

The Holy Spirit in Scripture

Session #4



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

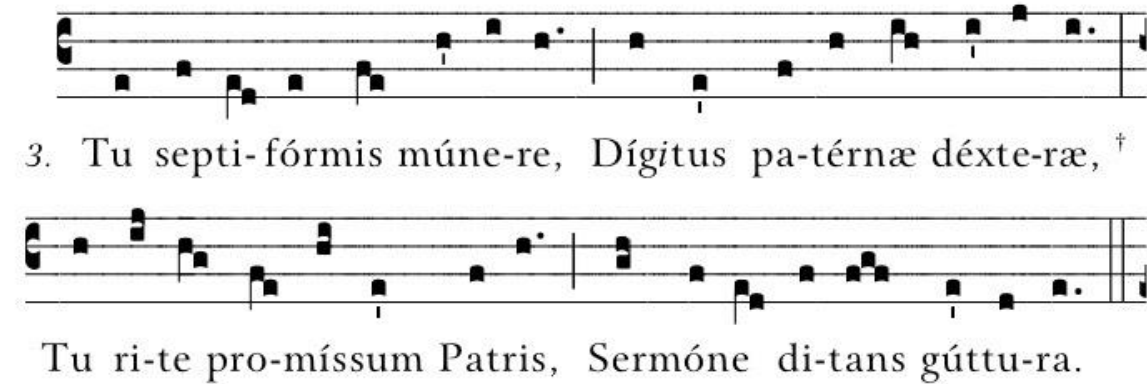
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful,
And kindle in them the fire of Your love;
Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created,
And You will renew the face of the earth.

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.

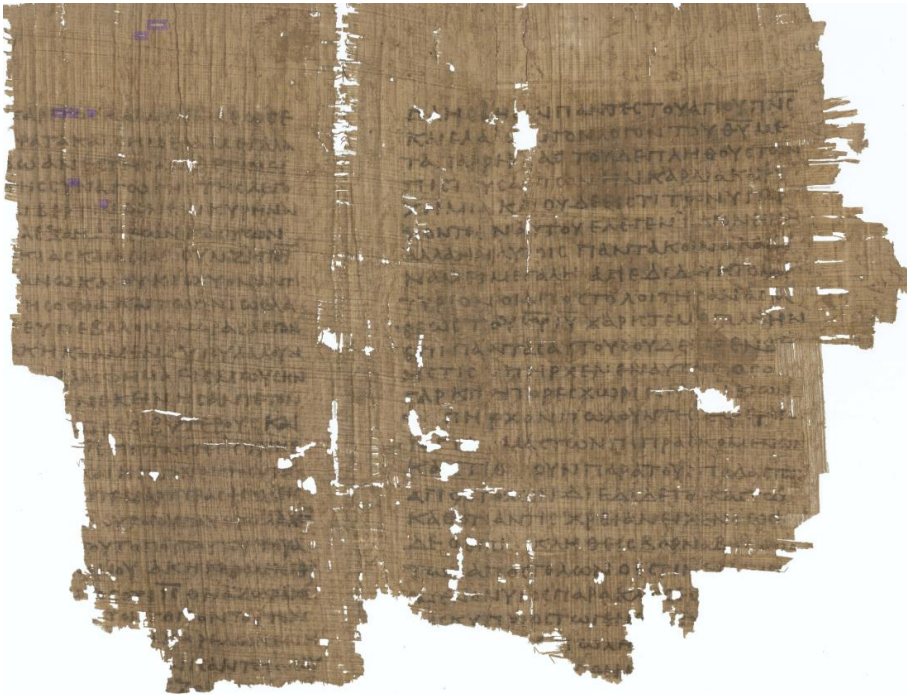
From *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Transcription from St Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde, UK

Topics

- The Holy Spirit in Acts of the Apostles – Overview
- Breakout session #1
- The Holy Spirit in Acts – Continuity with OT → Distinct Identity
- Breakout session #2
- The Holy Spirit in Acts - Impact

Acts of the Apostles – Overview

- Date of composition
 - Scholars differ
 - Most views = 60-85 CE
- Author
 - Same as author of 3rd gospel
 - “Luke”



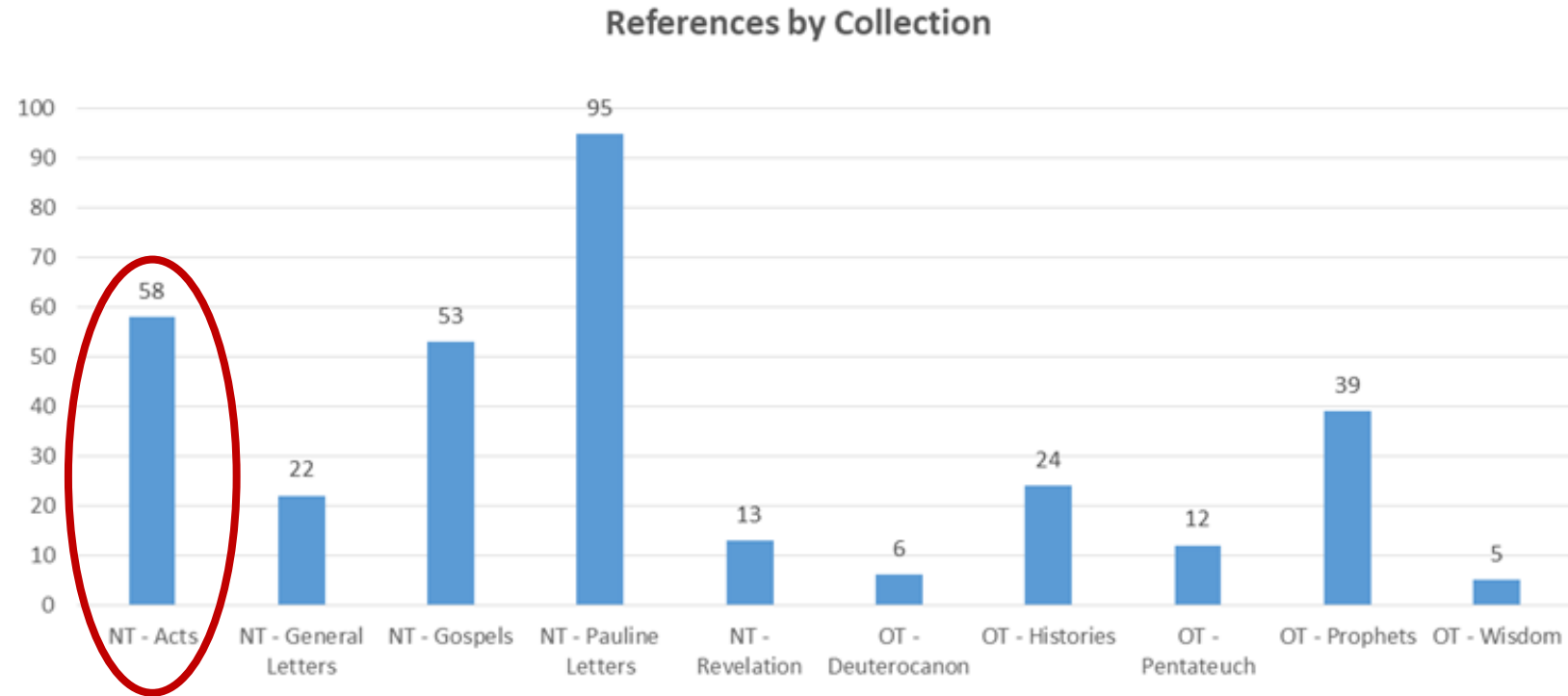
[Acts 4:31-37](#) from Papyrus P8 (300-400). Image © Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung, WWU Münster



St Luke, portrait page (137v) from *Lindisfarne Gospels* (c. 715-720)
British Museum, London

The Holy Spirit in Acts of the Apostles – Occurrences

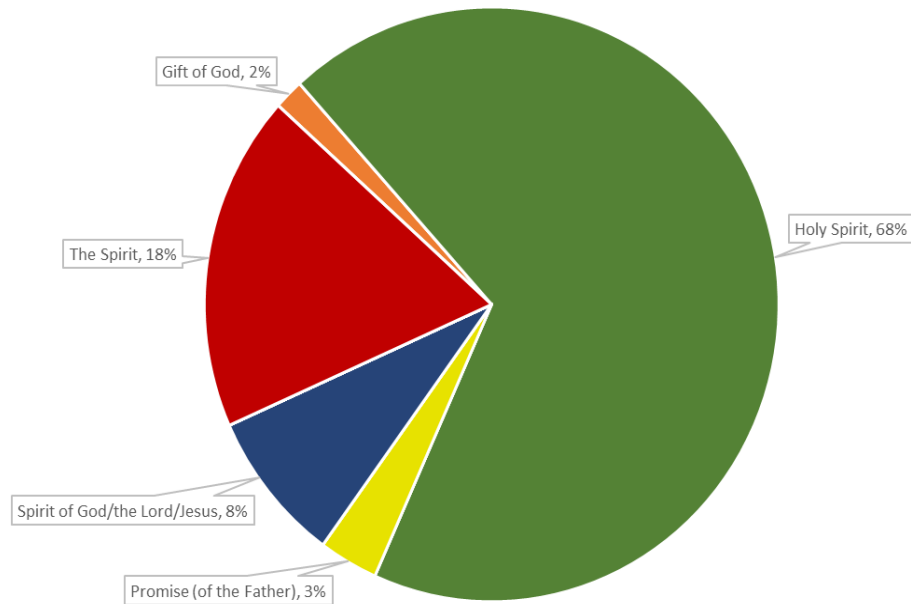
- Holy Spirit in 58 verses
 - More than twice that of any other book of the Bible
 - More than 3 times every other book except Romans
 - Follows on from Luke being one of the more “Spirit-filled” gospels



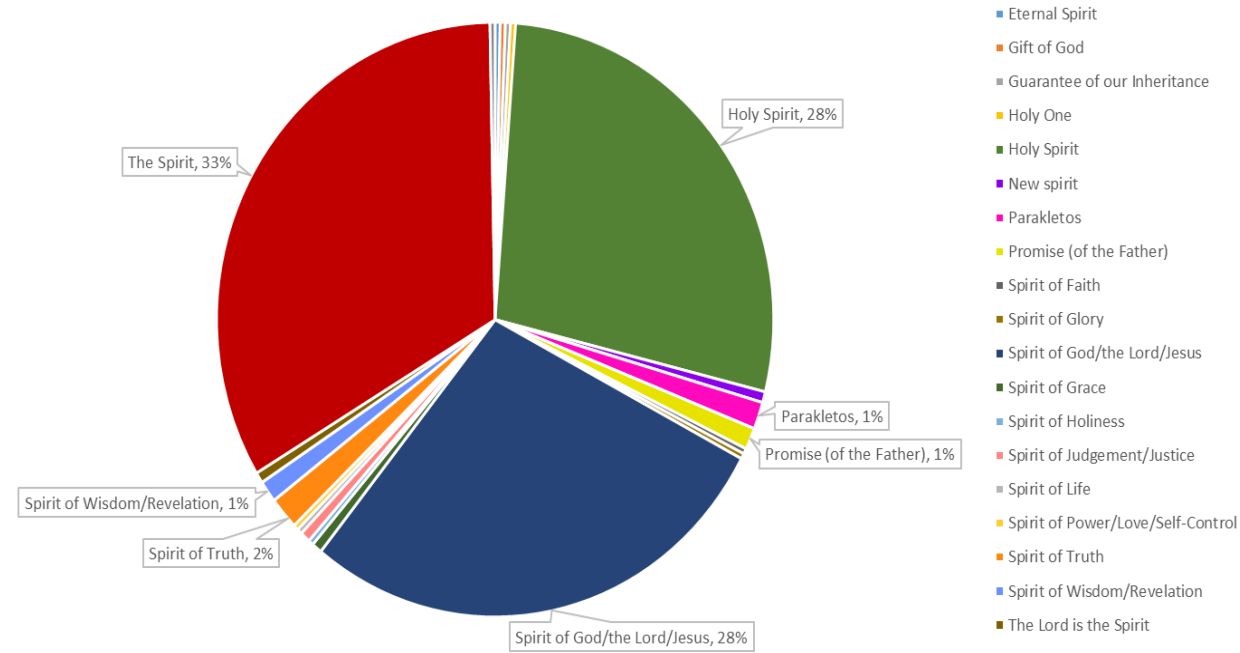
Acts: “The Gospel of the Holy Spirit”

Holy Spirit: Names in Acts of the Apostles

Names of the Holy Spirit - Acts

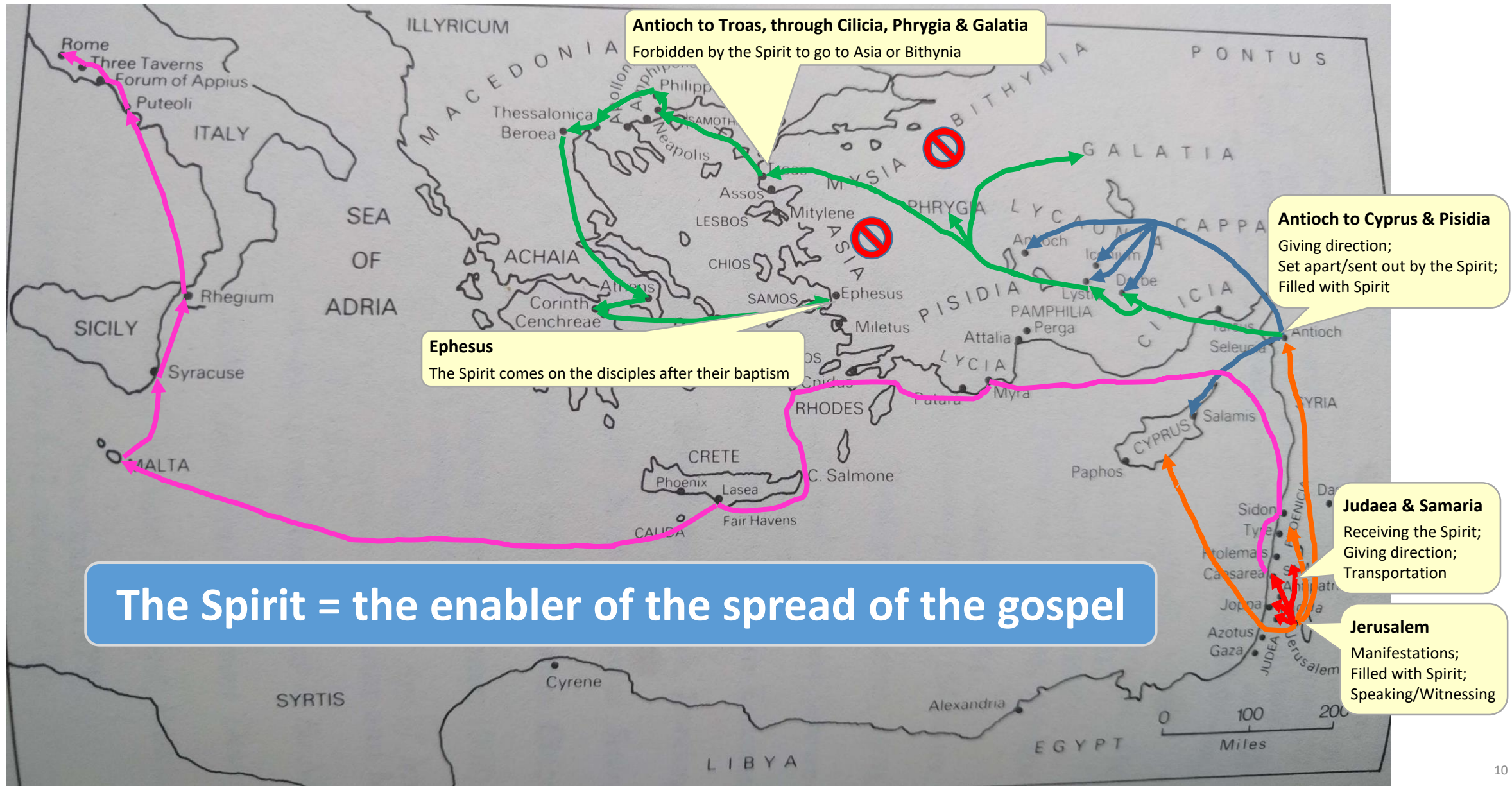


Names of the Holy Spirit



- Distribution in Acts is different from Bible as a whole
- Holy Spirit (*pneuma hagion*) is by far most common in Acts (x 41)
 - Followed by “The Spirit” (x 11)
- Other titles (even “the Spirit of God/the Lord/Jesus”) = only a handful of occurrences

In Jerusalem...Judaea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth



Breakout Session #1

- Consider these Scripture texts

- [Acts 1:4](#) And while staying with them, he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me...”
- [Acts 10:45](#) And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.
- [Acts 2:2-4](#) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- [Acts 6:3](#) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.
- [Acts 15:28](#) For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements...

- 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?

The Holy Spirit in Acts – Continuity with OT

- Proxy or agent of Jesus or the Father
- Given
- Speaking in Scripture



End of John's Gospel and Start of Acts of the Apostles from Codex Vaticanus; Vatican Apostolic Library, Rome

Holy Spirit: Proxy or agent of Jesus or the Father

• Jesus

...until the day when he was taken up, after he [Jesus] had **given commands through the Holy Spirit** to the apostles whom he had chosen.

[Acts 1:2](#)

• The Father

And while staying with them he [Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for **the promise of the Father**, which, he said, “you heard from me...”

[Acts 1:4](#)

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received **from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, he [Jesus] has **poured out** this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

[Acts 2:33](#)

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](#)

Recall, from the OT...

“Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but **not of my Spirit**, that they may add sin to sin.

[Isa 30:1](#)

And I will **put my Spirit** within you, and cause you to **walk in my statutes** and be careful to **obey my rules**

[Ezek 36:27](#)

Where is he who **put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit** [*ruah qadesh*]?

[Isa 63:11](#)

...And I will **take some of the Spirit** that is on you and **put it on them...**

[Num 11:17b](#)

I will **pour my Spirit** upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants

[Isa 44:3b](#)

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.

[Joel 2:28](#)

Holy Spirit: Given (1)

- Promised

- By Jesus
- Confirmed by Peter

- Delivered

- 13 separate episodes where individuals or groups receive, or were promised to receive, the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:5	}	Jesus's promise to the apostles of being baptised with the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:8		
Acts 2:4		Pentecost
Acts 2:17-18		Peter quoting Amos = promise of God's Spirit
Acts 2:33		Peter's Pentecost speech: Jesus pouring out the Spirit
Acts 2:38		Peter's Pentecost speech: promising all hearers the Holy Spirit
Acts 5:32		Peter's speech to Sanhedrin: God's has given Holy Spirit to those who obey Him
Acts 8:15-19		Peter & John in Samaria: prayed that those who had received the word of God might receive the Holy Spirit; laid hands on the newly-baptised, who then received the Holy Spirit; Simon Magus requested the power of imparting the Holy Spirit
Acts 9:17		Ananias tells Saul that the Lord Jesus wants to fill Saul with the power of the Holy Spirit
Acts 10:44-47		Peter at Caesarea: the Holy Spirit falls on Cornelius's (Gentile) household, and Peter understands that they must be baptised
Acts 11:15-16		Peter recalls to the community at Jerusalem the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Caesarea
Acts 15:8		Peter informs the council at Jerusalem that God has given the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles
Acts 19:2-6		The Holy Spirit comes on the disciples at Ephesus after Paul lays his hands on them

Holy Spirit: Given (2)

Gift

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**.

[Acts 2:38b-c](#)

May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the **gift of God** with money!

[Acts 8:20b](#)

And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit** was poured out even on the Gentiles

[Acts 10:45](#)

God gave the same **gift** to them as he gave to us...

[Acts 11:17](#)

Given

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the **Holy Spirit**, whom **God has given** to those who obey him.

[Acts 5:32](#)

And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them [Gentiles], by **giving them the Holy Spirit** just as he did to us.

[Acts 15:8](#)

Received

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will **receive** the gift of **the Holy Spirit**.

[Acts 2:38b-c](#)

[Peter and John]... came down and prayed for them [believers in Samaria who had recently been baptized] that they might **receive the Holy Spirit**.

Then they laid their hands on them and they **received the Holy Spirit**.

[Acts 8:15, 17](#)

Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have **received the Holy Spirit** just as we have?"

[Acts 10:47](#)

And he [Paul] said to them, "Did you **receive the Holy Spirit** when you believed?" And they [disciples at Ephesus] said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

[Acts 19:2](#)

Note: the receiving of the Holy Spirit becomes the mark of God's acceptance of the Gentiles

Holy Spirit: Given (3) – Filled/Full

Peter



El Greco, *St Peter* (c. 1605-1610);
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, USA

Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders...”

[Acts 4:8](#)

Stephen



St Stephen,
mosaic at entrance to St Stephen Walbrook, London

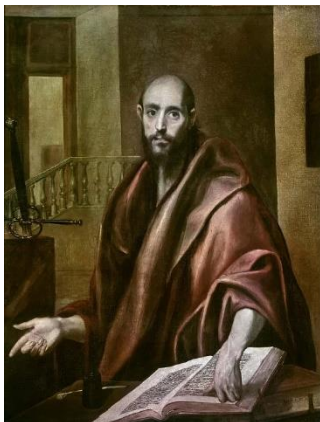
they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Spirit** ...

[Acts 6:5](#)

But he [Stephen], **full of the Holy Spirit**, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God....

[Acts 7:55](#)

Paul (Saul)



El Greco, *St Paul the Apostle* (c. 1578-80);
Private Collection

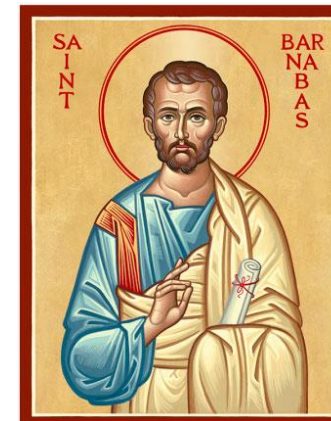
...Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be **filled with the Holy Spirit**.

[Acts 9:17](#)

But Saul, who was also called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him.

[Acts 13:9](#)

Barnabas



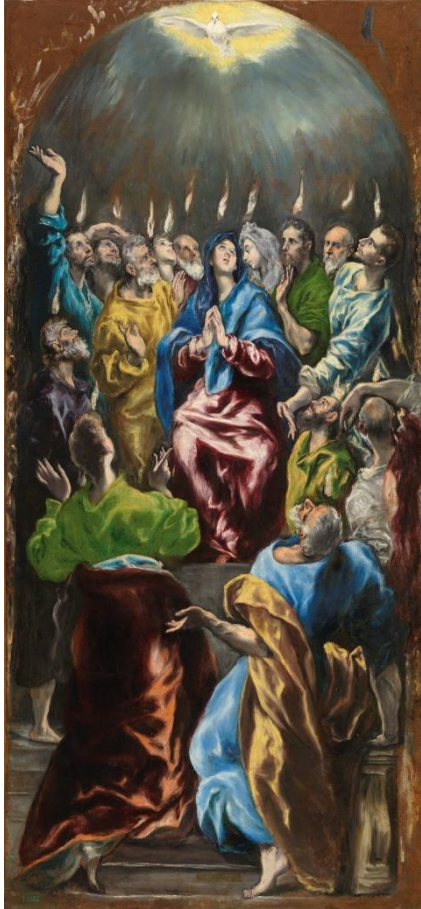
St Barnabas
Attribution unknown

for he [Barnabas] was a good man, **full of the Holy Spirit** and of faith

[Acts 11:24](#)

Holy Spirit: Given (4) – Filled/Full

The disciples in the room



El Greco, *Pentecost* (c. 1600); Museo Del Prado, Madrid, Spain

And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

[Acts 2:4](#)

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

[Acts 4:31](#)

“Disciples” at Antioch in Pisidia



Paul and Barnabas at Antioch (engraving). Artist and date unknown. Private Collection

And the disciples were **filled** with joy and **with the Holy Spirit**

[Acts 13:52](#)

The Seven



Fra Angelico, *St Peter Consecrating Seven Deacons* (c. 1447-1449); Niccoline Chapel, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City.

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, **full of the Spirit** and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty

[Acts 6:3](#)

Holy Spirit: Given (5) – Old and New Actions

Fell

While Peter was still saying these things, the **Holy Spirit fell on** all who heard the word.

[Acts 10:44](#)

As I began to speak, the **Holy Spirit fell on** them just as on us **at the beginning**.

[Acts 11:15](#)

- Peter relating the same Caesarea episode to the community at Jerusalem
- “At the beginning” = *en arche* (echo of [Gen 1:1](#) LXX)

for he [Spirit] had not yet **fallen on** any of them [in Samaria]

[Acts 8:16](#)

Anointed

...how God **anointed [echrisen]** Jesus of Nazareth **with the Holy Spirit** and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

[Acts 10:38](#)

Poured

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he [Jesus] has **poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing**.

[Acts 2:33](#)

And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit** was **poured out** even on the Gentiles

[Acts 10:45](#)

Baptised

...John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now

[Acts 1:5](#)

And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.’

[Acts 11:16](#)

Holy Spirit: Speaking in Scripture

- Psalms, cited by Peter

Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which **the Holy Spirit spoke** beforehand **by the mouth of David** concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

[Acts 1:16](#)

And by the disciples

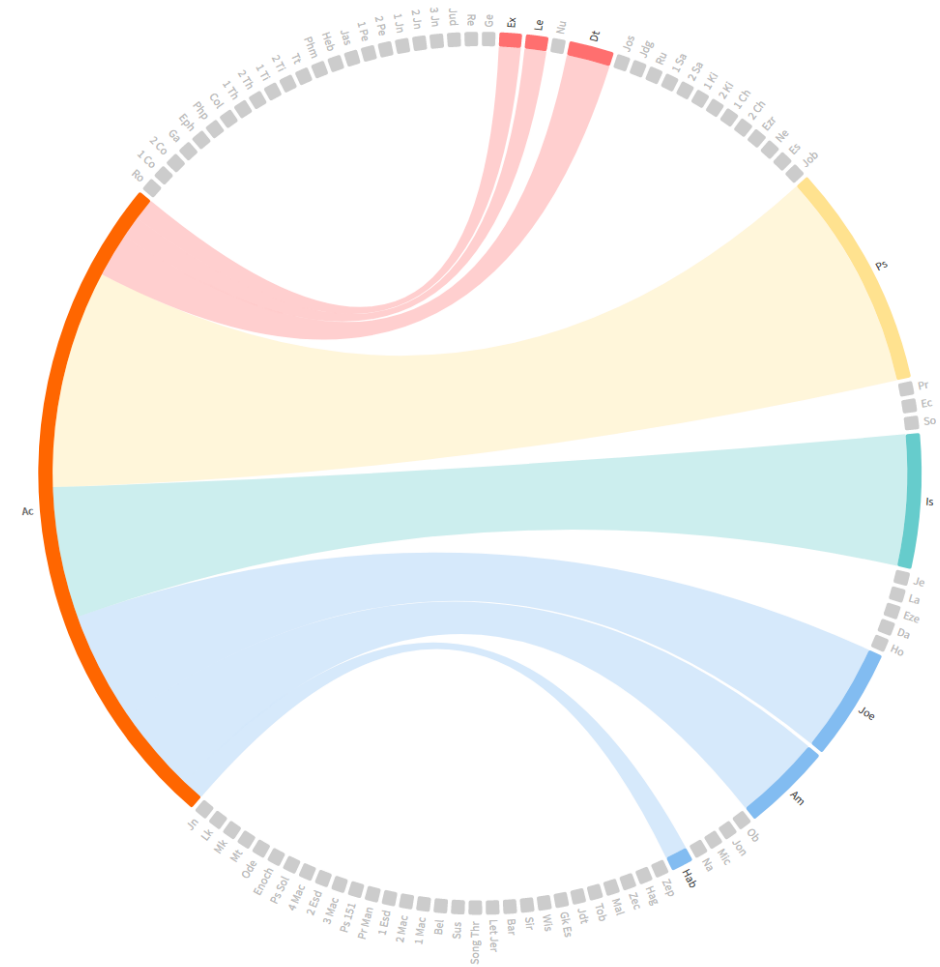
[Lord,]...who **through the mouth of our father David**, your servant, **said by the Holy Spirit**, “Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?”

[Acts 4:25](#)

- Isaiah, cited by Paul

And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “**The Holy Spirit was right in saying** to your fathers **through Isaiah the prophet:...**”

[Acts 28:25](#)



OT Citations in Acts; from Bible Books Explorer, Intertext view © Logos Bible Software 2023

The Holy Spirit in Acts – Distinct Identity

- Manifestation

- Agency

- Offences against the Spirit



Acts 2:28-3:9 from Codex Sinaiticus; British Library, London.

Holy Spirit: Manifestation

- Wind

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing **wind**, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting

[Acts 2:2](#)

- Fire

And divided tongues as of **fire** appeared to them and rested on each one of them

[Acts 2:3](#)

Note: the Spirit is not explicitly mentioned in the 2 verses describing the manifestations at Pentecost.

However, [Acts 2:4](#) makes clear that the signs accompany the gift of the Spirit



Artist unknown. Downloaded from <https://breakingthehabit.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/pentecost-people-1024x612-1.jpg>

And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak in other tongues** as the Spirit gave them **utterance**

[Acts 2:4](#)

- Building shaken

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was **shaken**, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness**.

[Acts 4:31](#)

The manifestations of the Spirit are enabling: they equip disciples to witness

Holy Spirit: Agency (1)

Give spoken direction

Direct speech

And the Spirit **said** to Philip,
“Go over and join this chariot.”

[Acts 8:29](#)

And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit **said to him**, “Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.

[Acts 10:19-20](#)

While they [members of the church at Antioch] were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit **said**, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

[Acts 13:2](#)

Reported speech

And the Spirit **told me** [Peter] to go with them [three men sent from Caesarea for Peter], making no distinction.

[Acts 11:12](#)

Command (reported)

So, being **sent out by the Holy Spirit**, they [Saul and Barnabas] went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus

[Acts 13:4](#)

And they [Paul, Silas and Timothy] went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia.

[Acts 16:6](#)

And when they had come up to Mysia, they [Paul, Silas and Timothy] attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus **did not allow them**.

[Acts 16:7](#)

And now, behold, I [Paul] am going to Jerusalem, **constrained by the Spirit**, not knowing what will happen to me there

[Acts 20:22](#)

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has **made you overseers**, to care for the church of God...

[Acts 20:28a-c](#)

Holy Spirit: Agency (2)

- Transportation

And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **carried** Philip **away**, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

[Acts 8:39](#)

- Discernment

For **it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit** and to us [council of elders at Jerusalem] to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.

[Acts 15:28](#)

Now after these events Paul **resolved in the Spirit** to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

[Acts 19:21](#)

Recall, from the OT...

...the Spirit of the LORD will **carry** you I know not where

[1 Kings 18:12](#)

The Spirit **lifted me up** and **took me away**

[Ezek 3:14](#)

Offences against the Spirit

- Lie to

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

[Acts 5:3](#)

- Test

But Peter said to her [Sapphira], “How is it that you have agreed together to **test the Spirit of the Lord**?

[Acts 5:9](#)

- Resist

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always **resist the Holy Spirit**. As your fathers did, so do you.

[Acts 7:51](#)

Recall, from the OT...

But they rebelled and **grieved his Holy Spirit** [*ruah qadesh*]; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

[Isa 63:10](#)

Breakout session #2

- Consider

- [Acts 11:11-18](#)

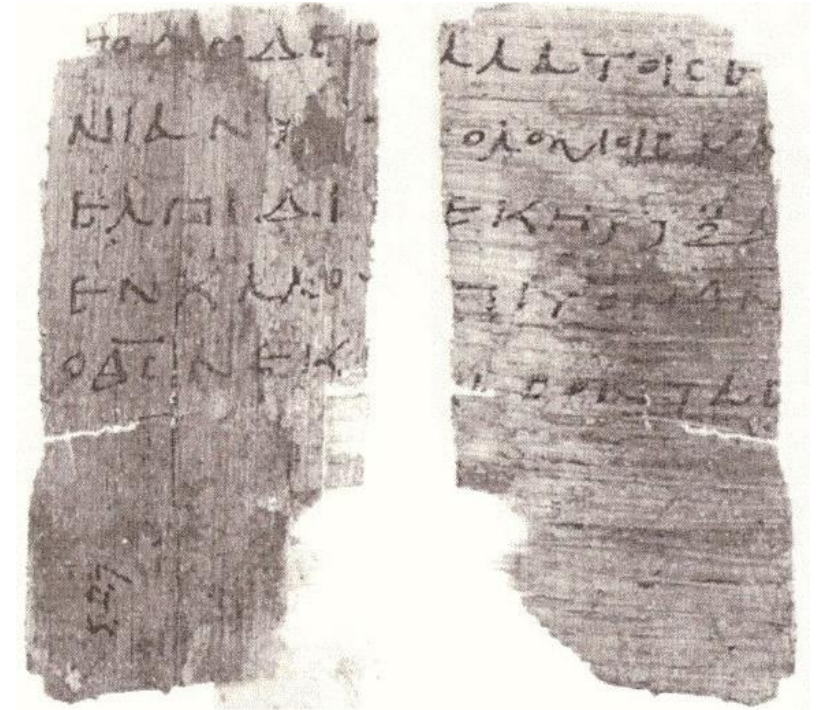
And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

- Discuss

- Why did Peter go with the men to undertake a visit to a Gentile house, which for a Jew was not permissible?
 - When did the Holy Spirit "fall"? Do you see any significance in the timing?
 - What does Peter mean by "at the beginning"? Do you detect any significance in that phrase?
 - How does Peter interpret what has happened? What 2 sources of authority does he refer to?

The Holy Spirit in Acts – Impact

- Baptism
- Empowering for witness
- Prophecy
- Comfort



[Acts 26:7-8](#), [26:20](#); from Papyrus Oxyrhyncus P29 (3rd century); Bodleian Library, Oxford.

***The Spirit's impacts on others are enabling:
they equip disciples to spread the Gospel***

The Holy Spirit and Baptism

Baptised with Holy Spirit

...John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now

[Acts 1:5](#)

And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.**'

[Acts 11:16](#)

Received after baptism

And Peter said to them, "Repent and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**"

[Acts 2:38](#)

[Peter and John]... came down and prayed for them [believers in Samaria who had recently been baptized] that they might **receive the Holy Spirit**, for he had not yet fallen on any of them...

Then they laid their hands on them and they **received the Holy Spirit.**

[Acts 8:15, 17](#)

Received before baptism

"Can anyone withhold water for **baptizing** these people [Cornelius's household], who have **received the Holy Spirit** just as we have?"

And he commanded them to be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ.

[Acts 10:47](#)

Laying hands

Then they [Peter and John] **laid their hands** on them and they **received the Holy Spirit.**

[Acts 8:17](#)

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the **laying on of the apostles' hands**, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I **lay my hands** may **receive the Holy Spirit.**"

[Acts 8:18-19](#)

And when Paul had **laid his hands** on them [disciples at Ephesus], the **Holy Spirit came on** them...

[Acts 19:6a-b](#)

Holy Spirit: Empowering for witness

Witnesses (*martures*)

But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

[Acts 1:8](#)

And we are **witnesses** to these things, and so is the **Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

[Acts 5:32](#)

- Speaker = Peter
- Audience = Sanhedrin
- Recalls Jesus’s promise ([Lk 12:11-12](#))

Speak the word of God

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness**

[Acts 4:31](#)

But they could not withstand the wisdom and **the Spirit with which he was speaking**

[Acts 6:10](#)

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities ...the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

[Lk 12:11-12](#)

Accompanying apostolic preaching

While Peter was still saying these things, the **Holy Spirit fell** on all [Gentile household of Cornelius in Caesarea Maritima] who heard the word.

And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.**

[Acts 10:44-45](#)

- Spirit acts as co-witness
- Makes clear the implication of the preaching

Holy Spirit: Prophecy (1) – Foretelling & Insight

Agabus



Le prophète Agabus prédisant à saint Paul ses souffrances à Jérusalem;
Louis Chéron (1687), Notre-Dame de Paris

And one of them named Agabus stood up and **foretold by the Spirit** that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

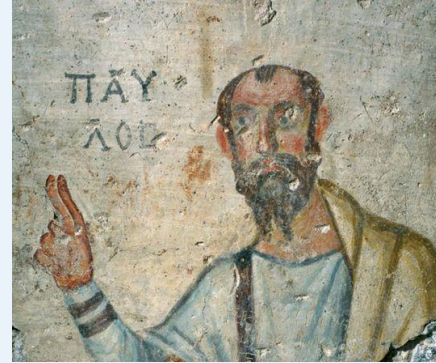
[Acts 11:28](#)

And coming to us, he [Agabus] **took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands** and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'

[Acts 21:11](#)

Reminiscent of "acted prophecy" of some OT prophets
e.g. [1 Kings 11:29-39](#); [Isa 20:2-4](#); [Ezek 4:1-3](#)

Paul



St Paul; detail from 5th-6th century fresco.
Grotto of Paul and Thecla, Ephesus.

except that the **Holy Spirit testifies to me** [Paul] in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me

[Acts 20:23](#)

Believers at Tyre

And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And **through the Spirit** they [believers at Tyre] were **telling** Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

[Acts 21:4](#)

Holy Spirit: Prophecy (2)

- Fulfilling Scripture

But **this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:**
“ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will **pour out my Spirit**, and they shall prophesy.’”

[Acts 2:16-18](#)

- Peter quoting [Joel 2:28-32](#)
- Peter making clear that this prophecy is being fulfilled:
“he has **poured out** this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing”
([Acts 2:33c](#))

- Vision

But he [Stephen], **full of the Holy Spirit**, gazed into heaven and **saw** the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

[Acts 7:55](#)

- Speaking in tongues

And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak in other tongues** as the **Spirit gave them utterance**

[Acts 2:4](#)

And when Paul had laid his hands on them [disciples at Ephesus], the **Holy Spirit came on them**, and they began **speaking in tongues and prophesying**

[Acts 19:6](#)

Comfort

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the **comfort** [*parakleseis*] of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

[Acts 9:31](#)

- Note that “comfort” does not imply inertia or inactivity
- Both peace [*eirene*] and comfort [*paraklesis*] lead to the building up of the Church and growth in its numbers

Again, the Spirit’s impact is enabling = to support spreading the Gospel

παράκλησις

Paraklesis

= The activity of the Parakletos

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](#)

The Holy Spirit in Acts: Key Themes

- The Spirit as a major presence & driving force
 - Manifested
 - Speaking
 - Commanding
- Still much in common with His OT characteristics
 - Given
 - Enabling speaking and prophecy
- New impacts on disciples
 - Discernment
 - Comfort
- Where in OT, the Spirit's gifts sustained and guided Israel, in Acts, the Spirit facilitates the spread of the Gospel – even to the Gentiles



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Points to Ponder

- Is my discernment Spirit-led? Do I ask the Spirit to guide me?

- Am I a spirit-filled witness?
Am I ready to speak the word of God with boldness, empowered by the Spirit?

- Do I believe the Spirit still comes in power?
Am I praying for Him to come?