



The Holy Spirit # 1

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From the Presence." Today I am going to start a series of articles on the Holy Spirit. I am not quite sure where this might all end up but I have been thinking a lot lately about the idea of "hosting" and "releasing" the Holy Spirit that is upon us. There are many great books and resources on this idea such as Bill Johnson's book, "Hosting The Presence," but I thought I would share my personal experience as well as the context in which the Holy Spirit makes sense to me.

As with most things in my life, I have to know where they started in order to understand where they are going and so with this subject, my thoughts, once again, take me to the book of Genesis. Those who know me actually laugh at me over this fact by now. They say such things as, "there goes Dean talking about Genesis again!" Hey, what can I say. It is the book of beginnings after all.

First of all, the name "Holy Spirit" proceeds from two Hebrew words:

Holy - *Hagios* - set apart, pure, blameless

Spirit - *Ruwack* - breath or wind

The first place we see the Holy Spirit in the Bible is in the 2'nd verse:

Genesis 1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

First impressions for Dean: from this, I assume that the Holy Spirit likes to "hover." Being that I like to fly, I think I like Him already! I have always been fascinated by airplanes and as I write today, I am looking at my remote control helicopter re-charging its little battery on my end table, resting up for its daily spin around my patio later

tonight. The Holy Spirit still likes to hover today. Whenever I am in a corporate worship setting, I am always aware of this "hovering." The Holy Spirit is also personified in the bible as a dove, another creature that likes to fly. But what I would really like to do with this series of articles is paint a picture of the interaction of the Holy Spirit with us as a human species. Let us start with our creation:

Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

In many translations, the last phrase reads "*and man became a living soul.*" In this single scripture verse we can clearly see the different parts of our human makeup. First we see the formation of our body from the dust of the earth. Next we see God breathing into our nostril the breath (ruwack - breath or wind) of life. With this single breathing action, God did two things. First, He gave us a human spirit. Second, He released His very own Holy Spirit to co-inhabit inside of our bodies, intertwined together with our human spirit. That is why this grand exhale from God was called the breath of "life." Without the Holy Spirit's co-inhabitation, there are many places in the bible that talk about our human spirit actually being dead. We read such statements as "we were once dead in our trespasses," indicating that without a connection to the Holy Spirit inside of us, our human spirit has no life of it's own. Once we become "born again," we become "alive in Christ," once again. So, the first of our species was created and made a living being by the release of the breath of God; a body, soul, and spirit/Spirit being.

I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit living in me. Being that I received Jesus as my saviour as a small child, I don't ever remember a time when the Holy Spirit hasn't been with me. I have always known His presence in me and have a difficult time imagining life without it. However, my point to all this is that the Holy Spirit was living inside the first man and woman to live on our earth, but there was another dynamic to His interaction with them. Not only was He "in" them, He was also "upon" them. Think about the fact that after the fall of man, the Holy Spirit would often come "upon" the prophets and leaders of the Old Testament. There are many scriptures indicating that in the beginning, the first man and woman had uninterrupted access to this Holy Spirit "hovering" and it manifested by the way of the glory of God resting upon them. This glory gave them the needed strength to do the tasks that they were assigned to do. It was like a divine "turbo booster," giving them abilities far above their own human capabilities. In essence, they had glorified bodies. This seems to mirror the fact that in the resurrection we will once again have glorified bodies, completing the cycle of our redemption.

1 Corinthians 15:42-43 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

It is also the reason why one of the results of sin is "*falling short of the glory of God.*" After the fall of our kind, this Holy Spirit covering left, exposing Adam and Eve as naked.

These thoughts, combined with an environment devoid of guilt or shame, give us a glimpse into the reasons why Adam and Eve weren't initially conscious of being naked, because the glory of the Holy Spirit both covered and hovered over them. We can only imagine how this must have made them look; beautiful, shimmering with rainbows of vibrant colour as they walked and worked in the garden.

So, with the thoughts presented in this article, what I really wanted to establish today was the fact that in the beginning, we as a human creation had two manifestations of the Holy Spirit working in conjunction with us. First, the Holy Spirit was "in" us (internally). Second, He was also "upon" us (externally).

In our next article, we will continue to examine our relationship with the Holy Spirit as our creation progresses through time and history. I promise, this is going to get pretty exciting by the end.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and He is in love with His bride!!