

THE BREATH OF GOD

John 1:32-34

Introduction: From the very beginning the "breath of God" is mentioned in God's Word. In *Genesis 1:2* we read of the spirit of God being present and having a part in the creation of our world and heavens. The Spirit of God is perhaps a mystery to most of us and seldom do we seek to understand more. The Hebrew word is "Ru-ach" and the Greek word is "Pneuma" refers to breath, wind or air. Thus the word "spirit" is arrived at. "Spirits" are invisible to human eyes and move about as well according to the Word of God. Also the "Holy Spirit" of the Bible is as much a "person" as Jesus is or God, the Father is. We read of God the Father, God, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Bible we read where the Holy Spirit visited our earth and people under several conditions.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT VISITED DURING THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The Holy Spirit visited men only temporarily.
 - *Numbers 24:2* - Balaam prophesied.
 - *1 Samuel 10:9-11* - King Saul prophesied.
 - *1 Samuel 11:6* - King Saul gave wisdom.
 - *1 Samuel 19:20-23* - King Saul and messengers prophesied.
 - *2 Chronicles 15:1-2* - Azariah prophesied.
 - *Numbers 11:23-25* - Moses prophesied.
 - *Ezekiel 2:2; 3:24* - Ezekiel acted for God.
2. Throughout the Old Testament when the Holy Spirit came upon men, they would do some great act for God.
 - Upon completion of their assignment, the Holy Spirit would leave them.
3. After the visitation of the Holy Spirit, the lives of the men visited were greatly strengthened in faith and deeds.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON JESUS ONLY DURING HIS MINISTRY (*John 1:32-34*)

1. Never before had the Holy Spirit been visible to men before but here we see the Holy Spirit in visible form, in the form of a dove. (*Luke 3:21-22*)
2. Not only was the Holy Spirit visible, but the Holy Spirit stayed with Jesus throughout His earthly ministry, leaving only when Jesus was on the cross at his earthly death. (*John 1:33*)
3. In *John 7:39* Jesus explained why nobody else but Him received the Holy Spirit.
4. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit, Jesus could never have completed the mission He came to do. (Remember the six weeks without food and water at the onset of His ministry)

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO STAY AFTER JESUS DIED AND ASCENDED

1. After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the disciples were instructed to go into Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come.
 - They enclosed themselves in an upper room and obediently waited in fear of the Jews and Roman soldiers.
 - *Acts 2:1-4* Everything was changed on the Day of Pentecost.
 - The Holy Spirit appeared in visible form and sound.
 - Everyone in the room was filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - All began to speak in languages they had never learned.
 - All fear left them.
 - They went outside to the streets and began to preach and talk openly of Jesus.
2. What had happened? Why the sudden change?
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit gave them wisdom, courage, strength to witness and preach.
 - Their fear was gone and replaced with boldness.
 - Thousands were saved in one day.
 - The Holy Spirit never left the disciple and from that time on indwelt every believer.

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS HERE TODAY WITH US

1. The same Holy Spirit of the Old Testament, the same Holy Spirit that was in Jesus, the same Holy Spirit who was in the Disciples, the same Holy Spirit who indwelt the New Testament believers is present here today with us.
 - In order for the Holy Spirit to live within us we must repent of our sins, believe on Jesus Christ and be baptized in His name. (*Acts 2:38*)
 - In order for the Holy Spirit to use us, we must keep our bodies as clean and holy as possible. (*1 Corinthians 3:16*)
 - The unsaved do not understand the ways of the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 2:14*)

CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Spirit has no hands, feet or audible voice and therefore works through people like us.
2. We can let the Holy Spirit take control of us and use us or we can bottle the Holy Spirit up.
3. Only through the Holy Spirit can we be of service to God.
4. Church members without the Holy Spirit controlling their lives are hesitant, hard to please, hard to get along with and do very little for the Lord.
5. Most Church members lack courage to witness for the Lord, afraid that they don't know enough and are afraid of what someone might say about them.
6. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to come into our lives so strongly that we will cry out for relief.