

Systematic Theology: Pneumatology

The Work of the Holy Spirit, From Dr. Steven Wellum's notes on Systematic Theology

What does GCBC teach?

We teach that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. We recognize His sovereign activity in creation, the incarnation, the written revelation, and the work of salvation.

We teach that a unique work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ to initiate and complete the building of the body of Christ, which is His church. The broad scope of His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ.

We teach that the Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption.

We teach that the Holy Spirit is the divine teacher Who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible. Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit.

We teach that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith.

We teach, in this respect, that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of believers.

What are we *not* talking about—today? 😊

Inspiration of Scripture.

Regeneration in detail.

Cessationism/Spiritual Gifts: <http://gcbc.mn/GiftsSeries>

What are we talking about?

"The Holy Spirit brings to completion the _____ of the _____, through the _____ of the _____ and _____ of the _____, by acting upon and in the creature."

This is important because:

1st: It speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in a _____ way.

2nd: It speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in a _____ way.

What does the *Bible* say?

(1) The Holy Spirit's Work in the OT Era.

(a) *Introduction.* Isaiah 63:7-14.

(b) _____ *Work of the 'Spirit of God' in the OT*

- (i) _____ and _____ the universe and all animate beings (Gen 1:2; 2:7; cf. Ps 33:6; Job 26:13; 33:4).
- (ii) Controls both _____ and _____ (Ps 104:29-30; Isa 34:16; 40:7).
- (iii) _____ God's _____ to his spokesmen (Num 24:2; 2 Sam 23:2; 2 Chron 15:1; Neh 9:30; Job 32:8; Isa 61:1-4; Ezek 2:2; 11:24; 37:1; Mic 3:8; Zech 7:12).
- (iv) _____ by these _____ the way to be faithful and fruitful (Neh 9:20; Ps 143:10; Isa 48:16; 63:10-14).
- (v) Elicits _____ to God in terms of faith, repentance, obedience, righteousness, openness to God's instructions, and fellowship with him through praise and prayer (Ps 51:10-12; Isa 11:2; 44:3; Ezk 11:19; 36:25-27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Zech 12:10).
- (vi) Equips people for _____ (Gen 41:38; Num 11:16-29; 27:18; Deut 34:9; Judg 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:19; 15:14; 1 Sam 10:10; 11:6).
- (vii) Equips people with skill and strength for _____ (Ex 31:1-11; cf. 1 Kgs 7:14; Hag 2:5; Zech 4:6).

(c) _____ *Work of the Spirit of God:*

The Spirit's Linkage with the _____ and _____:

(i) *1st:* The OT predicted that when Messiah comes, he will have the _____ in full _____ (Isa 11:1-5; 42:1-8; 61:1-3).

1. The Spirit's work in OT was often reserved for _____ – _____, _____, and _____ (see 1 Sam 16:13-14).

a. **Examples:** Joseph (Gen 41:38); Bezalel (Ex 31:3; 35:31; cf. also 28:3; 1 Kgs 7:14); Moses (Num 11:17); seventy elders appointed by Moses (Num 11:25-26); Caleb (Num 14:24); Balaam (Num 24:2); Joshua (Num 27:18; Deut 34:9); Othniel (Judg 3:10); Gideon (Judg 6:34); Jephthah (Judg 11:29); Samson (Judg 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14); Saul (1 Sam 10:6, 10; 11:6; 19:23); Saul's men who prophesy (1 Sam 19:20); David (1 Sam 16:13); Amasai (1 Chr 12:18); Azariah (2 Chr 15:1); Jahaziel (2 Chr 20:14); Zechariah (2 Chr 24:20); Isaiah (Is 59:21); Ezekiel (Ezek 2:2; 3:24; 11:5); Daniel (Dan 4:8-9, 18; 5:11, 14); Micah (Mic 3:8).

b. There is no evidence that the Spirit empowered _____ in the OT _____.

2. In the NT we see that Jesus has the Spirit without measure (Jn 3:34).

(ii) *2nd:* The OT predicted that the coming of the Holy Spirit in power will mark the _____ of the _____ age – a future

expectation (Isa 32:15-17; 44:3-4; 59:20-21; Ez 36:25-27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-32).

(2) The Holy Spirit's Work in the NT Era.

(a) *The Biblical-Theological Framework of the NT* (=The "Already-Not Yet" Principle).

(i) The NT proclaims what the OT anticipated (=_____ → _____).

(ii) The Spirit is _____ of the breaking in of the _____ to _____, so that the powers, privileges, and blessings of the future age are _____ available to us through the Spirit, even though the end is _____ here.

(iii) *Examples.*

1. *Sonship*: Gal 4:4-5; Rom 8:14-27
2. *Firstfruits*: 1 Cor 15:20,23; Rom 8:23
3. *Guarantee*: 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:14
4. *Seal*: 2 Cor 1:22; Eph 4:30; 1:13
5. *Resurrection of the Body*: Rom 1:3-4; 8:11; 1 Cor 15:42-44.

(b) *The Spirit of Christ* (=_____ [i.e. The Son] & _____ relation).

(i) *Conception, birth, growth.*

(ii) *Baptism, Temptations, Ministry, Death, and Resurrection.*

(iii) *Word (Son)-Spirit Relation.*

(c) _____ of the Holy Spirit.

(i) _____ the Scriptures

(Jn 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 Cor 2:13; Eph 3:2-6; 1 Tim 4:1; 1 Pt 1:10-11).

(ii) *Individual* _____ and _____ (Jn 16:8-11; Acts 10:44-48; 1 Cor 2:14-16; 12:3; 2 Cor 3:4-4:6; Eph 1:17-20; 3:14-19; 1 Jn 2:20,27; 4:1-3; 5:6-12).

(iii) _____ (Jn 3:5-8; Rom 6:3-11 with 7:4-6; 8:9-11; 1 Cor 6:17-19; 12:12-13; Gal 3:14 with 26-29; Eph 2:1-10 with 4:3-16; Tit 3:4-7).

(iv) _____ believers that they are children and heirs of God (Rom 8:12-17; 2 Cor 1:22; Gal 4:6; Eph 1:13; 1 Jn 3:24; 4:13; 5:7).

(v) _____ fellowship with the Father and Son (Rom 5:5; 8:23; 2 Cor 5:5; Eph 1:14; 2:18; 4:30; 1 Jn 1:3 with 3:1-10, 24).

(vi) _____ believers progressively (2 Cor 3:18; Gal 5:16-25; Jude 20-21).

(vii) Gives _____ to the church for:

(1) *Building up of the body* (Rom 12:3-13; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:7-16; 1 Pet 4:10-11);

(2) *Evangelistic proclamation in the world so extending the church* (Acts 4:8,31; 9:31; Eph 6:18-20).

(viii) _____ effectively in and for believers in Christ – who feel unable to pray properly for themselves (Rom 8:26-27).

What difference does it make?

Concerning the Word-Spirit Relation:

ANSWER KEY

What are we talking about?

plan, Father, application, Word, benefits, Son

Trinitarian

Christological

What does the *Bible* say?

(1) The Holy Spirit's Work in the OT Era.

(a) General

- (i) Creates, sustains
- (ii) Nature, history
- (iii) Reveals, messages
- (iv) Teaches, revelations
- (v) personal responses
- (vi) leadership
- (vii) creative work

(b) Specific

Messiah, Messianic Age

(i) Spirit, measure

- 1. leaders – prophets, priests, kings
 - a. every believer, equally.

(ii) beginning, new covenant

(2) The Holy Spirit's Work in the NT Era.

(i) promise → fulfillment

(ii) evidence, age, come, already, not yet

(b) Word Spirit

(c) Individual Blessings

(i) Inspires

(ii) illumination, conviction

(iii) New Birth

(iv) Assures

(v) Mediates

(vi) Transforms

(vii) gifts

Prays