

The Spirit – Before We Knew Him

Jesus ‘introduced’ His disciples to the Holy Spirit in John 14-16, the night He was betrayed. They had heard of the Spirit, of course, but not as a *person* – rather as the power of God at work in creation and people’s lives. This is the Holy Spirit – before we knew Him.

Keeping Our Focus on the Spirit

- A Person: He desires an active role in our spiritual lives
- God’s ‘Matchmaker’: Bringing us together with Christ
- God’s ‘Spotlight’: Illuminating and highlighting Christ

The Spirit in the Old Testament: God’s Power in Action

- Word-Picture: *ruach* (Heb.) and *pneuma* (Gk.)
Breath/Wind – blowing, invisible, irresistible, powerful
- Active in Creation and History
- Active in People
- Future Promise: The Messiah, the Church, and the Kingdom



Digging Deeper

1. Studying about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament helps us appreciate what He does for us today. We might try to illustrate it this way: *Your husband/wife grew up and had many experiences before you met and got married. If you hear stories about them from before you knew them, it gives you insight into the way they are now. It may even cause you to appreciate them more, because of what they went through or accomplished when they were younger.* Take time to reflect with your spouse about your lives before you knew each other. (Free marital therapy!)
2. Now back to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is involved in creation. In each of the following Scriptures, what is the significance of the Spirit’s action? Genesis 1.2; Job 26.13; 33.4 (see Gen. 2.7); Psalm 33.6; 104.30; Isaiah 40.12-13. Bonus: What *life-giving* role does the Spirit play in the New Testament? (See Titus 3.5; John 3.3-8; 2 Cor. 3.6.)
3. The Spirit was active in the course of human history throughout the Old Testament. What activity of the Spirit is reflected in the following verses? Psalm 104.29-30; Isaiah 34.16 (see context); 40.7 (word translated “breath” is *ruach* – ‘spirit’).
4. Of course, a primary activity of the Spirit in the Old Testament is with people. What aspects of His work are displayed in these Scriptures? Gen. 41.38; Exodus 31.1-11; 35.30-35; Num. 11.17; 27.18; 24.2; Deut. 34.9; Judg. 3.10; 6.34; 11.29; 13.24-25; 14.19; 15.14; 1 Samuel 10.10; 11.6; 16. 13; 14; 2 Sam. 23.2; 1 Chron. 12.18; 2 Chron. 15.1ff; Neh. 9.20, 30; Job 32.8; Ps. 51.10-12; 143.10; Isa. 48.16; 63.10-14; Ezek. 2.2; 11.24; 37.1; Micah 3.8; Haggai 2.1-5; Zechariah 4.6; 7.12. (Did you realize how much the Holy Spirit did in the Old Testament?!)
5. The Old Testament also looks ahead to works of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament and end times. Can you identify who, and what events, these passages refer to? Isa. 11.2; 42.1-4; 61.1-3 (see Lk. 4.18f); Ezek. 11.19; 36.25-27; 37.14; 39.29; Joel 2.28f; Zech. 12.10.