



The Holy Spirit # 3

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From the Presence." This is week three in a series of short articles on the Holy Spirit. In our last post, we talked about the reason for the two expressions of the Holy Spirit, "in" and also "upon." We discussed how the Holy Spirit is "in" us as a connection to our Father God. We also talked about the fact that He is "upon" us for power and authority, to do mighty works.

Today we are going to look at some instances in the Old Testament where the Holy Spirit came upon certain people. As mentioned last week, once Adam and Eve sinned, the Holy Spirit had to vacate them internally because they now had an unholy nature. He also lifted off them externally. Up until that time they were literally "clothed" with the glory of the Spirit of God, but now they were left naked and exposed to shame. This condition is how we, as a human creation lived until Jesus came to the earth to restore us. However, at times the Holy Spirit would still come upon individuals for specific tasks and exploits. These people were mostly priests, prophets, leaders, kings, judges, or military generals. The Holy Spirit would come "upon" them, they would be "superman-like" mighty, then He would lift off them and they would return to normal again. Some OT saints lived in great manifestation of this condition. Here is a very limited list of Bible references.

Moses operated heavily in the anointing of the Spirit. Here is an incident where this same Spirit was placed on some other leaders and they began to prophesy. Notice how it only happened once. Holy Spirit manifestations were reserved for special occasions in the age of Law:

*Numbers 11:25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him (Moses); and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when **the Spirit rested upon them**, they prophesied. But they did not do it again.*

This next example describes how the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the judges of Israel, empowering him to lead and rule God's people:

*Judges 3:9-10 When the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the sons of Israel to deliver them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. **The Spirit of the LORD came upon him**, and he judged Israel.*

Here we see the classic story of Gideon and how the Spirit rested upon him, enabling him to bring a great military victory and then judge Israel for years to come:

*Judges 6:34 So **the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon**; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him*

The story of Samson is full of incidents where the Spirit would come upon him. Some are quite humorous. Here are a couple of examples. In the first one, a hapless young man came "roaring" at Samson unexpectedly, possibly with a weapon of some kind:

*Judges 14:6 **The Spirit of the Lord came upon him** (Samson) mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand*

*Judges 15:14-15 When he (Samson) came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And **the Spirit of the LORD came upon him** mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands. He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it.*

This is the story of Samuel anointing David (who was only 17 at the time) to replace Saul as the king of Israel. Notice how the Spirit of the Lord came upon David, and then left Saul:

*1 Sam 16:12-14 So he (Samuel) sent and brought him (David) in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and **the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David** from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.*

Here the Spirit comes upon a priest and empowers him to give a poignant speech that cost him his life. After this incident, tragically, the people stoned Zechariah:

*2 Chronicles 24:20 Then **the Spirit of God came on Zechariah** the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people and said to them, “Thus God has said, ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has also forsaken you.’”*

And so this is the pattern we see in the age of Law. The Spirit would come "upon" specific people - mostly priests, prophets, kings, and judges, and then lift again. However, the Spirit did not live inside of anyone.

In our next article, we will talk about the Holy Spirit as He relates to Jesus, our Saviour. He was the first person since Adam to once again have the Holy Spirit both "in" and "upon" Him.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and He is Lord!