

## **Proof of the Spirit**

This week we are going to see examples of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. God the Holy Spirit has always existed and is present throughout the Bible as the active agent that empowers God's people to walk in His ways!

The Old Testament presents the Holy Spirit's activity across multiple dimensions—from creation itself through the empowerment of leaders, prophets, and the nation of Israel.

### **The Spirit in Creation and Sustenance**

The Spirit of God appears at the very beginning, hovering over the waters during creation

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

**(Genesis 1:2, ESV)**

This foundational role extends throughout history: the Spirit's sending forth brings creatures into being and renews the earth's face

“When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.” **(Psalm 104:30, ESV)**

The Spirit of God fashions human life itself, with the breath of the Almighty giving vitality

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” **(Job 33:4, ESV)**

## **The Spirit Empowering Leaders and Judges**

The Spirit equips individuals for specific tasks. When the Lord distributed the Spirit among seventy elders, they immediately prophesied.

“Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” **(Numbers 11:25–29, ESV)**

The Spirit of the Lord came upon judges, enabling them to lead Israel

“The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.” **(Judges 3:10, ESV)**

Gideon was clothed with the Spirit, empowering him to rally warriors

“But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.” **(Judges 6:34, ESV)**

The Spirit rushed upon David from his anointing forward

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.” **(1 Samuel 16:13, ESV)**

While Saul received the Spirit and was transformed into another man, prophesying with the prophets

“Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.” **(1 Samuel 10:6, ESV)**

## **The Spirit Speaking Through Prophets**

David declared that the Spirit of the Lord speaks through him, with his word on his tongue

“The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.” **(2 Samuel 23:2, ESV)**

The Spirit entered Ezekiel, setting him on his feet and speaking to him.

“And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.” **(Ezekiel 2:2, ESV)**

God warned Israel through the Spirit via the prophets across many years

“Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.” **(Nehemiah 9:30, ESV)**

## **The Spirit's Future Outpouring**

The prophets anticipated a dramatic expansion of the Spirit's work. Joel envisioned the Spirit poured out on all flesh—sons, daughters, servants—enabling prophecy, dreams, and visions

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” **(Joel 2:28–29, ESV)**

Isaiah described the Spirit resting on the coming servant with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord

“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 11:2, ESV)**

Ezekiel promised the Spirit placed within people to enable obedience to God's statutes

“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, ESV)**

## **The Spirit's Personal Relationship with Believers**

The psalmist pleads that God not take the Holy Spirit away

“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.” **(Psalm 51:11, ESV)**

While Israel grieved the Holy Spirit through rebellion

“But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,” **(Isaiah 63:10–11, ESV)**

The Spirit's omnipresence means there is nowhere to flee from God's presence

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” **(Psalm 139:7, ESV)**

God gave the good Spirit to instruct Israel and sustained them with manna and water

“You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.” **(Nehemiah 9:20, ESV)**

### **Application**

Appreciate Your Bible!

The Canon of Scripture we read daily isn't a small feat. The Holy Spirit has been speaking in and through God's people from the beginning. When you sit down to read your Bible, do you appreciate that God the Holy Spirit has worked diligently throughout history to speak to us?

This week, as you are reading Scripture. Before and after, offer a prayer of Thanksgiving to God the Holy Spirit for speaking across all different times and cultures to bring you and me the words of the Lord even today! Amen!