

# **The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

## **The Holy Spirit, the Anointing, and the Gifts of the Spirit**

### The Holy Spirit

If we want to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we must first know the person of the Holy Spirit. We must know who he is before we look at what he does and how he operates/ministers.

The Holy Spirit is a (spiritual) person. He is the third person of the Godhead. He is perfectly equal with the Father and the Son (Jesus). The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all equally God, however with different functions. The Holy Spirit acts in unity with the will of the Father and the Word of God, Jesus Christ. He puts the word of God into effect.

While there are things that are required of us as ministers of the New Covenant, ministry is the natural consequence of a life given to God (holiness) and communion with the Holy Spirit (close fellowship). The New Covenant is the Covenant of the Holy Spirit: **He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6).**

Jesus said that it is to our advantage that he (Jesus) is leaving the earth, so that the Holy Spirit can come and live in us (John 16:7-8; John 14:17). The Holy Spirit is our helper (John 14:16). He is the Spirit of truth who will teach us all things and lead us into all truth (John 16:13; John 14:26). He testifies about and glorifies Jesus only (John 15:26; John 16:14). The Holy Spirit speaks to us and directly through us (Acts 13:2; Matthew 10:20). The Holy Spirit has a will and emotions (Acts 13:2; Acts 16:6; Acts 15:28; Ephesians 4:30). He intercedes for us and through us according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit gives us revelation (1 Corinthians 2:20). He is the one who transforms us from within (1 Samuel 10:6+9; Ezekiel 36:26-27). When **the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, the (our) wilderness becomes a fertile field (Isaiah 32:15)**. We can grieve, quench, resist, insult, and even blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; Acts 7:51; Hebrews 10:29; Matthew 12:31-32). Last but not least, a person who does not have the Holy Spirit does not belong to Jesus (Romans 8:9). For **those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8:14)**.

A list of Scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit is found at the end of this teaching.

# The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

## The Anointing

The anointing is the presence and the power of God. It comes with the Holy Spirit. It can be discerned spiritually and sometimes felt physically, for example in the form of tingling, heaviness, electricity, warmth/heat, or shaking. The anointing is given to serve others (ministry). When the Holy Spirit has ministered to a person, that person often experiences the joy and / or the peace of God in a tangible way. For example, when a demon has been cast out, the person may feel a great peace.

It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit and only the anointing of the Holy Spirit that breaks any yoke. The anointing is the power of the Holy Spirit to save, fulfill prophecy, heal, deliver, provide, and impart any grace to a person. After being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, **Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding region. And he began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all (Luke 4:14).** Jesus himself was anointed by God the Father with the Holy Spirit and with power: **You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power<sup>1</sup> (dunamis), and how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him (Acts 10:38).** Jesus could not have ministered and performed miracles without the anointing: **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind. To set free those who are oppressed. To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."** (Luke 4:18-19)

**See that your clothes are white all the time, and that there is no lack of oil on your head (Ecclesiastes 9:8).** It is God's will that we permanently walk in purity (white clothes) and with the anointing of the Holy Spirit (no lack of oil).

A list of Scriptures concerning the anointing is found at the end of this teaching.

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are a part of his ministry. These gifts reflect God the giver of the gifts. They do not reflect the recipient, nor the person moving in the gifts. The gifts are given to one believer for another believer or a group of believers. They do not belong to

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1) power = dunamis (STRONGS G1411): **miraculous power, usually by implication a miracle itself**, ability, abundance, meaning, might, mighty deed, worker of miracles, power, strength, violence, mighty wonderful work

## **The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

the minister. They belong to the Holy Spirit who distributes the gifts as he wishes. We cannot move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to our own will. The only gift we can activate and flow in any time at our own will is speaking in tongues for self-edification. However, tongues for self-edification is not one of the gifts listed in I Corinthians 12:4-12. When we minister in the gifts for the edification of the church, we are completely dependent on the direction of the Holy Spirit and his distribution of the gifts:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as he (the Holy Spirit) wills. (I Corinthians 12:4-12)

The word of knowledge is the supernatural knowledge about a situation. The word of wisdom is wisdom from God what to do in a given situation. Prophecy is a word from God for the believer. Tongues with interpretation are also a prophetic gift. The prophecy is given in tongues by one believer and then interpreted into the local natural language by the same or another believer. The gift of discernment of spirits is the discernment that an evil spirit is present. This discernment can go further and identify which evil spirit it is, for example a spirit of confusion, depression, lust, anger, murder, and so forth. The gift of faith is supernatural faith that comes down for a person or a situation. Gifts of healing are a special anointing to heal physical and mental illness. The effecting of miracles refers to extraordinary miracles such as the growing of limbs or the raising of the dead.

In essence, these gifts are an impartation of a word or of power to a believer for another believer. They are a prolongation of the personal life of the believer where he or she already hears the voice of the Holy Spirit and moves in his anointing. The difference is that here it goes beyond the individual believer and flows into ministry to others.

# The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

## Three Basic Principles

### The Same Holy Spirit - The Same Anointing Power

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with dunamis<sup>2</sup> power. God anoints his body, the church, with the same Holy Spirit and the same dunamis power. This power comes into the life of the believer with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit and the new birth are two separate experiences. They can happen at the same time, and they can happen at different times. Jesus and the church - we - have been anointed with the very same Holy Spirit and the very same power of God. Neither the Holy Spirit nor the power of God (the anointing) have changed.

- You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power (dunamis), and how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)
- And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding region. And he began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. (Luke 4:14)
- Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind. To set free those who are oppressed. To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)
- Gathering them together, he (Jesus) commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised. "Which," he said, "you heard of from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4+5)
- Jesus: "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (dunamis) from on high." (Luke 24:49)
- Jesus said, "But you will receive power (dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
- And with great power (dunamis) the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33)
- Paul: "... my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but

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## The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

in demonstration of the Spirit and of power (dunamis), so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power (dunamis) of God." (1 Corinthians 2:4+5)

- ... I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power (dunamis). For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power (dunamis)." (1 Corinthians 4:19-20)

### The Same Miracles - The Same Works of Jesus

Jesus came to seek and to save<sup>3</sup> the lost (Luke 19:10). He came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He came to set the captives free (Luke 4:18-19). He came to deliver us from all our destructions (Psalms 107:20). He came to give us life in abundance (John 10:10). That is why he did the works he did 2,000 years ago. These works have not changed. They are salvation, healing, deliverance, restoration of relationships, provision - and many more. Jesus commanded his disciples to do the same miracles and even greater ones. That is exactly what the apostles did, and that is exactly what we are called to do. Jesus's call and mission have never expired, and they will not expire until he comes back.

- Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and he healed them. (Matthew 4:23+24)
- ... they brought to him many who were demon-possessed; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This happened so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: "He himself took our illnesses and carried away our diseases." (Matthew 8:16+17)
- Jesus: "But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." (Luke 11:20)

The casting out of demons - when effected by the finger of God, the Holy Spirit - is a sign that the kingdom of God is present. This is very significant. Demons only manifest in the presence of the anointing, and they can only be cast out by the anointing. When Jesus is present and casts out demons, we can know that the kingdom of God is present in our

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3) save = sozo (STRONGS G4982): to **save**, i.e. **deliver** or protect, **heal**, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole

## The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

midst. It has been this way when Jesus walked the earth physically. It is the same way now that Jesus walks the earth spiritually in us and ministers through us.

- Jesus: "I tell you the solemn truth: The person who believes in me will perform the miraculous deeds that I am doing." (John 14:12, NET)
- Jesus: "And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:17+18)
- And they (the 12 disciples) went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. (Mark 16:20)
- At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people ... they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any of them. The people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together as well, bringing people who were sick or tormented with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed. (Acts 5:12; Acts 5:15-16)
- Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe, and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. (Acts 2:43)

### Jesus Comes in a Body - Now and Then

The son of God (Jesus) appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). Jesus came 2,000 years ago to destroy the works of the devil on the basis of his finished work on the cross. Just as Jesus came in a body 2,000 years ago (in the body of a man), he now comes in a body again (the body of Christ). There is no difference, only that his physical body has changed. Before, Jesus came in the body of one man, one person. Now Jesus comes in the spiritual body of Christ comprised of 2.4 billion Christians (as of 2023) all over the world.

God can do anything, anytime, anywhere, in any way he chooses. However, in general, the anointing flows through an earthen vessel. Since Jesus's ascension, we are his body - spiritually and literally. You and I are now the hands, feet, and tongues of Jesus Christ.

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made; The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (Jesus). We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only

# The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Genesis 1:1-3; 14)

- Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2 Corinthians 5:16)
- Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:5)
- Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. (Colossians 1:24)

## Practical Guidelines

- Jesus died for and unconditionally loves the person you are ministering to. Always love the person but hate the works of darkness you are coming against (demonization, sickness, poverty, ...)
- Pray for the person as the Holy Spirit leads you. Before you start praying, take a step back and listen if there is no immediate guidance.
- If the Holy Spirit gives you instructions, step out in faith and say or do exactly what he tells you to do. Healing the person or casting out the demon is not your responsibility but God's. Your responsibility is to listen and obey. Believe that the Holy Spirit will do the rest. You cannot heal anybody in your own strength anyway, nor can you cast out a demon.
- If you hear nothing, pray the prayer of faith, knowing that the Lord's will is healing and deliverance. Sometimes the Holy Spirit does not say anything. Don't feel bad or guilty about that. In that situation, pray on the basis of Scripture. We know that God's will is healing and deliverance.
- Often, you will start praying in faith, and then the discernment or word of the Spirit comes.
- Sometimes, people ask us to pray for something (which may be perfectly legitimate), however the Holy Spirit asks us to pray for something else (first). We need to obey the direction of the Holy Spirit, as he will only confirm the word of God by the signs that follow. He has no obligation to back us up if we step out on our own. Also, if we disobey the Holy Spirit, there can be negative repercussions on us.
- In order to be led by the Holy Spirit only and not by people's requests (if they conflict), we must leave the fear of man behind. Our allegiance is to Christ, not to men. We can gently tell the person that we feel led to pray for something else at this point.
- God has the entire body of Christ to pray for that person's need. The Holy Spirit is

## The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

not asking us to do the entire job alone. Just do what God asks you to do at any given time.

- When we pray for the sick and demonized, we do not pray to God. We command the sickness or demon to leave. If we cast out a demon, we never plead or ask God to cast it out. We command it out.
- There can be cases, however, where we plead for a life as led by the Holy Spirit.
- Demons sometimes put up a fight, lie, or puff themselves up before they come out. Stay firm until the demon is cast out.
- ... and he cast/drove out the spirits with a word (Matthew 8:16): Demons are cast out by the power & authority of Jesus, not the volume of our voice. While we may at times raise our voice to command a demon out, we should not yell at demons. Yelling, stomping our feet, or jumping up and down will not make a demon leave.
- Can you imagine a police officer yelling around and jumping up and down when he stops a car at the roadside? He does not have to, because he has the authority (the badge) and the power (the gun). He knows it, and we know it.
- In the same way, you need to know that Jesus gave you his authority (Luke 10:19), and he gave you his power (Acts 1:8). The demons already know it.
- Praying in tongues will also not cast a demon out. Praying in tongues is for personal edification, for the church as a prophetic gift when interpreted, for deep intercession, and a sign for unbelievers when the tongue is a foreign natural language the speaker has no knowledge of.
- When we cast out a demon, none of the above situations applies. It is a matter of commanding, not building yourself up, not pleading with God, and certainly not pleading with the demon.
- When casting out demons, we do not have to know the name of the evil spirit. All we need is the name of Jesus and his authority given to us in that moment. We use the name of Jesus over whatever evil spirit is present.
- If we have genuine discernment what kind of spirit (or the name) we are dealing with, we can of course call it by its name or kind. However, make sure you have heard the Lord.
- Minister within the measure of faith you currently have (Romans 12:3-8). Stay within the parameters of your gifting, anointing, and faith. Do not go beyond it.
- Let the peace of God guide you: If you feel uncomfortable praying for someone, politely decline (and get somebody else to pray for the person if possible/advised).

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4) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body ...  
(Colossians 3:15)



# The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- If you are new in the ministry, minister alongside a more experienced believer first. However, if you are on the spot and you are the only person there - you're it, go for it!
- Remember always that it is your responsibility to believe, listen, and obey. Healing a person or casting out a demon is the Lord's job, not yours. You cannot do that anyway.

## Scriptures about the Holy Spirit

- For there are three that bear witness in heaven: **the Father, the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit**; and **these three are one**. (1 John 5:7)
- Now **the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- It is the Spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are Spirit**, and they are life. (John 6:63)
- Jesus: "But I tell you the truth: **it is to your advantage that I am leaving**. For if I do not leave, **the helper** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And **he**, when he comes, **will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment**." (John 16:7-8)
- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you** all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and **by the love of the Spirit**, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me ... (Romans 15:30)
- Jesus: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another helper**, so that he may be with you forever. **The helper is the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see him or know him. But **you know him because he remains with you and will be in you**." (John 14:16-17)
- Jesus: "When **the helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, **the Spirit of truth** who comes from the Father, **he will testify about me**." (John 15:26)
- Jesus: "However, when he, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **he will guide you into all truth**. For he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak. And **he will tell you things to come. He will glorify me (Jesus)**, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:13+14)
- Jesus: "But **the helper, the Holy Spirit** whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you**." (John 14:26)
- Jesus: "But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it.

## **The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

- At that time **you will be given what to say**, for it will not be you speaking, but the **Spirit of your Father (the Holy Spirit) speaking through you.**" (Matthew 10:19-20)
- While they were serving the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for me for the work to which **I have called them.**" (Acts 13:2)
  - For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit** and to us ... (Acts 15:28)
  - They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, after being **forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word** in Asia ... (Acts 16:6)
  - Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words**; and he who searches the hearts knows what **the mind of the Spirit** is, because **he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.** (Romans 8:26-27)
  - For who among people knows the thoughts of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also **the thoughts of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God.** (1 Corinthians 2:11)
  - For to us God **revealed** them (the things God has prepared) **through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10)
  - The prophet Samuel said to Saul: "Then **the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you**, and **you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.** ... So it was ... that **God gave him another heart.** (1 Samuel 10:6+9)
  - Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.** And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **And I will put my Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in my statutes, and are careful and follow my ordinances.** (Ezekiel 36:26-27)
  - Until **the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fertile field** ... (Isaiah 32:15)
  - If you live according to the flesh, you will die. But if **by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live. (Romans 8:13)
  - **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God. (Ephesians 4:30)
  - **Do not quench the Spirit.** Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)
  - You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! **You always resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you. (Acts 7:51)
  - Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who ... **insulted the Spirit of grace?** (Hebrews 10:29)
  - Jesus: "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but **the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.** Anyone who speaks a word

## The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him. But **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him**, either in this age or in the age to come. (Matthew 12:31-32)

- If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. (Romans 8:9)
- For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8:14)

### Scriptures about the Anointing

- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth ... and **the Spirit of God was hovering** over the surface of the waters. **Then God said**, "Let there be light"; **and there was light**. (Genesis 1:1-3)
- And Jesus returned to Galilee in **the power of the Spirit**, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding region. And he began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. (Luke 4:14)
- Jesus: "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me**, because **he anointed me to bring good news to the poor**. He has sent me **to proclaim release** to captives and recovery of sight to the blind. **To set free** those who are oppressed. **To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord**." (Luke 4:18-19)
- But if **the Spirit of him (God) who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**, he (God) who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through his Spirit who dwells in you**. (Romans 8:11)
- The angel said to Mary, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you**; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)
- "**Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit**", says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6)
- ... It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and **the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil**. (Isaiah 10:27)
- Jesus: "**It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing**. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)
- ... **the power<sup>s</sup> (dunamis) of the Lord was present to heal ...** (Luke 5:17)

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5) power = dunamis (STRONGS G1411): **miraculous power, usually by implication a miracle itself, ability, abundance, meaning, might, mighty deed, worker of miracles, power, strength, violence, mighty wonderful work**

## **The Scriptural Basis for The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

· **See** that your clothes are white all the time, and **that there is no lack of oil on your head.** (Ecclesiastes 9:8)