

The Essential Elements of the Apostolic Witness

Session 4: The Charismatic Witness

I. The Holy Spirit in Redemptive History

A. The Spirit and Creation

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And *the Spirit* [Hb. *ruach*] of God was hovering over the face of the waters.³ And *God said*, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (^{ESV} Gen. 1:2-3)

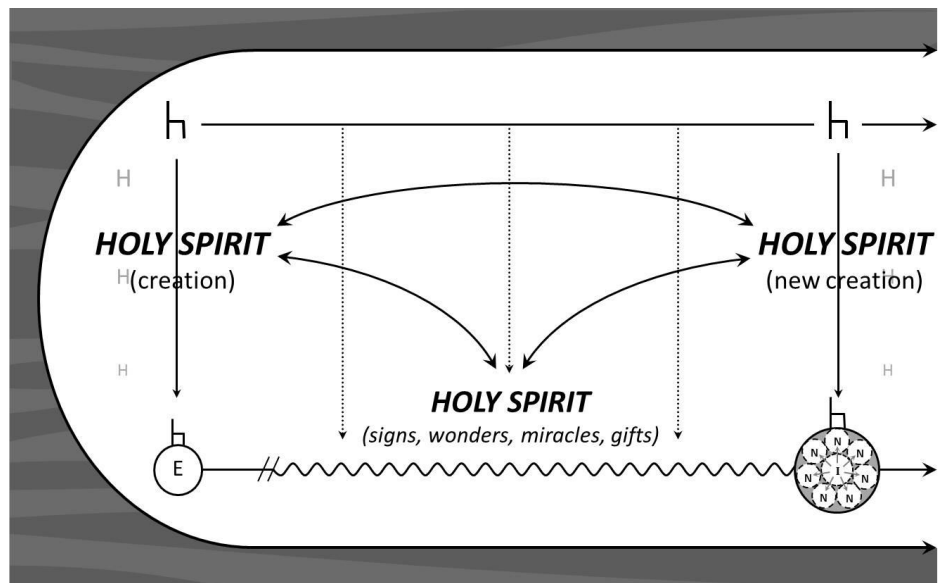
By *the word* of the LORD the heavens were made, and by *the breath* [Hb. *ruach*] of his mouth all their host.⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!⁹ For *he spoke*, and it came to be; *he commanded*, and it stood firm. (^{ESV} Ps. 33:6-9)

B. The Spirit and Recreation

And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in *the regeneration* [Gk. *paliggenesia*, “renewal” NIV/NLT, “new world” ESV] when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (^{NASB} Mt. 19:28)

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also *give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit*, who lives in you...¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed...²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have *the firstfruits of the Spirit*, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, *the redemption of our bodies*.²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. (^{NIV} Rom. 8:11-24)

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened,



who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in *the Holy Spirit*,⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and *the powers of the coming age*,⁶ if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance... (^{NIV} Heb. 6:4-6)

C. The Spirit as a Deposit of the Resurrection

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were *sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*,¹⁴ *who is the guarantee of our inheritance* until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (^{ESV} Eph. 1:11-14)

For we know that if our *earthly house*, this tent, is destroyed, we have a *building from God*, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens...⁴ For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, *not because we want to be unclothed*, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has *given us the Spirit as a guarantee* [“guaranteeing what is to come” NIV]. (^{NKJV} 2 Cor. 5:1-5)

II. The Testimony of the Holy Spirit

A. Holy Spirit Given for Bold Proclamation

Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for *the gift my Father promised*, which you have heard me speak about.⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be *baptized with the Holy Spirit*...⁸ you will receive power 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. (^{NIV} Acts 1:4-8)

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants *to continue to speak your word with all boldness*,³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”³¹ 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*. (^{ESV} Acts 4:29-31)

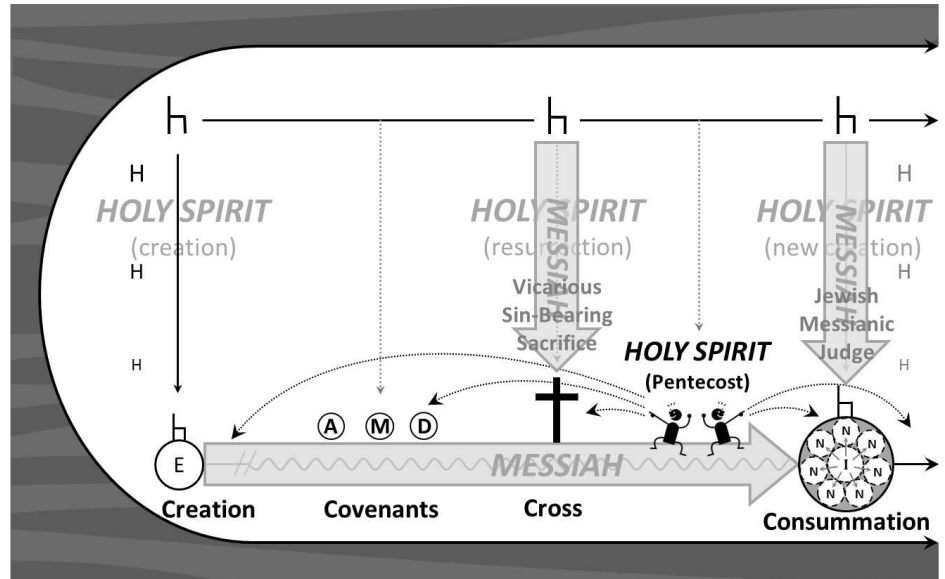
B. Holy Spirit Given as Confirmation of the Cross and the Day of the Lord

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that *God has made him both Lord and Christ*, this Jesus whom you crucified.”³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”³⁸ 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*.”³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “*Save yourselves from this crooked generation*.” (^{ESV} Acts 2:36-40)

“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed *as judge of the living and the dead*.”⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that

everyone who believes in him *receives forgiveness of sins* through his name.” ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, *the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.* (NIV Acts 10:42-44)

Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them... ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know



that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips *the message of the gospel* and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, *showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them*, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is *through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved*, just as they are.” (NIV Acts 15:1-11)

“I have been *crucified with Christ* and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set *aside the grace of God*, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” ^{3:1} You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed *as crucified*. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit *by observing the law, or by believing* what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to *attain your goal* by human effort? ⁴ Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? ⁵ Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you *because you observe the law, or because you believe* what you heard? (NIV Gal. 2:20-3:5)

C. Walking According to the Spirit

Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the real circumcision, *who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh*- ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If

anyone else thinks he has reason for *confidence in the flesh*, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of *knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ *and be found in him*, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith- ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may *attain the resurrection from the dead*. (^{ESV} Phil. 3:2-11)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh *and for sin*, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, *who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh *set their minds on the things of the flesh*, but those who live according to the Spirit *set their minds on the things of the Spirit*. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (^{ESV} Rom. 8:1-6)

D. The Revelation of the Spirit

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ *the Spirit of truth*. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you... ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, *will teach you all things* and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (^{NIV} John 14:16-26)

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you *the testimony about God*. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except *Jesus Christ and him crucified*. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with *a demonstration of the Spirit's power*, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. ⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but *not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age*, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- ¹⁰ but *God has revealed it to us by his Spirit*. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (^{NIV} 1 Cor. 2:1-10)