

The Spirit that is Experienced
The Holy Spirit through the Eyes of Luke
“The Spirit Experienced by Christ”

Review: Last week we began look at the great controversy that surrounds the issue of the Holy Spirit’s work in the life of believers (specifically Spirit baptism).

- Conversion or subsequent to?
- Faith only an experience?
- Paul (theology) Luke-Acts (history)
- Luke’s history was theologically driven
- Luke’s history/theology was modeled after Old Testament use of Holy Spirit work
- Holy Spirit experience in the Old Testament was distributed during clearly defined periods (founding of nation in wilderness—Moses/Joshua, Period of Judges, founding of Monarch—Saul/David, prophets who escaped exile)
- Holy Spirit in Old Testament worked through patterns (transfer, sign, vocational)
- Holy Spirit was promised by the Old Testament prophets to be renewed in Messianic age
- After Malachi—no prophetic spirit-inspired word for 400 years

(ILL) Old Testament Survey—400 years Israel in Egypt/Moses—400 years Malachi/Christ

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17 NKJV

In this message—Experience of Holy Spirit in Luke’s account of life/ministry of Christ

I. The uniqueness of Luke’s narrative of Christ’s life and ministry.

A. Luke’s goal as Spirit-inspired biblical author (remember: Luke/Acts)

1. Acts reveals he was travel companion of Paul
2. Firsthand account of much of Acts—mission of God
3. Had to begin with Pentecost—gift of Holy Spirit
4. To explain Pentecost had to prefix to Acts the story of Jesus—the Gospel

B. Similar/Thematic structure of Luke/Acts

	Luke	Acts
Beginning	Birth, anointing of Jesus	Baptism, filling of Disciples
Inaugural Proclamation	Jesus' Nazareth sermon	Peter's Pentecost Sermon
Confirmatory Miracles	Casting out demons and healing the sick in Capernaum	Healing the lame man at gate Beautiful
Success	Widespread popular acclaim	Widespread popular acclaim
Opposition	Pharisees, leaders of the Jews	Sanhedrin, Jews of the dispersion
Travel	Itinerant ministry in Galilee, Judea	Missionary journeys of Peter and Paul
Arrest and Trial	Threefold trial: before Sanhedrin, Pilate, and Herod	Threefold trial: before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa
Consummation	The Cross	Rome

C. The Gospel of Luke is the story of Jesus as the unique, Spirit-empowered prophet; Acts the story of His disciples, a community of Spirit-empowered prophets.

- 1. The work of Christ is not possible without the Spirit.**
- 2. The work of the Church is not possible without the Spirit.**

D. This is part of Luke's uniqueness when compared with Matthew and Mark.

- 1. Holy Spirit mentioned in Matthew 12 times**
- 2. Holy Spirit mentioned in Mark 6 times**
- 3. Holy Spirit mentioned in Luke 17 times**

E. These 17 times are concentrated in two sections.

- 1. Birth (infancy) narrative (1:5-2:52)**
- 2. Inauguration narrative (3:1-4:14)**

NOTE: Points out Luke's unique focus on experience of the Holy Spirit in the life of Christ

II. The work of the Holy Spirit in Luke's birth (infancy) narrative.

A. Context of religious devotion/piety

1. Zacharias/Elizabeth

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. 8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Luke 1:5-11 NKJV

2. Simeon

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 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. Luke 2:25-26 NKJV

3. Anna

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. Luke 2:36-37 NKJV

NOTE: Devout, practice law, religious observant

Picture of devout remnant:

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. Malachi 3:16 NKJV

B. Two birth announcements in this atmosphere

1. To aged priest Zachariah

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:11-15 NKJV

2. To Mary (6 months later)

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. Luke 1:30-31 NKJV

C. Holy Spirit active with these two announcements

1. John filled with the Spirit

For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15 NKJV

a. Elizabeth filled with the Spirit

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:41 NKJV

b. Zechariah filled with the Spirit

Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: Luke 1:67 NKJV

2. Mary overshadowed by the Spirit

And the angel answered and said to her, "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 NKJV

D. Simeon's experience with the Holy Spirit

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 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. 27 So he came by 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 Luke 2:25-27 NKJV

E. Miraculous conception of Christ by work of the Holy Spirit is reminiscent of creation narrative

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2 NKJV

And the angel answered and said to her, "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 NKJV

NOTE: Spirit is effecting a new creation—NOT Christ—but church (2 Corinthians 5:17)

F. Prophetic ministry that follows the Spirit activity

NOTE: Prophecy=inspired speech

1. Elizabeth prophesied

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." Luke 1:41-45 NKJV

2. Mary (overwhelmed by the spirit) sang Magnificent

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever." Luke 1:46-55 NKJV

3. Zachariah prophesied

Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, Luke 1:67-69 NKJV

4. Simeon's blessing

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." Luke 2:29-32 NKJV

G. John's mission would be prophetic

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" Luke 3:1-6 NKJV

1. Had been filled with the Holy Spirit from mother's womb
2. Why? Prophetic mission=inspired speech
3. People thought so

But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet." Luke 20:6 NKJV

H. Backdrop of all of the Spirit/prophetic activity

1. Inter-testamental period
2. Prophetic gift of the Spirit was silenced
3. Only to be revived in Messianic age
4. Now—Luke is announcing that age has arrived
5. That which had been silenced has now been revived

III. The work of the Holy Spirit in Luke's inauguration narrative.

- A. Launching of Jesus public ministry began with same two men dramatically announced in birth narrative (John/Jesus)

Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:15-16 NKJV

1. Then Jesus would be anointed by the Spirit

And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:22 NKJV

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. Luke 4:18 NKJV

2. Luke's theology: Jesus—the Charismatic Christ and unique bearer of the Spirit

- B. Christ's baptism—(all 4 Gospels, but Luke unique)

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22 NKJV

1. Descent of Spirit—in bodily form like a dove
 - a. Not mystical or visionary experience
 - b. Objective, externalized, physical manifestation
 - c. Voice reveals God is speaking again and will strengthen Him for temptation to come
 - d. God's voice

C. Christ's temptation

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. 3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" 5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' 11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" 13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. Luke 4:1-13 NKJV

1. Full of the Holy Spirit
2. Led by the Spirit
3. Returned in power of the Spirit

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. Luke 4:14 NKJV

D. Preaching of Jesus in Nazareth (4:14-30)

1. Jesus understood it as speech anointed by the Spirit

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:14-21 NKJV

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2. Jesus is claiming Messiahship—thus the inauguration of Messianic age—age of the Spirit
3. People marveled

So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" Luke 4:22 NKJV

4. Jesus challenges them to see Him as a prophet

He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.'" 24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath. Luke 4:23-28 NKJV

5. He models His ministry after prophets

- a. Raises widow's son from dead in Nain (7:16)

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people. Luke 7:16 NKJV

- b. Herod

Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, 8 and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again. Luke 9:7-8 NKJV

So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again." Luke 9:19 NKJV

- c. Controlled nature like prophets—

Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. Luke 8:22 NKJV

- d. Healed leprosy—Luke 5
- e. Multitude fed—Luke 9

6. Like Elisha and Elijah

- a. Empowered by the Spirit
- b. Rejected by strangers
- c. Just like Elijah transferred to Elisha, Jesus will transfer to disciples; the power of the Spirit

Conclusion: Only Luke tells us that Jesus begins His ministry “anointed” by the Spirit—Luke alone tells us that when tested in the wilderness, Jesus is “full of the Spirit.” Only Luke tells us He began His ministry in the “power of the Spirit”

1. The Spirit is clearly experienced.
2. The Spirit is clearly vocational.
3. Luke also tells us that the followers of Jesus must have the same vocational empowering.

And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24:48-49 NKJV

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:4-8 NKJV