

## The Indispensable Ministry of the Holy Spirit

### Psalm 51 NKJV

**What is the true work of the Holy Spirit?**

***What is He really doing?***

***What is His power accomplishing?***

Let me help you with a little explanation...

As we said last week

(OHP) There is a word for Spirit in the Old Testament, it's *ruach*, a parallel in the New Testament is *pneuma*. It also called *Dunamis*...

They are both words that 'sound' the same...in other words, words that *indicate its meaning* by saying them...

**Both *pneuma* and *ruach* are words that have in the very pronunciation air in motion.**

And that's the intention of the word "**spirit**"; **it is motion, it is force.**

**The fundamental meaning of *ruach*, the Old Testament word for Spirit, is power, energy, force, life.**

*One-third of the times that that word appears in the Old Testament – and it appears many times – one-third of them refer to God, to the Spirit of God.*

**But the emphasis of the word *ruach*, Spirit, and the word *pneuma*, in the Greek in the New Testament is not simply to emphasize the fact that this person in the Trinity is immaterial i.e. has no substance...i.e. cant see it, touch it (usually).**

**(OHP)** That is not the point.

**The word means power, energy, force. The emphasis is on that. So when you say ruach Yahweh, the Spirit of God, you're talking about the power of God, the energy of God.**

(OHP) **Micah 3:8** gives us a good illustration of this. In **Micah 3:8** it says, ***"I am filled with power with the Spirit of Yahweh."***

To be filled with the Spirit of Yahweh is to be filled with power.

Again, it does not refer to a physical see able thing... **That is why the translation – the old translation of Holy Ghost is so inadequate.**

Ghost is simply a word that speaks of something immaterial...ie has no substance.. **And, by the way, something that doesn't exist.**

But the word is Spirit, and it is an emphasis on the on the overpowering energy.

**(OHP) In fact, I would suggest the violent force of God. And the power of God is violent.**

**One writer says, "Yahweh's ruach is the blast of God, the irresistible power by which He accomplishes His purposes, whether creative or destructive."**

*When you talk about the Spirit of God, you're talking about a person who is essentially the expression of the violent power of God, divine energy, a power that is as great and as infinite and limitless as God Himself is great and limitless.*

It is the Spirit of God, the violent power of God through that third person of the Trinity, that creates the host of heaven (OHP)

**Psalm 33:6:** **"By ruach, God creates the host of heaven."**

**That is power.**

One moment there is nothing, not even a universe, let alone a universe filled with moving bodies in orbit, and in a split second they all exist.

**That is the power of the Spirit of God, *ruach*.**

**It is the power that gives energy to judges, like Othniel and Samson in Judges chapter 3 and Judges 14.**

The *ruach* of Yahweh is the power that takes hold of His prophets, picks them up, carries them somewhere, and drops them in a different place, Ezekiel 3, Ezekiel 11, 1 Kings 18.

**We're talking about mighty force.**

Those people who are confronted and endowed by the acts of the Spirit of God experience supernatural power.

**The Holy Spirit did not limit His power to creation.**

He does not limit His power to destruction, although there are evidences in Scripture of both.

**(OHP) As far as we are concerned as believers, we need to get beyond the material expressions of divine power, which I have been speaking about, power to create, power to render the unique supernatural work of certain men on earth, power to pick up prophets and move them somewhere else, and go inside and understand that the great creative power of the *ruach* is working in the lives of men.**

**(OHP) His power is inside of us.** *(It is not to knock us down, make us babble, or flip out into some emotional trauma, it is a power that is, for the most part, invisible, actually in and of itself, it is invisible.)*

**An illustration of this power would be drawn from Psalm 51.**

**(which we read earlier)**

**You may know that David had sinned greatly – terrifying sin.**

He had lusted after a woman who was not his wife by the name of Bathsheba.

He took her in acts of adultery and then, wanting to take her permanently, arranged for her husband who was a faithful soldier to be abandoned in the heat of the battle and therefore to die at the hands of the enemy. (we see the account in 2 Samuel..12:13)

The sin was overwhelming – **murder, adultery, and David pours out his heart in Psalm 51, and he is pleading for God to forgive him.**

He's pleading for God to wash him.

**He's pleading for God to take away the pain of his guilt and his fear.**

(OHP) And kind of at the sum of it in verse 11 of Psalm 51, he says this: **“Do not take your *ruach* from me.” Do not take Your Spirit from me.** He's not talking about losing his salvation because in the next line he says, **“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.”** He hadn't lost his salvation, but he'd **lost his joy.**

(OHP) What does he mean then, **“Don't take away Your Spirit from me”?**

I know what he means.

He had something specific in mind: **Saul.**

1 Samuel 16:14

### **A Distressing Spirit Troubles Saul**

*14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.*

**Saul.**

He had a good sense of the history.

**There had only been Saul before him, so the history of monarchs was very brief.** God took away the Spirit from Saul in a special sense.

*In ancient Israel, the old covenant day, the Holy Spirit came upon kings and priests and prophets in a unique way.*

That's not all He did.

**No one could be saved without the Holy Spirit, even in the Old Testament.**

**No one could be sanctified without the Holy Spirit, even in the Old Testament.**

**The Holy Spirit was doing His work then of striving with men's hearts to produce in them repentance.**

**The Holy Spirit was moving on the writers of Scripture to write the Holy Scripture.**

*The Holy Spirit was doing His work then.*

***It doesn't become as clear as it does in the New Testament, and it isn't as complete as it is in the New Testament, but the Spirit was doing His work or no one would be saved, no one would be sanctified.***

*But in addition to that normal work of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit came in a special way on kings and priests and prophets and rested on them with supernatural power.*

**David's fear was that what happened to Saul would happen to him, (that God would remove the Holy Spirit From Him...) so this personal prayer to God is that God would sustain the presence of**

**the Spirit upon him** or he wouldn't have the power to rule the way he needed to rule.

**Power for rule, power for spiritual leadership, power for spiritual wisdom.**

*In the New Testament, that expands, that work of the Holy Spirit.*

Jesus said to His disciples in the Upper Room of the Holy Spirit, He said, **“He has been with you, He will be in you.”**

**Of course, He's been with you, or nothing would happen.**

*You wouldn't repent, you wouldn't believe, you wouldn't progress spiritually, you wouldn't be illuminated to understand the Scriptures.*

He has been with you, but He will be **in you**.

**This is not a question of absence and presence, but a question of degree.**

**There is a fullness of the Spirit now on all believers.**

Think of it this way: The Bible says that Because of Jesus...*We're all kings, we're all priests, we're all prophets, right?*

*Therefore, we all have the responsibility to proclaim the gospel.*

*We are all kings and priests.*

*So, the anointing in the fullness of the Spirit comes upon all of us to empower us, as it were, to be those who reign in the kingdom, those who take men before God as priests would do, and those who preach for God to men as prophets did.*

**(OHP) So this is the fullness of the ministry of the Holy Spirit now deposited on *all* believers as He – as we read in 1 Corinthians 12 – places us into the body of Christ, gifts us with all enabling to do all ministry that He’s committed us to do, and then we all drink of Him, which means He takes up permanent residence inside of us.**

**With** those before His coming on Pentecost, He was with them, now He **is in us.**

**It’s a question of fullness, completeness, richness.**

And what is He doing?

What is He doing in this ministry?

**There’s no more creating.**

***The material world is created.***

**His creative work now is spiritual creation.**

**He creates spiritual life, conversion, regeneration.**

**He sanctifies, He equips, He gifts, He calls, He produces fruit, He provides power.**

**And when I talk about power, I’m talking about a violent force.**

And I don’t think we often think about this, but the power exhibited by the Holy Spirit, the power exerted by the Holy Spirit in your life, is **a violent forceful power.**

**If you understand your condition before you were saved, you will understand just how *violent* it was.**

Dead in trespasses and sin, blind to the truth of God, and we’ll see more about that in Romans 8.

**Profound corruption to the core.**

*Profoundly dead, the walking dead, that's the diagnosis of all human beings before they come to Christ.*

A violent power comes over the dead and gives it life, and then sanctifying power is released to fight against and overthrow corruption.

**And one day, that same power will re-create a new you fit for eternal life in heaven.**

**This is amazing power.**

And the Holy Spirit's power is also behind the writing of Scripture.

**(OHP) All Scripture is God-breathed – pneuma from God – that speaking of Holy Spirit authored.**

Peter says that men were moved by the Holy Spirit to write.

**Let me tell you what that was.**

**Let me give you an explanation of that.**

A man sits down to write, he has his own ideas, his own thoughts, his own predispositions, his own presuppositions.

**He has the things that are interesting and important to him, and he's going to write, and all of a sudden here comes the Holy Spirit and blasts that man's mind and literally shatters everything but what the Holy Spirit wants him to put down.**

*It is a violent force that overrules all that man's thoughts, all that man's expectations and ambitions and desires, and he's left with nothing but this totally overwhelming realization that he must write only one thing and that's what the Spirit of God wants him to write.*



**That's power.**

Power to overrule men's ignorance, leading them into truth.

**Power to overrule their prejudices, power to overrule their preferences so that what you get in the Bible is the word of the Holy Spirit through writers who were writing what they wanted to write, but what they wanted to write was reduced by an overwhelmingly violent act upon their minds, carried out by the Holy Spirit, which banished everything else – everything else.**

**(OHP) That's why David's final words – [2 Samuel 23:2](#) – are: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me and His word was on my tongue.”**

Every writer of Scripture is reduced to only that which the Holy Spirit desires to be said, overpowering the limits of human knowledge, human wisdom, human understanding, then settling in on exactly what the Spirit wanted said.

**So, the same amazing powerful work is done in inspiration that the Spirit of God is effecting in the life of the believer in whom He dwells as this is the word of the Spirit of God in the Scripture.**

Because it is a perfect expression of His mind, so it is that in the life of the believer, the Spirit of God has a mind and a will in perfect accord with the Father's( Romans chapter 8), and He works to blast away everything that stands in the way of the fulfilment of that purpose and that will.

**So, there is a violence to this, although we don't experience it, we're not tortured by it, we're not twisted by it.**

*There are times when we know we're in a battle, and our flesh is fighting against the work of the Holy Spirit as we fight temptation.*

**In the New Testament, the person of the Holy Spirit is more fully revealed.**

We don't have the full picture in the Old Testament; we do have the full picture in the New Testament.

**In the New Testament, the full ministry of the Holy Spirit is revealed, as I've been saying, in the life of the believer.**

And by the way, **only to those who know Christ.**

Only to those who know Christ.

**Why is it that people attribute all of these terrible things to the Holy Spirit?**

Because they don't know Christ.

They don't know Christ. (OHP) **"When the Spirit is come" – [John 16:13](#) – Jesus said, "He will guide you into all truth, He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears He will speak, He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me. He will take of mine and will disclose it to you." "He," He says again, "takes of mine and will disclose it to you." If you belong to Christ, the Spirit will be your teacher. You will correctly understand Him and correctly understand Christ.**

**[First John 2:20](#) says He is the anointing that teaches you all things, so you don't need any men to teach you because He is your teacher. He overcomes your ignorance. He overcomes your prejudices. He overcomes your dispositions.**

***This is the ruach of Yahweh.***

**(OHP) Here is (dare I say It?) the greatest miracle of God.  
It is astounding when God heals the body.  
It is extraordinary when God hears the prayer,  
It is incredible when God provides the new job, the new car, the:  
new child.  
But none of these compares to when God creates new life.  
At our new birth God remakes our souls and gives us what we  
need, again.**

**New eyes so we can see by faith.  
A new mind so we can have the mind of Christ,**

**New strength so we won't grow tired.  
A new vision so we won't lose heart.**

**A new voice for praise and new hands for service.  
And most of all, a new heart.  
A heart that has been cleansed by Christ.**

## **(AS OHP)**

God is not looking at your outward appearance. He's looking at your heart and your motivation to do what you do.

If your heart is messed up and your motivations are not pure, you can't pin your actions on God.

God wants us to have a pure heart.

A heart that is not carrying around unnecessary stuff that will cause our actions to be perverse.

When our hearts are perverse, we behave in a way that is contrary to the expected or accepted standard of God.

Let's do things God's way and let's live our lives according to God's standards.

Amen