

# The Holy Spirit in Scripture

## Session #3



The Holy Spirit as a dove; alabaster window. Gian Lorenzo Bernini, 1660. St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Rome.

# Welcome!

# Zoom Etiquette – a reminder

1

## Mute / Unmute

Mute unless you need to say something.

Beware of being a “stray voice” during the presentation!

Practice with Mute/Unmute button (Alt-A on Windows)

2

## Camera

Keep camera on when you can, so you can be seen – especially in breakout groups

But turn your camera off:  
- if you don't want your picture to be recorded during the presentation;  
- or if something's going on in the background

3

## Chat

Use the Chatbox to ask questions.

Please post your questions as early in the session as you can.

We'll try to cover your Qs in the Q&A session at the end.

4

## Breakouts

Click 'Join' button when invited to join your breakout group.

Remember the number of your breakout group!

# Prayer

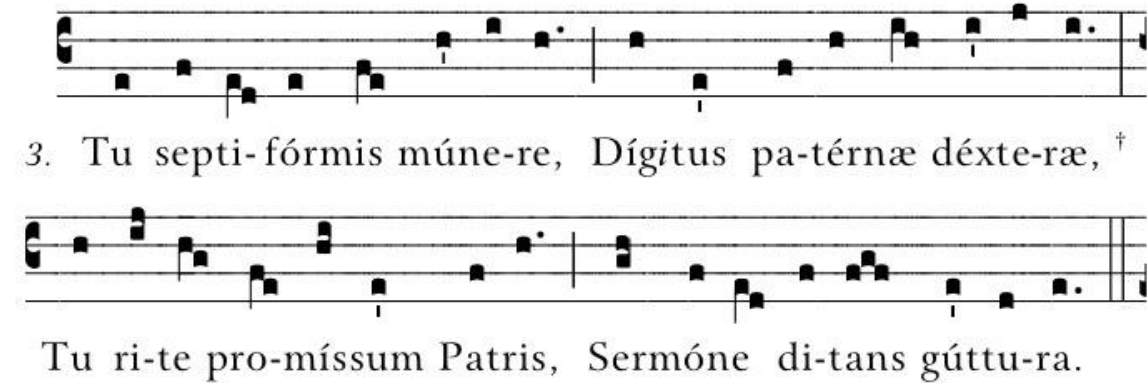
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful,  
And kindle in them the fire of Your love;  
Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created,  
And You will renew the face of the earth.

O God, Who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
Grant that, by the gift of that same Spirit, we may be always truly wise,  
And ever rejoice in His consolation,  
Through the same Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

From *Veni Creator Spiritus*, the Pentecost Sequence *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, [Ps 104:30](#) and the Collect from the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, *Roman Missal*.

# 7 Sessions

1. Introduction
2. Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
3. Holy Spirit in the Gospels
4. Holy Spirit in Acts of the Apostles
5. Holy Spirit in Paul
6. Holy Spirit in General Letters & Revelation
7. Review and Summary



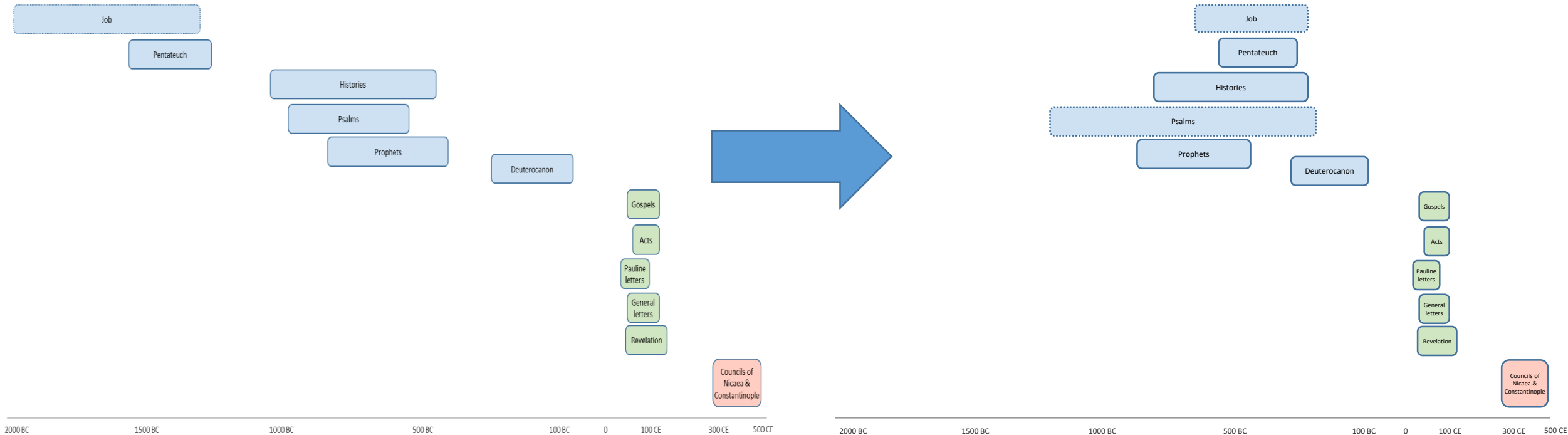
3. Tu septi-fórmis múne-re, Dígitus pa-térnæ déxte-ræ, †  
Tu ri-te pro-míssum Patris, Sermóne di-tans gúttu-ra.

From *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Transcription from St Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde, UK

# Topics

- A Correction
- The Holy Spirit in the Gospels – Overview
- Breakout session #1
- The Holy Spirit in the (Synoptic) Gospels
- Breakout session #2
- The Holy Spirit in John

# A Correction (Balance): Old Testament Timelines



- Many modern scholars propose a much narrower date range of OT composition
- Still means that books of OT were delivered over a minimum ~700 year period
- Still a long time for development of ideas

# The Holy Spirit in the Gospels – Overview

- Dating of the Gospels and their Relationship
- The Holy Spirit: Distribution of Occurrences
- The Holy Spirit: Names

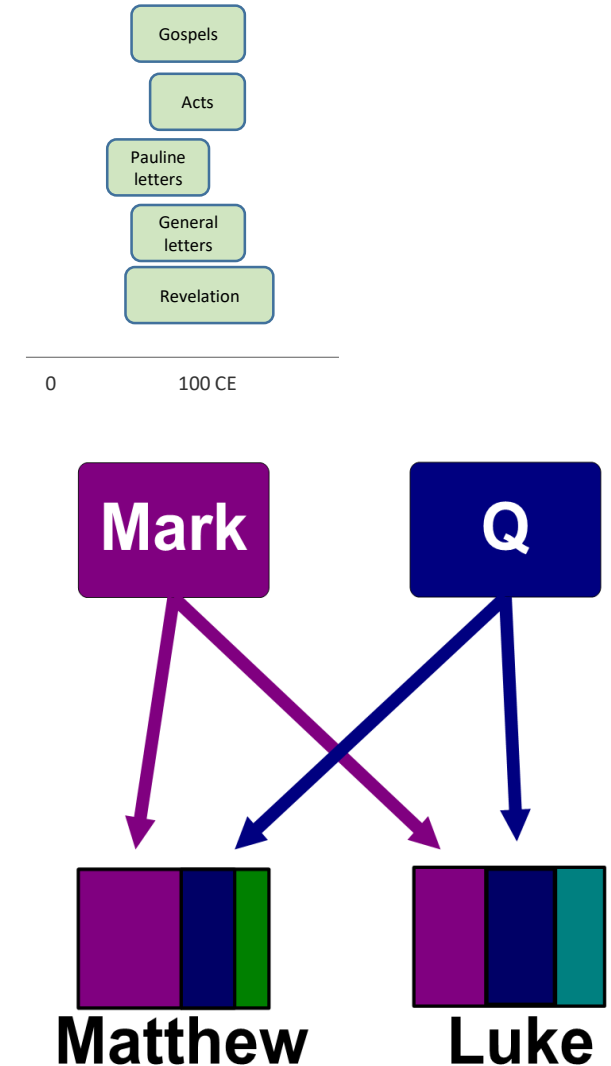


Portraits of the four evangelists from manuscript GA 773 (10th c.). National Library of Greece, Athens

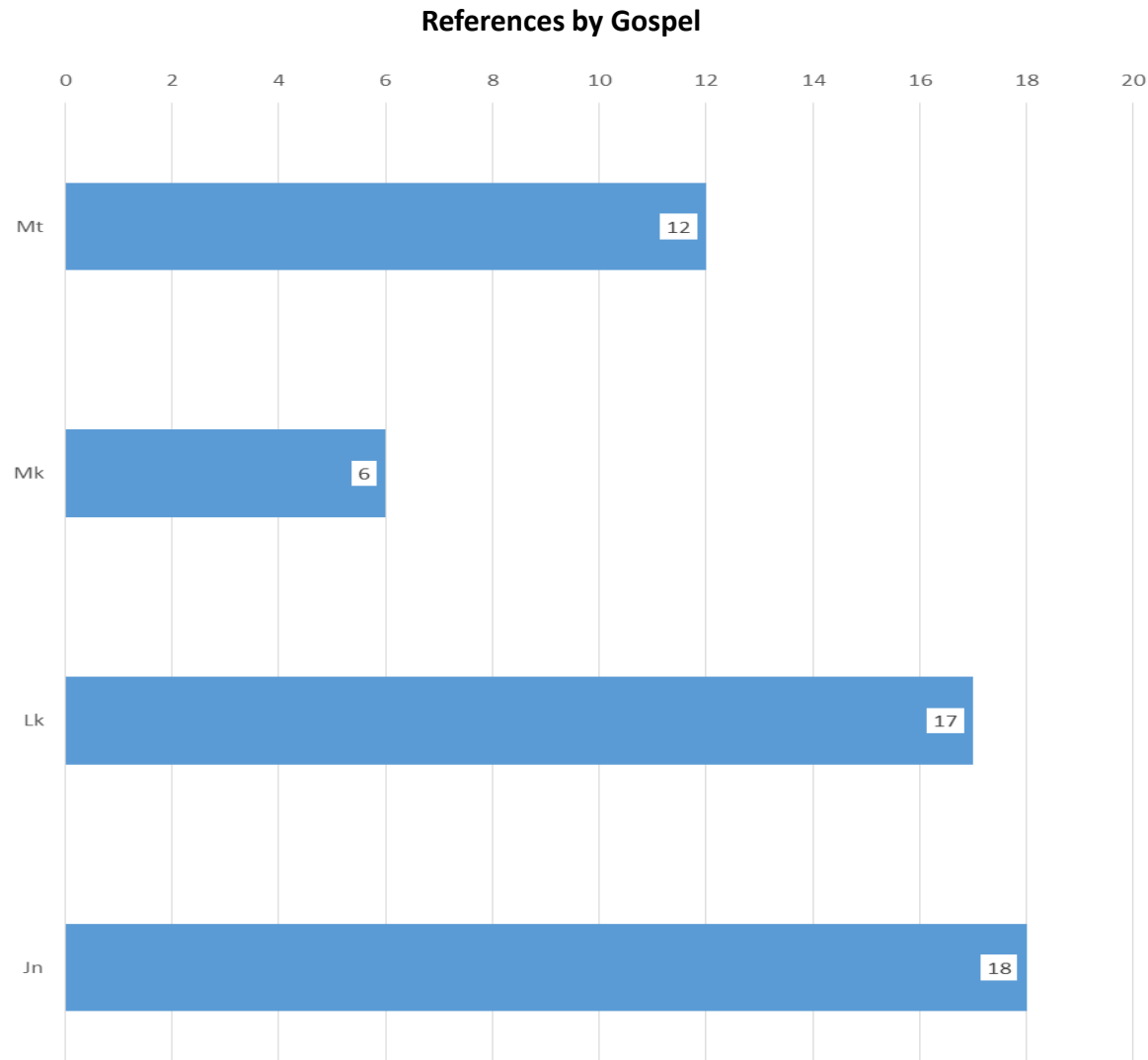


# Dating of Gospels & their Relationship

- Dates = All probably between 60 and 100 CE
  - Within a 30-40 year period in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 1<sup>st</sup> century CE
  - Within 30 years of Christ's death and resurrection
- Order of composition and inter-relationship
  - High degree of commonality between Mark, Matthew and Luke
  - Many theories about why/how
  - Most common theory (but by no means unanimous agreement)
    - Mark first ("Marcan priority")
    - Then Matthew and Luke
      - Each making use of Mark
      - Plus some common material, not used by Mark (Q)
      - Plus material unique to each
  - John usually regarded as later (but not by all scholars)
    - Views differ on relationship to the other 3 "Synoptic" gospels



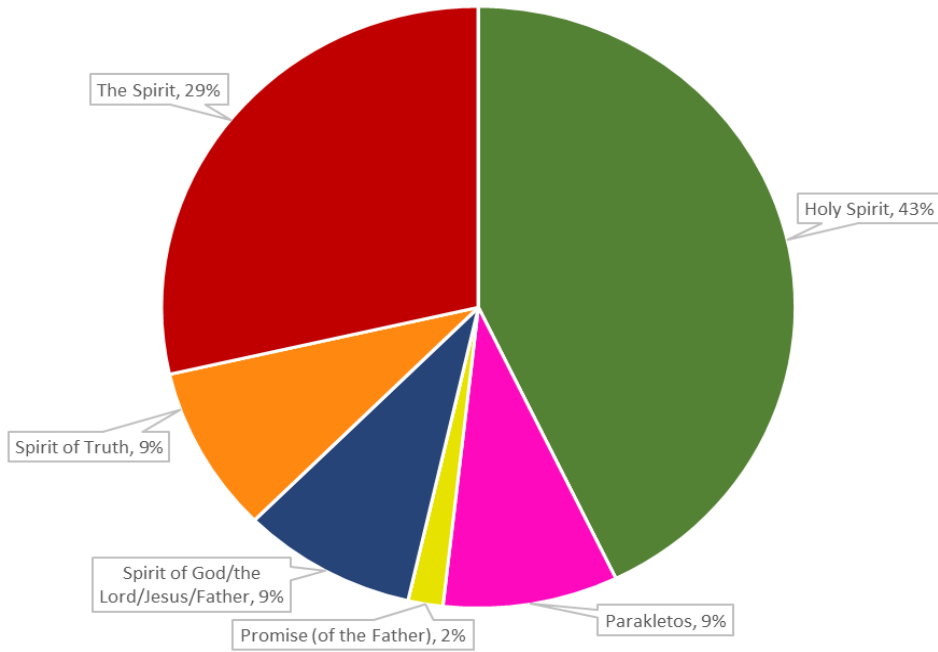
# Holy Spirit: Distribution of Occurrences in Gospels



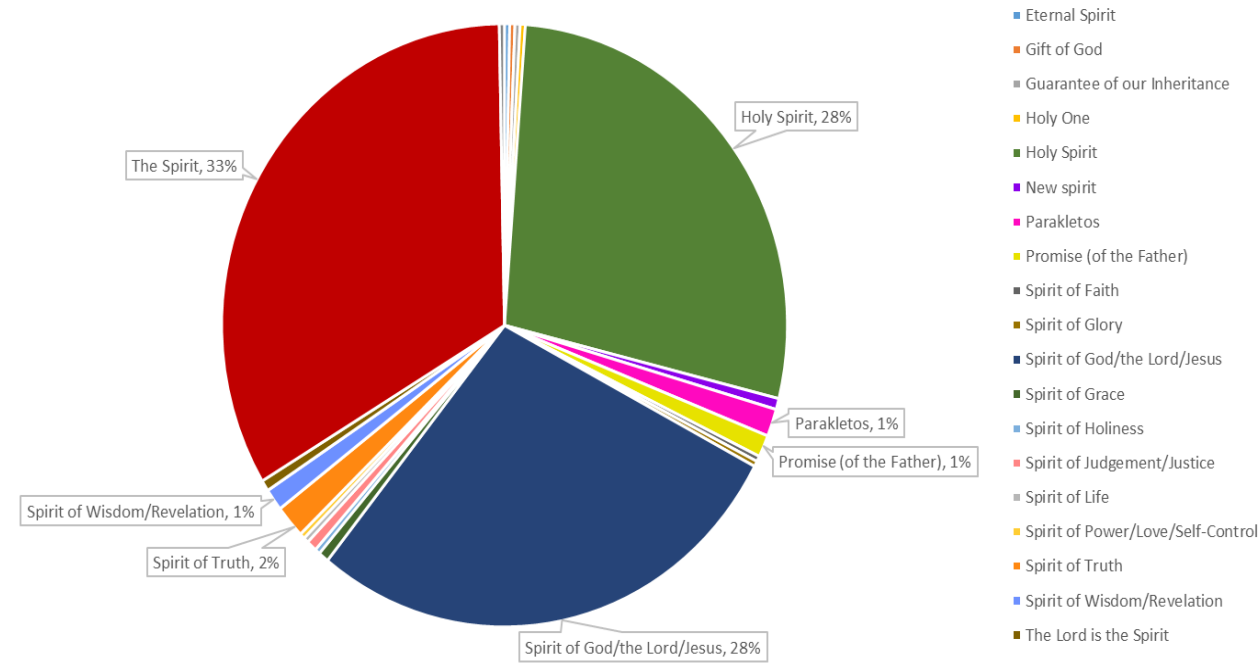
- 53 verses in the Gospels
- Most frequent = John & Luke
- Mark has fewest

# Holy Spirit: Names in the Gospels

Names of the Holy Spirit - Gospels



Names of the Holy Spirit



- Distribution in Gospels is different from Bible as a whole
- Holy Spirit (*pneuma hagion*) is most common in Gospels (x 24)
  - Followed by “The Spirit” (x 16)
- *Parakletos* occurs only in Johannine literature (x 4 out of x 5 are in John’s gospel)

# Breakout Session #1

- Consider these Scripture texts

- [Mark 1:8](#) I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
- [Matthew 4:1](#) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil
- [Matthew 10:20](#) For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you
- [Luke 1:67](#) And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied
- [John 20:22](#) And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit”

- Discuss

- What does each text reveal to you about the Holy Spirit?
- Do any of these texts call to mind any other part of Scripture? Which?
- Is there anything in these texts that is new to you?

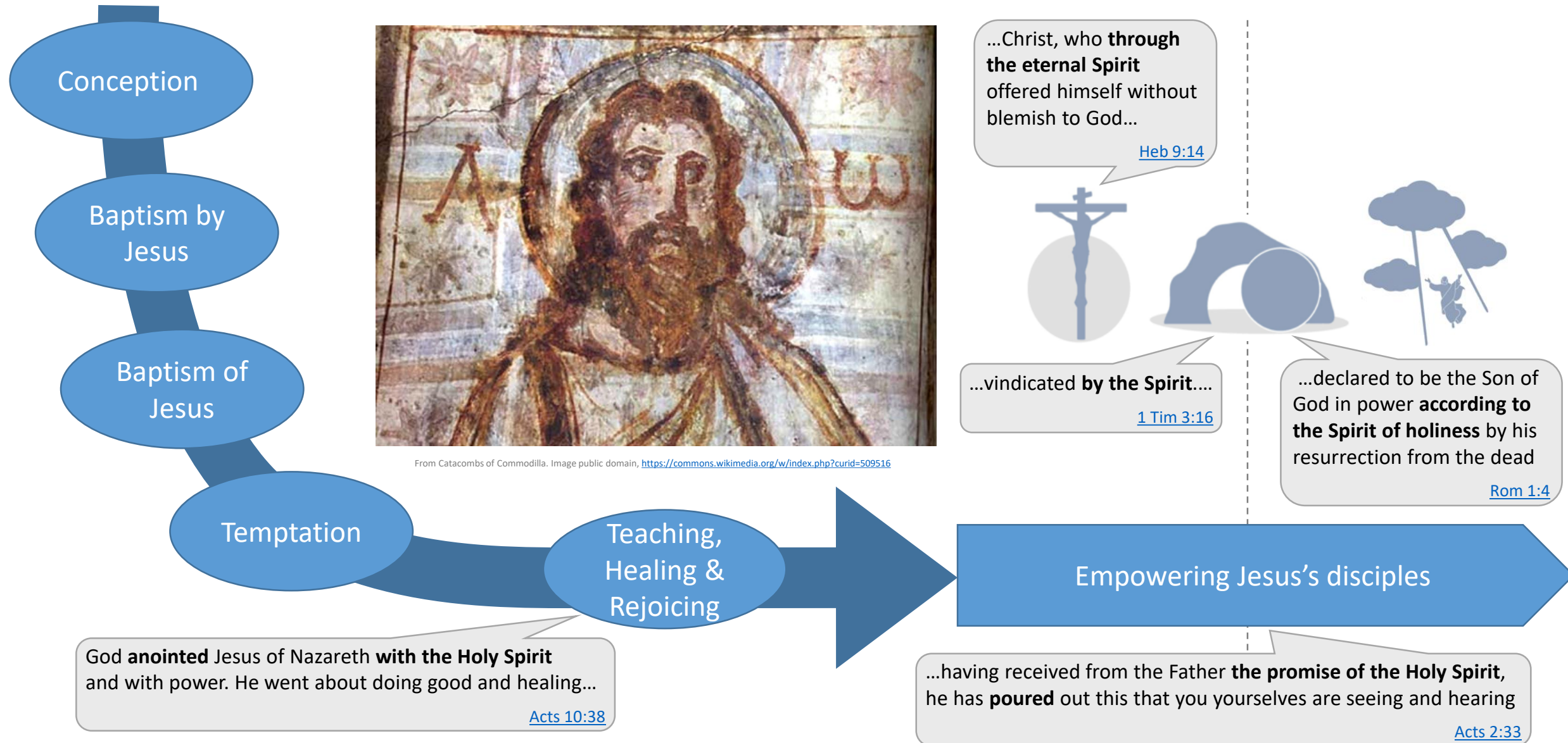
# Holy Spirit in the Gospels (mostly Synoptic)

- Associated with Jesus
- Associated with Jesus's Disciples
- Continuity and Development
  - Holy Spirit is Given
  - Luke: OT Resonances show Continuity of God's plan
  - Holy Spirit as Distinct Person/Agent



Luke 11:1-13, from Papyrus P75, c 175-225. Vatican Apostolic Library, Rome.

# Holy Spirit: Associated with Jesus



# Associated with Jesus: Conception

Now the birth [*genesis*] of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together **she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.**

[Mt 1:18](#)

But as he [Joseph] considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**”

[Mt 1:20](#)

And the angel answered her, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God.”

[Lk 1:35](#)

- Both Matthew & Luke insist on the Holy Spirit as the source of Jesus’s conception
- Holy Spirit’s intervention makes clear the divinity of Jesus
- Allusions to OT: imagery and phraseology
  - Spirit as the source of life
  - Spirit “come upon you”



Henry Ossawa Tanner, *The Annunciation*, 1898, Philadelphia Museum of Art

But going beyond OT:  
the Incarnation of the Son of God

# Associated with Jesus: Baptism by Jesus

“I have baptized you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**”

[Mk 1:8](#)

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**”

[Mt 3:11](#)

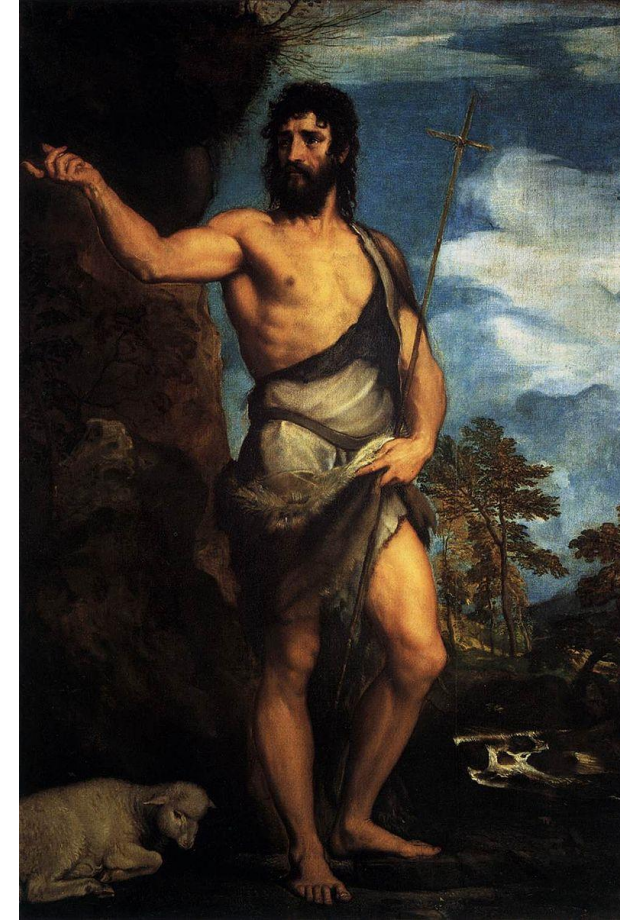
“I baptize you with water, but he who is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”

[Lk 3:16](#)

“...he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is **he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**’”

[Jn 1:33](#)

- John the Baptist’s statement about Jesus appears in all 4 gospels
- Jesus brings the power of the Holy Spirit = power of God
  - In contrast with, and superior to, John’s baptism with water
  - And He will also give the Spirit as his earthly ministry ends



Titian , *St. John the Baptist*; c. 1542 Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice



# Associated with Jesus: Baptism of Jesus

And when he came up out of the water, immediately **he saw** the heavens being torn open and **the Spirit descending on him like a dove**

[Mk 1:10](#)

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and **he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him**

[Mt 3:16](#)

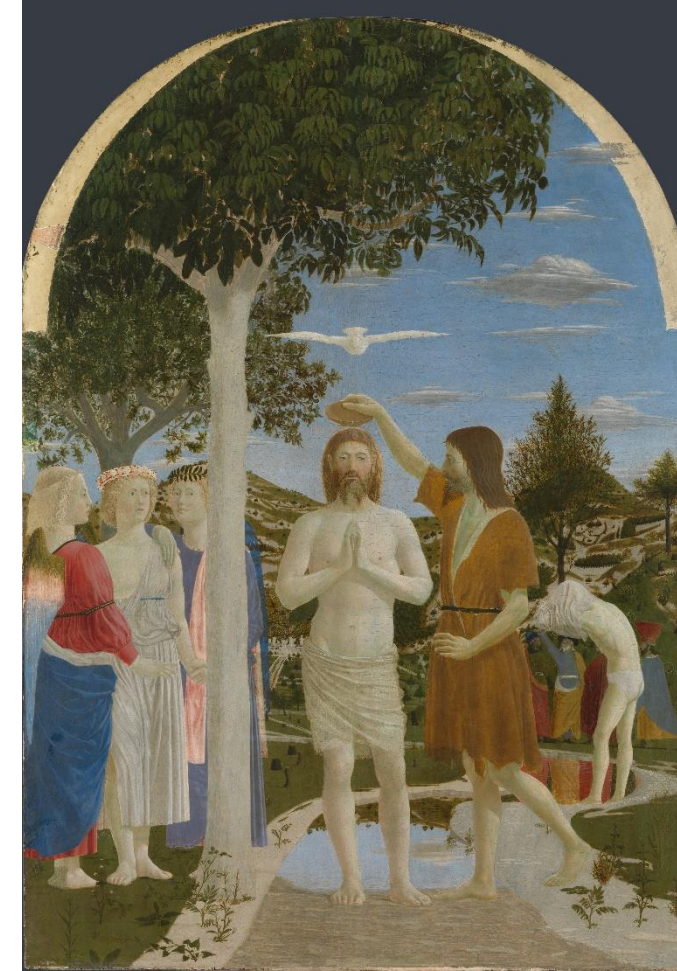
and **the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove**

[Lk 3:22a](#)

And John bore witness: **“I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him”**

[Jn 1:32](#)

- The manifestation of the Spirit “like a dove” is in all 4 gospels
- Divine identification
  - Association (in all 3 Synoptics) with the voice from Heaven identifying Jesus as the Son ([Mk 1:11](#); [Mt 3:17](#); [Lk 3:22b](#))
  - In John, the Baptist associates the Spirit’s appearance at Jesus’s baptism, with the baptism in the Spirit that Jesus Himself will bring ([Jn 1:32-33](#)), and identifies Jesus as Son of God ([Jn 1:34](#))
- There is no corresponding (explicit) OT manifestation of the Spirit “in bodily form” = going beyond OT idea of “coming upon” someone



Piero della Francesca (1415–1492), *The Baptism of Christ*; National Gallery, London

# Associated with Jesus: Temptation

The Spirit immediately **drove him out** [*ekballei*] into the wilderness

[Mk 1:12](#)

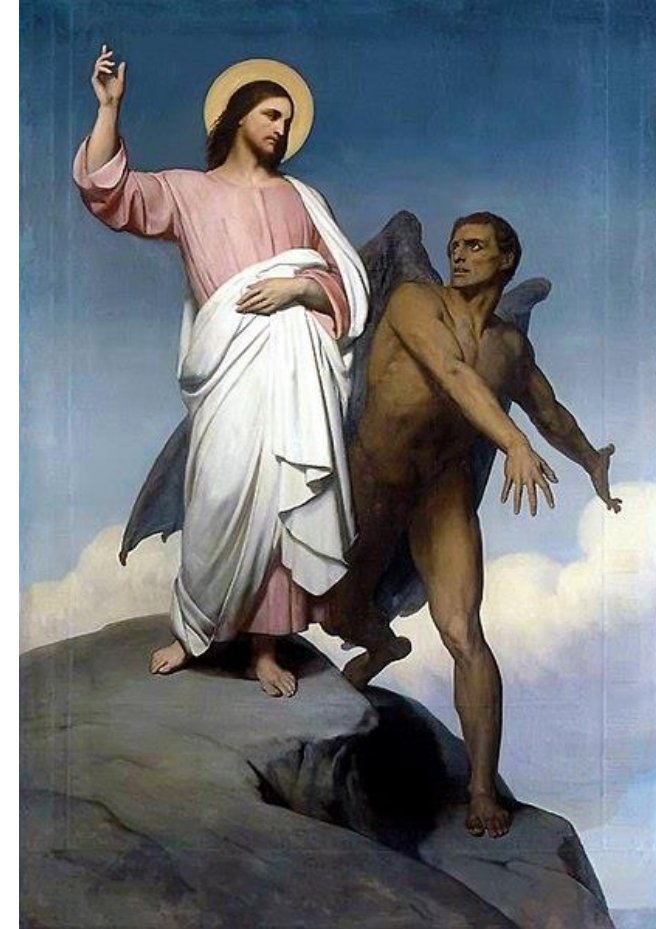
Then Jesus **was led up** [*anechthe*] by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil

[Mt 4:1](#)

And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and **was led by the Spirit in the wilderness** [*egeto en to pneumati en te eremo*]

[Lk 4:1](#)

- All 3 Synoptics show the Spirit's initiative in Jesus's move to the wilderness
- Different verbs reflect the evangelists' various emphases
- Luke adds the OT phrase "full of the Holy Spirit"
  - Which he will use even more extensively in Acts
  - Jesus in continuity with, but going beyond, OT figures empowered by the Spirit



Ary Scheffer (1795–1858), *The Temptation of Christ*; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

# Associated with Jesus: Teaching and Healing

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. **I will put my Spirit upon him**, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.”

[Mt 12:18](#)

“**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me**, because he has **anointed me** to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

[Lk 4:18](#)

And Jesus returned **in the power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country

[Lk 4:14](#)

But if it is **by the Spirit of God** that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you”

[Mt 12:28](#)

- Jesus’s ministry of healing and teaching is Spirit-endowed
- Matthew & Luke quote from Isaiah ([Isa 42:1-3](#); [Isa 61:1-2](#))
  - Associating Jesus with the Spirit-endowment of the Messiah
- Jesus Himself makes the link between His Spirit-empowerment and the coming of the eschatological age (the kingdom of God)



The Limbourg Brothers; *Jesus Casts Out the Unclean Spirit* from *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry* (1412- 1416). Musée Condé, Chantilly, France.

# Associated with Jesus: Rejoicing

In that same hour he **rejoiced in the Holy Spirit** and said,  
“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

[Lk 10:21](#)

- Only Luke refers to “rejoicing in the Holy Spirit”
  - The parallel in [Mt 11:25-26](#) has Jesus’s statement only
- Comes in the middle of a section ([Lk 10:17-24](#)) with multiple references to joy, and the correct basis for joy
- Trinitarian experience: Jesus rejoices in the Spirit, and thanks the Father
- Inspired speech through the Spirit is common in Luke/Acts (as it is in the OT)
  - Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, Paul & Barnabas
- Joy is associated with the Spirit in Paul ([Rom 15:27](#); [1 Thess 1:6](#); [Gal 5:22](#))



Stella Brookes, *Yeshua Rejoiced* (2019). From <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/stella-brookes/shop>

# Associated with Jesus's Disciples

During most of the Synoptic narratives, the focus of the Spirit has been exclusively on Jesus.

But in later Synoptic chapters, and in John, Jesus begins to promise the Spirit's help for His disciples, as He prepares them for ministry after His departure.

(See also ["Given", p23](#))

## Empowering for future witness under persecution

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for **it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit**

[Mk 13:11](#)

For it is not you who speak, but **the Spirit of your Father speaking through you**

[Mt 10:20](#)

for **the Holy Spirit will teach you** in that very hour **what you ought to say**

[Lk 12:12](#)

## Commissioned to Baptise in the name of the Father, Son & Spirit

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son **and of the Holy Spirit**

[Mt 28:19](#)

Note that Jesus is telling His disciples what they will do **in the future** (after He has departed)

# Holy Spirit in the Gospels (mostly Synoptic)

- Associated with Jesus
- Associated with Jesus's Disciples
- Continuity and Development
  - Holy Spirit is Given
  - Luke: OT Resonances show Continuity of God's plan
  - Holy Spirit as Distinct Person/Agent



Luke 11:1-13, from Papyrus P75, c 175-225. Vatican Apostolic Library, Rome.

# The Holy Spirit is Given

## Generously

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!

[Lk 11:13](#)

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for **he gives the Spirit without measure**

[Jn 3:34](#)

## After Jesus's departure

### Dependent on His departure

Now this he said **about the Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for **as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified**

[Jn 7:39](#)

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for **if I do not go away, the Helper [*Parakletos*] will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.**

[Jn 16:7](#)

### Post-Resurrection

And behold, I am sending **the promise of my Father** upon you. But stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.**

[Lk 24:49](#)

And when he had said this, **he breathed on them** and said to them, **"Receive the Holy Spirit"**

[Jn 20:22](#)

Note: Luke and John only – nothing in Mark or Matthew (except [Mt 12:18](#) quoting [Isa 42:1-3](#))

# Luke: OT Resonances = Continuity of God's plan

## John the Baptist



Matthias Grünewald 1480–1528;  
*John the Baptist* from Isenheim Altarpiece;  
Unterlinden Museum, Colmar, France

...he will be **filled with the Holy Spirit**, even from his mother's womb.

[Lk 1:15](#)

The Holy Spirit will **come upon you**...therefore the child ...will be called holy — the Son of God.

[Lk 1:35](#)

## Elizabeth

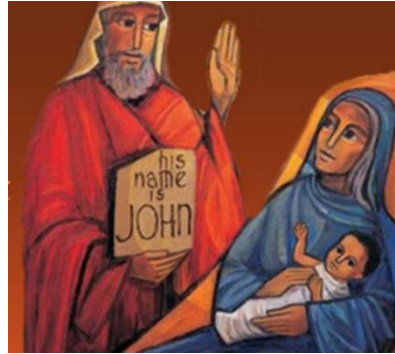


Corby Eisbacher, *Jump for Joy*;  
<http://corbysart.blogspot.com/p/faith-collection.html>

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was **filled with the Holy Spirit**.

[Lk 1:41](#)

## Zechariah

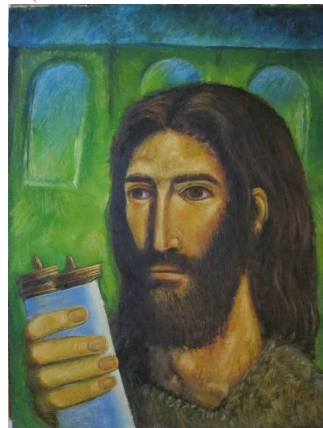


*Zechariah at the Circumcision of John the Baptist*;  
attribution unknown

And his father Zechariah was **filled with the Holy Spirit** and prophesied, saying...

[Lk 1:67](#)

## Jesus



Paul Stilwell, *Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing*  
<https://spikeisbest.blogspot.com/2015/01/oil-painting-third-luminous-mystery.html>

And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

[Lk 4:1](#)

## Simeon



Andrey Shishkin, *Simeon holding Jesus* (2012)  
© Andrey Shishkin artist

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and **the Holy Spirit was upon him**.

[Lk 2:25](#)

And **it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ

[Lk 2:26](#)

And he came **in the Spirit** into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law

[Lk 2:27](#)



# Holy Spirit as a Distinct Person/Agent

## Continuity with OT

but whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin

[Mk 3:29](#)

Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit** will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever **speaks against the Holy Spirit** will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come

[Mt 12:31-32](#)

And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** will not be forgiven

[Lk 12:10](#)

## Extending OT Ideas

### The Spirit speaking through disciples

... do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for **it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit**

[Mk 13:11](#)

### Inspirer of Scripture

David himself, **in the Holy Spirit**, declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

[Mk 12:36](#)

He said to them, "How is it then that David, **in the Spirit**, calls him Lord, saying...

[Mt 22:43](#)

## Beyond OT

### Manifested Visibly

and the **Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove**

[Lk 3:22](#)

### Parakletos

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper [Parakletos]**, to be with you forever.

[Jn 14:16](#)

But **the Helper [Parakletos]**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

[Jn 14:26](#)

# Breakout session #2

- Consider

- [Jn 16:7-8; 12-15](#)

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- Discuss

- What names are given for the Spirit in each person's translation of [Jn 16:7](#)? (Helper; Advocate; Counsellor; Comforter...).
  - Do you see any difference in emphasis in the different translations?
- What different actions will the Spirit do when He comes?
  - Can you relate any of these actions to your own experience?
- How do you understand the relationship between the Spirit, Jesus and the Father in [Jn 16:13-15](#)?

# The Holy Spirit in John

## Life

- (Re)Born

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

[Jn 3:5](#)

- Distinct from the flesh

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**

[Jn 3:6](#)

**It is the Spirit who gives life;** the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are **spirit and life**

[Jn 6:63](#)

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with **everyone who is born of the Spirit.**

[Jn 3:8](#)

- Mysterious; Spiritual

## Truth

...even **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

[Jn 14:17](#)

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

[Jn 15:26](#)

When **the Spirit of truth** comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come

[Jn 16:13](#)

By this we know the **Spirit of truth** and the spirit of error

[1 Jn 4:6](#)

And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because **the Spirit is the truth**

[1 Jn 5:6](#)

# Parakletos

παράκλητος

x 5: [Jn 14:16](#); [14:26](#); [15:26](#); [16:7](#); [1 Jn 2:1](#)

## Advocate

NIV  
NRSV  
NRSVCE  
JB  
NABRE  
LEB  
NET  
NLT

## Counsellor

RSV  
RSVCE  
RSV2CE  
CSB  
HCSB

## Helper

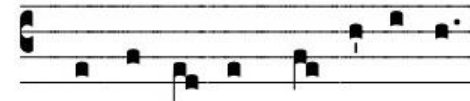
ESV  
NASB95  
NKJV  
GNB

## Comforter

KJV  
AV 1873  
ASV  
YLT

## Paraclitus

Vulgate



Qui dí-ce-ris Pa- rácli-tus

Thou Who art called  
the Paraclete...

## Friend

MSG  
Knox: "to befriend you"

## Paraclete

D-R  
NJB  
Fr Nick King

# Parakletos/Spirit of Truth

- Another

And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you **another** Helper [*Parakletos*]...  
Even the **Spirit of Truth**...

[Jn 14:16-17](#)

- Be with you, and in you

...to be with you forever...

[Jn 14:16](#)

You know him, for **he dwells with you and will be in you**

[Jn 14:17](#)

- Serves the glorified Jesus

He [the Spirit of truth]  
will **glorify me**,  
for he will take what is mine  
and declare it to you.

[Jn 16:14](#)

## Relationship to Jesus:

- “Another” (Jesus = the first)
- Be with us (once Jesus has gone)
- Serves Jesus, to glorify Him

# Parakletos/Spirit of Truth: Tasks

## Spirit of Truth

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper [Parakletos]**, to be with you forever, Even the **Spirit of Truth**...

[Jn 14:16-17](#)

## Witness

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness about me.**

[Jn 15:26](#)

## Teach & Guide

But the Helper [*Parakletos*], the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things** and **bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

[Jn 14:26](#)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will **guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come

[Jn 16:13](#)

## Convict/Convince

And when he comes, he will **convict the world** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

[Jn 16:8](#)

# The Holy Spirit in NT: Key Themes

- Activity is in relation to Jesus
  - Conception
  - Early ministry
  - Continuing ministry
- Given to Jesus's disciples, empowering for mission
- A more distinct presence and identity
  - Even greater in Acts
- Luke & John have distinctive emphasis on the Spirit



Window, Church of Reconciliation, Taizé © Communauté de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

# Points to Ponder

- Do we experience the joy of the Holy Spirit?  
Do we show that joy to others?
- Do I believe that I have been given the Holy Spirit?  
What difference does that make in my life?
- Do I know that the *Parakletos* is with me, to comfort, guide and help me?