empowered Jesus of Nazareth

1. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus at his baptism (Luke 3:21–22)
2. Jesus was led by the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1–2)
3. Jesus ministered in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14–22)

D. The Holy Spirit Was Promised to Be Given to All in the Future

1. Joel 2:28–32
2. Ezek 11:18–21; 36:26–27
3. John 16:7–15
4. Luke 24:49

III. The Holy Spirit in the Last Days

A. The Coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:1–21)

Comparison of the Spirit-anointing of David, Jesus, and Disciples.

David

Jesus

Disciples

What does Peter mean by “*this is that*”? (Acts 2:16)

1. This is *all* of that?
2. This is *like* that?
3. This is *part* of that?
4. This is *the beginning* of that?

The final choice implies that the rest of Joel 2 is about to come (the judgment) and that we are still participating in the Last Days.

B. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in All Believers.

1. The Receiving of the Holy Spirit (Gal 3:1–5, 13–14; 4:3–7)
 - a. When a person hears the gospel *and* ...
 - b. When a person receives the gospel *by faith*.
2. The Evidence of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16–25)
 - a. Apostolic Evidence (Temporal, Miraculous Signs)
 - b. Heart Evidence (Perpetual, Supernatural Virtues)
3. The Benefits of the Indwelling Spirit (Romans 8)
Context: The Indwelling Spirit in the Last Days
 - a. No condemnation for believers (Rom 8:1–2)
 - b. Hope of a bodily resurrection (Rom 8:9–11; cf. v. 23)
 - c. Assurance of the believers’ adoption by God (Rom 8:14–16)
 - d. Future glorification of believers with Christ (Rom 8:17–25)
 - e. Help, Assurance, and Endurance till the End (Rom 8:26–39)

C. The Creation and Unification of the Church by the Spirit

1. Each Believer is Sealed by the Spirit (Eph 1:13)
2. Believers are “built” by the Spirit into a church (Eph 2:22)
3. The Spirit continues to unite the church (Eph 4:1–6)

D. The Mission of the Church in the Spirit (Jude 17–23)

1. To represent Christ among those “devoid of the Spirit”
2. To wait for Christ, patiently and faithfully.
3. To mercifully seek to save others from final destruction.

If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would have stopped, and everybody would have know the difference

—A. W. Tozer

E. The Removal of the Spirit in the Tribulation

1. The Spirit's Present Work of Convicting the World (John 16:7–11).

Conviction = An _____ and a sense of _____
which arouses in people a dread of inescapable judgment.

The Spirit brings conviction to people in three areas:

- The awfulness of _____.
- The goodness of _____.
- The certainty of _____.

2. The Impact on the World Void of the Spirit (2 Thess 2:1–12)

When we consider the biblical description of the sheer wickedness and evil that is present in the world, and when we read of the terrible judgments that will come in the Tribulation, we should stand in awe of the Spirit's ministry with grateful hearts when we consider that all He must do to allow the evil to flourish in the earth is simply *step aside*, or to stop what He is now doing tirelessly until the End.

3. The Mercy of the Spirit in Still Saving Those Who Believe (Rev 7:9–14)

F. The Unity of the Church and the Spirit in the Last Days

Revelation 22:17, 20

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. ...

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
"Amen. *Come, Lord Jesus!*"