

The Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

I. The Qualities of the Holy Spirit

A. He is God

1. He is one person of the Holy Trinity (Mt 28:19).
2. God is spirit (John 4:24; 2 Cor 3:17).
3. He is sent by Jesus and goes out from the Father (John 15:26) or is also sent or given by the Father (Gal 4:6; 1 Th 4:8; Heb 2:4).
4. He is also called "Christ's Spirit" (Rom 8:9), "Spirit of Jesus" (Acts 16:7) or "Spirit of God's Son" (Gal 4:6).

B. He is spirit, thus having according to Luke 24:39 no flesh and bones.

C. He is omnipresent (Rev 5:6).

D. He is omniscient (1 Cor 2:10-11).

E. He is holy (John 14:26 and often).

F. He is the spirit of truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6).

G. He makes alive (John 6:63).

H. He has emotions (Eph 4:30).

I. He is a comforter and helper (John 14:26; 15:26; Acts 9:31; Phil 1:19).

J. He is sending people for a special task and gives them the gifts they need for that (see below), which implies a will and a plan with the ability to think (Acts 13:4 Barnabas and Paul; 1 Cor 12:11). All this points to personality (will, rationality, emotionality).

K. He is related to the presence of God: Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the Church of Christ and the believers have become a temple (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:22; 2 Tim 1:14). Therefore the Spirit wants our undivided love (James 4:5). The sevenfold Spirit reminds us of the one menorah with seven arms in the Old Testament sanctuary as the one spirit with manifold effects (Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).

L. He is related to the word of God (John 6:63; Eph 6:13 the word is the sword of the Spirit). Compare Eph 5:18-21 with Col 3:16-18: The Spirit in Eph 5:18 resembles the Word of Christ in Col 3:16.

M. He is likened to

1. wind or storm (John 3:8; Acts 2:2),

2. something fluid, often like (life giving or purifying) water:

a. in the baptism with the Holy Spirit Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 1 Cor 12:13,

b. in the phrases of

being full of the Holy Spirit (πληρης πνευματος αγιου): Luke 4:1: Jesus; Acts 6:3 seven deacons; 6:5 Stephen; 7:55 Stephen; 11:24 Barnabas;

or being filled with the Holy Spirit (πλησθησαι πνευματος αγιου): Luke 1:15: John; Luke 1:41: Elisabeth; Luke 1:67 Zachariah; Acts 2:4 all 120 present believers; 4:8 Peter; 4:31 all; 9:17 Paul; 13:9 Paul; 13:52 the disciples in Antioch in Pisidia; Eph 5:18 all believers should be filled;

c. in the outpouring of the spirit Acts 2:17-18; 2:33; 10:45; Rom 5:5 (God's love through the Holy Spirit);

d. in being given the drink of one Spirit (1 Cor 12:13) or in the phrase "living water" or "water of life" (John 7:39 is the key to understand John 7:37-38; 4:10ff; Rev 7:17 and 22:17),

3. oil in the phrase "God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit" Acts 10:38 (see 1 Jn 2:20,27),

4. a seal with which the believers are sealed 2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13,
 5. an advance payment as assurance of the rest to be given 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5,
 6. fire (Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16), a fire that should not be quenched (1 Thess 5:19).
- N. Because of the divine nature of the Holy Spirit, sins against the Spirit are dangerous.
1. Blasphemy against him will not be forgiven (Mt 12:31-32; Mk 3:29; Lk 12:10).
 2. Those who have a share in the Holy Spirit and then fall away and crucify Christ for themselves a second time can not be renewed unto repentance (Heb 6:4-6). To despise the Spirit of grace is a grave sin (Heb 10:29).
 3. To lie to the Holy Spirit was a grave sin punished by death (Acts 5:3), because to lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God (Acts 5:3-4). The same sin was also called tempting the Spirit of the Lord and was punished by death (Acts 5:9).

II. The Holy Spirit as Instructor and Guide of God's People

- A. He has inspired the prophets and scriptures of the Old Testament:
1. The tabernacle and its rules were given by the Holy Spirit (Hebr 9:8),
 2. David a. Mt 22:43 (Ps 110:1); Mk 12:36, b. Acts 1:16 (Ps 69:25; 109:8), c. Acts 4:25 (Ps 2:1-2), d. Hebr 3:7-11 (see Ps 95:7-11). Hebr 4:7 gives David as author.
 3. Joel Acts 2:16-21 (Joel 2:28-32),
 4. Isaiah Acts 28:25 (Is 6:9-10),
 5. Jeremiah Hebr 10:15 (Jer 31:33-34).
 6. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets prophesying Christ's sufferings and glories (1 Peter 1:11). He was preaching through Noah to the generation of the flood (1 Peter 3:19f).
 7. The prophets of the Old Testament have prophesied under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).
- B. He teaches the Church all of Jesus words and reminds the Church of them (John 14:26).
- C. He guides the Church into the whole truth (John 16:13; 1 Cor 2:10,12-13).
- D. He teaches the Church about future things (John 16:13; 1 Tim 4:1).
- E. He and the Jerusalem council solved the problem of what to do with gentile converts (Acts 15:28).

III. God's spirit empowers people for certain tasks

A. The Holy Spirit and the Messiah Jesus

1. Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit (Mt 1:18; 1:20; Luke 1:35).
2. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus and stays on him
 - a. like a dove (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32-33),
 - b. as prophesied by Is 42:1 (Mt 12:18),
 - c. as prophesied by Is 61:1-2 (Luke 4:18).
3. Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33).
4. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1).
5. Jesus was guided by the Holy Spirit (Mt 4:1; Mk 1:12; Luke 4:1).
6. Jesus was working "in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 4:14), casting demons out, which proves that the kingdom of God is near (Mt 12:28).
7. Jesus could be jubilant in the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21).
8. God has given Jesus the Holy Spirit fully, not in portions to the son (John 3:34; Rev 3:1; 5:6).
9. It was necessary that Jesus first be glorified, which includes his crucifixion and going to the father, before the Holy Spirit could come and be received by the believers (John 7:39).

10. The Holy Spirit is a witness for Jesus (John 15:26; Acts 5:32; 1 John 5:6.8; Rev 19:10).
11. As God has created Adam and made him alive by his divine breath so the risen and divine Lord Jesus makes the disciples alive by breathing the Holy Spirit into them. I understand John 20:22 as an acted parable pointing to Pentecost and showing the disciples that when Jesus will have gone to the Father (John 16:7; 20,17) he will on the feast of Pentecost breath the Holy Spirit into them thus making them a new creation and a new mankind (see 1 Cor 15:45; 1 Pet 1:3; 2 Cor 5:17).
12. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit out on Pentecost (Acts 2:33).
13. Jesus teaches and commands through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2).
14. Jesus has been appointed as the Son of God according to the Holy Spirit through his being raised from the dead (Rom 1:4; 1 Pet 3:18). The risen Christ has become a life giving spirit (1 Cor 15:45).
15. The Holy Spirit leads to the confession that Jesus is Lord (1 Cor 12:3; 1 John 4:2-3.6). Someone speaking under the influence of a spirit and cursing Jesus, is not speaking through God's Spirit but is deceived by another spirit (1 Cor 12:3).
16. Jesus was revealed as righteous through the Spirit (1 Tim 3:16).
17. Jesus Christ has presented his perfect blood and sacrifice through the eternal Spirit to God the Father (Heb 9:14).

B. The Holy Spirit and the prophet John the baptist

1. John was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15).
2. John grew up being strengthened by the Spirit Luke 1:80 (or in his spirit?).

C. God's Spirit as a gift for all God's people, his regenerating work

1. To receive the Holy Spirit repentance is necessary (Acts 2:38).
2. To hear with faith to the Gospel leads to receiving the Holy Spirit (Gal 3:2.3.5.14).
3. The circumcision of the heart is a work of the Holy Spirit (Rom 2:29).
4. There is a contrast between the Spirit and the letter: The letter stands for the law of the Old Testament written on the stone tablets of the 10 commandments, which were received through Mose's service. This letter kills, meaning it does not give life, but has to punish the sinner through the curse and punishment of the law. The Spirit (Holy Spirit) stands for the service of the New Covenant, under which the same will of God is written on the tablets of the heart of the believers, giving them new and spiritual life, helping them to live according to God's will, according to the Spirit. This Spirit makes alive. (Rom 2:29; 7:6; 8:2; 8:4; 8:5; 8:6; 2 Cor 3:3; 3:6; 3:8; Rev 11:11). This Spirit transforms into the likeness of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor 3:18).
5. All who have received the Spirit of Christ are really Christ's and they are in the Spirit. Any person without Christ's Spirit is not really his (Rom 8:9).
6. In the Christians there is a war being waged between the body or flesh on the one side and the spirit (the spirit of the believer together with the Holy Spirit) on the other side (Gal 5:16.17). The realm of the flesh is death, the realm of the Spirit is life (Rom 8:10-11.13; Gal 5:25; 6:8). The real children of God let themselves be guided by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18), so that they bring forth the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). They are not slaves, but children of God, crying out "Abba" in their prayers, full of confidence, without fear (8:15), while the Spirit testifies together with their spirit that they are really children of God (8:16; 1 John 3:34; 4:13). God is the Father of the spirits, whom we have to obey (Heb 12:9).
7. The believers have received the firstfruits of the Spirit (Rom 8:23).
8. Being born again and regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit (Tit 3:5; John 3:5.6.8).

D. The Holy Spirit and the believers (including the 12 Apostles)

1. Every born again believer is a child of God, having received the sonship and praying to God as Father (Rom 8:14-17; Gal 4:6.29; Eph 2:18).
2. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit unites all believers with the Lord to one body and a unity (1 Cor 12:12-13; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 4:4; Phil 2:1).
3. The Father gives the Holy Spirit or effects of the Holy Spirit to those who ask for this in prayer (Luke 11:13).
4. Only those who obey God receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32).
5. It is necessary to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).
6. The Holy Spirit stays with the believers and is in them (John 14:17).
7. The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the believers results in their receiving power
 - a. to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem to the ends of the world (Acts 1:8; Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 2:4; 1 Thess 1:5),
 - b. to have abundant hope (Rom 15:13; Gal 5:5),
 - c. to be strengthened in the inner man (Eph 3:16).
8. He helps them in court (Mt 10:20; Mk 13:11; Luke 12:12).
9. The Holy Spirit can talk to somebody and give him special guidance (Acts 8:29 Philip; 10:19 Peter; 11:12 Peter; 13:2 the prophets and teachers in Antioch). The Holy Spirit of 16:6 is the Spirit of Jesus in 16:7 guiding Paul, Silas and Timothy.
10. The church grows through the comfort of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31).
11. The Holy Spirit has appointed the leadership of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:28).
12. The Holy Spirit helps the Christian in his prayer life and intercedes himself for the Christian (Rom 8:26; Eph 6:18; Jude 20).
13. Without Holy Spirit there is no kingdom of God (Rom 14:17).
14. The gentile believers are sanctified through the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2).
15. The believers are cleansed through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:11).
16. The believers are made righteous through the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 6:11. I think, that the meaning of 1 Peter 4:6 is very similar: Some believers who had heard the Gospel and accepted it, while they were still alive, have then been condemned to death by unjust judges and martyred according to the flesh. But according to God's judgment they are worthy to live forever according to the Spirit. This means, that God justifies them through the Spirit to live forever.
17. The Holy Spirit generates love in the believers (Rom 15:30).
18. Everyone who is joint to the Lord is one spirit with him (1 Cor 6:17).
19. A service of God must be a service in the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 6:6; Phil 3:3).
20. The believers should preserve what was given to them through the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 1:14).
21. The Holy Spirit rests on the believers (1 Pet 4:14).
22. Simeon in Luke 2: The Holy Spirit was on him (2:25). He had told him to see the Messiah in his lifetime (2:26). He guided Simeon at the right time into the temple to see Jesus (2:27).
23. Paul's conscience gives witness in the Holy Spirit (Rom 9:1). His counsel about remaining unmarried if possible is not given without the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 7:40).
24. There are some special cases of receiving the Spirit in Acts which should be mentioned separately:
 - a. The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost started a new era (Acts 2:1ff).
 - b. The Samaritans in Acts 8
The apostles Peter and John had to come down from Jerusalem to pray for the converted Samaritans and to lay their hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15.17.18). Simon the Magician offered Peter and John money to receive the same authority to let

somebody receive the Holy Spirit by laying on hands (Acts 8:19), but of course his sinful desire was rejected.

Because of the hatred between Jews and Samaritans (see John 4:9) there was a great danger of a split church. God humbled the Samaritans by the fact that they had to wait for the apostles coming from Jerusalem to pray for them, before they could receive the Holy Spirit (see John 4:22).

c. The household of Cornelius

The Holy spirit fell on the people of Cornelius household who were listening with faith to Peter's sermon (Acts 10:44; 11:15), after they received the spirit (10:47) Peter ordered them to be also baptized with water. The fact that God gave them the Spirit was a witness that God had accepted them after having purified their hearts through faith (15:8-9).

In all three cases (a + b + c) God used the apostle Peter to open the door for the next step of spreading the Gospel (see Acts 1:8). Peter had the keys to open the door (Acts 11:18; Mt 16:19).

d. The about 12 men in Ephesus who were disciples but without Holy Spirit

Paul asks the about twelve men in Ephesus whether they had received the Holy Spirit, but they said, they have not heard that the Spirit had come (Acts 19:2-3). They had not been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy spirit, but with the baptism of John the Baptist. So they knew about John's baptism (see Mt 3) but not of the Christian baptism (see Mt 28,18-20). The risen Jesus ordered the baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They did not know that commandment. It was also the risen Lord, that explained the forgiveness of sins through his death (Luke 24: 26-27; 24:46-47). So they could not have known of the Christian salvation either. They were standing somewhere between Mt 3 and Mt 26-28 without knowledge of Christian baptism and Christian salvation. Paul had first to lead them to that knowledge, then they could receive the Holy Spirit. They are no proof for the idea that there are real Christians without the Holy Spirit. They are more like disciples of John the Baptist still waiting for the Messiah. When Paul preached the Messiah Jesus and they accepted him and the baptism in his name, they could receive the Holy Spirit.

E. The gifts of the Holy Spirit and his fruit

1. Gifts of the Spirit are given by the Spirit to every believer and are revelations of the work of the Spirit in the Church to edify the Church (1 Cor 12:4.7; see the whole of chapter 12; compare also Rom 12:3ff and Eph 4:11).
2. Apostles (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11),
3. Prophets
 - a. Prophecy as a gift of the Spirit in the New Testament: Luke 1:67 (Zachariah); Acts 2:17; 11:27-28 Agabus; 20:23 Paul's imprisonment foretold; 21:4 Paul is warned not to go to Jerusalem; 21:11 Agabus uses Paul's belt to predict his imprisonment; 1 Cor 12:10.28.29; 1 Cor 14; Rom 12:7.
 - b. A special prophetic book in the New Testament is the book of Revelation.
Rev 1:10 and 4:2: By "being in the Spirit" John receives the prophetic book in two stages (Rev 1-3 and 4-22). The content of Rev 1-3 is definitely given by the Holy Spirit by 7 times emphasizing that the Holy Spirit is speaking to the 7 churches (2:7.11.17.29; 3:6.13.22). The Holy Spirit's voice is also heard later in the book (14:13). The Holy Spirit is the "spirit of prophecy" and the witness of Jesus (Rev 19:10). The Lord is the God of the spirits of the prophets (Rev 22:6). The Spirit and the Bride (= the New Jerusalem) invite all, to drink from the living water (Rev 22:17), which of course is the Holy Spirit.
4. Evangelists (1 Pet 1:12; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5),

5. Shepherds (Pastors) and Teachers (Eph 4:11 τους δε ποιμενας και διδασκαλους). It is one group of persons with a double gift, therefore counted here separately, but see also "Teacher" and "Leadership" (compare the Prophets and Teachers in Acts 13:1).
6. Leadership (1 Cor 12:28 κυβερνησεις; Rom 12:8 ο προϊσταμενος εν σπουδη; apostles, prophets, pastors are leaders as well),
7. Teachers (1 Cor 12:28; Acts 13:1; Eph 4:11),
8. Gift of healing (1 Cor 12:9.28),
9. Gift of performing wonders or mighty deeds (1 Cor 12:10 ενεργηματα δυναμεων; 12:28),
10. Gift of faith (1 Cor 12:9; 13:2; 2 Cor 4:13),
11. Speaking a foreign language you have not learned (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor 12:10.30; 13:1; 1 Cor 14).
When somebody prays in a foreign language, his spirit prays 1 Cor 14:14.
12. Interpretation of a foreign language (1 Cor 12:10 ερμηνεια γλωσσων; 12:30),
13. Dreams from God (Acts 2:17),
14. Visions (Acts 2:17),
15. Revelations (1 Cor 14:30; Eph 1:17; 3:5),
16. Gift of ministry or service (Rom 12:7 ειτε διακονιαν εν τη διακονια),
17. Gift of mentoring, encouragement, motivation, exhortation (Rom 12:8 ειτε ο παρακαλων εν τη παρακλησει),
18. Gift of giving (Rom 12:8),
19. Gift of mercy (Rom 12:8 ο ελεων εν ιλαροτητι),
20. Gift of helping (1 Cor 12:28 αντιλημψεις),
21. Discernment of spirits (1 Cor 12:10),
22. Word of wisdom (1 Cor 12:8; Eph 1:17),
23. Word of knowledge (1 Cor 12:8),
24. Being transported miraculously from one place to another (Acts 8:39 Philip; Rev 4:1-2; 17:3; 21:10 John),
25. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22),
26. Love (2 Tim 1:7),
27. Joy (1 Thess 1:6),
28. A sound mind, self-discipline (2 Tim 1:7 πνευμα σωφρονισμου)
29. Grace (Hebr 10:29),

F. Passages where one could argue whether it is the human spirit or the Holy Spirit:

1. Apollos spoke with great fervor in the spirit (his own or the Holy Spirit? Acts 18:25). See also Rom 12:11.
2. Paul made a plan "in the spirit" (his own or God's spirit? Acts 19:21).
3. Paul (Acts 20:22).
4. Epaphras (Col 1:8).

IV. The Holy Spirit and the world

- A. The world can not receive the Holy Spirit, because the world does not see nor know the spirit (John 14:17; 1 Cor 2:14; Jude 19).
- B. Unbelieving Israelites always resisted the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51).
- C. The spirit of the world tries to imitate the Spirit of God to lead believers astray (2 Cor 11:4; 1 Cor 2:12; 1 John 4:1.2.3.6).

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