

THE HOLY SPIRIT:
592 Verses Examined

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How This Book Was Researched & Written

There are numerous books on the Holy Spirit, but they are based on only a few Bible verses. This study was not done to prove the author's or anyone else's pet assessment of the Holy Spirit. The study was made with the desire to forget all pre-conceived notions and opinions, and discover only God's opinion.

The Bible has **592 verses saying Holy Spirit and God's Spirit**. This is the only book of its kind to cover all verses. All other books take a few ideas about the Holy Spirit and elaborate on them.

To make sense out of **all 592 verses**, they were categorized according to what you see in the table of contents in this book ~ the types of people affected by the Holy Spirit.

Within each category, are sub-categories, usually based on how the Holy Spirit connected with each person, and how each person reacted.

The same subcategory terms will sometimes appear in each category of the people the Holy Spirit affected. At first, those little words may seem to have no particular significance. But as you progressed through them, you will see that even little words like "within" and "upon," and "full" sometimes had big significance. All those word studies prepare you for the even more dynamic later chapters in the book.

Read through these chapters, not to prove what you already believe, but with an open mind and heart that perhaps you don't believe in enough things the Holy Spirit does, or you believe in more things than the scriptures actually teach.

Let us be careful that we do not go beyond what is written (I Corinthians 4:6). Now, let us gear up for all things God's Holy Spirit does, and get ready to be amazed.

1. Relationship with Old-Testament-Times Believers in General

First, what does the word spirit mean? Everyone has a spirit. We say when someone dies that their spirit left their body. So, our spirit is what gives us life. Therefore, God's Spirit is his life force. Remember before God created the heavens and the earth. His Spirit hovered over the waters, ready to bring everything into existence.

God the Father willed it, God the Son Spoke it, and God the Spirit gave it existence.

WITHIN

Isaiah 63:11-12; I Corinthians 10:1-4

There is only one scripture regarding Old Testament believers, in general, referring to the Holy Spirit being within people. Isaiah 63:11-12 says that, when Moses and the Jews escaping their slavery in Egypt reached the Red Sea, God "remembered Moses and his people" and put his Spirit "**within** them" as they walked through the sea on dry land.

It must have taken all the courage they could muster to step foot on that seabed. Trembling, they must have looked from side to side at the waters, wondering if they would hold long enough for them to get to the other side. Trembling, wondering, and maybe thinking it was all a dream. But it was reality. An amazing reality.

When we have the Holy Spirit within us, he can stop the

floods of animosity or danger around us while we pass through. There is a parallel thought about God's Spirit being within people in the New Testament. When we drink, that substance goes within us. I Corinthians 10:1-4 recalls how the Jews drank the same spiritual drink from the spiritual Rock, which was Christ. Elsewhere Jesus said he was the water of life.

UPON - Physically

*Judges 3:10-11; Judges 6:34; 7:12, 21; Judges 11:1,29,33; Judges 14:5-6;
Judges 14:19a; Judges 15:14-15
Zechariah 4:6-9*

In the books of Judges, God's Spirit came or fell upon four different men in different decades, but all under the same circumstance. The first occurrence is Judge Othniel. "The Spirit of the Lord **came upon** Othniel, " and he judged Israel and went to war where he conquered their enemies (Judges 3:10-11).

Later, "the Spirit of the Lord **came upon** Gideon," he blew his trumpet and the entire enemy army, as numerous as the sands on a seashore, fled. (See Judges 6:34; 7:12 & 21.)

Further along in the book of Judges, "the Spirit of the Lord **came upon** Jephthah" who led his army to the Ammonites and Midianites where they defeated twenty Midianite kings. (See Judges 11:1, 29, 33.)

Interestingly, the Spirit of God came upon Samson, and he single-handedly did a lot of killing. When he was confronted by a lion, "the Spirit of the Lord **came mightily upon** him, " and he tore the lion apart. Then he proceeded to Ashkelon where "the Spirit of the Lord **came upon him mightily**," and he killed thirty men. (See Judges 14:6 and 19.) When three thousand Jews went to him and said he was just making their enemy madder, he let them tie him up with ropes so they could deliver him to the Philistines. That didn't last long. When they got him close to a Philistine city, "the Spirit of the Lord **came mightily upon** him, " and he broke the

ropes binding him as easily as we would break strings that had been burned. Then he proceeded to kill a thousand men with a donkey's jawbone. (See Judges 15:11-15.)

But there was an instance of spiritual power and might in the Old Testament that caused people to have the will to use their physical skills. God told the prophet, Zechariah, to tell Zerubbabel, the Persian-selected governor of Palestine, "not by **might** nor by **power**, but by my Spirit" the foundation of the temple had been laid.

When considering the superhuman strength the Spirit gave Samson, we can understand the superhuman spiritual strength God's Spirit can give in the spiritual realm, the realm where willpower makes all the difference in the world, sometimes without our realizing just how superhuman it is.

UPON - Mentally & Spiritually

*Numbers 11:25; Numbers 24:1-2; 31:8; Judges 3:10-11; I Samuel 10:1-7; I Samuel 18:10-12; I Samuel 19:18-24;
I Chronicles 12:14-18; II Chronicles 15:1, 8; II Chronicles 20:14-15.*

What the Spirit of God did physically to those judges, he also did mentally and spiritually. In understanding how powerful the Spirit can be in the material world, it helps us understand how powerful the Spirit can make someone in the spiritual world.

The book of I Samuel reveals some interesting things about the workings of the Spirit on King Saul. Samuel anointed Saul the first Jewish king. Then he told him to go to where the enemy Philistine garrison was, and there he would meet a group of prophets prophesying. "Then the Spirit of the Lord will **come upon** you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man." What did he prophesy? We don't know, but perhaps it was "You cannot win."

He told Saul that it would happen to him periodically. In other words, that special gift of prophecy did not stay with Saul all

the time but did sporadically. (See I Samuel 10:1, 5-7.)

But much later, after King Saul became jealous of the giant killer, David escaped his now-jealous king. So King Saul sent soldiers to capture David. But, when they came near to where David was, they met Samuel and some others all prophesying. Then, much to everyone's surprise, "the Spirit of God **came upon** the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. When the captains returned to Saul to tell him what happened, he sent them out again. This happened three times, and all three times, the Spirit of God **came upon** them, and they prophesied.

So, now Saul took things into his own hands, and he personally went out to capture (or kill) David. When he got as far as Samuel and his prophets, the same thing happened to Saul: "The Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied." He did not pursue David further. Was the prophecy that he would lose? You can read all about this in I Samuel 19:20-24.

Interestingly, then, God made people who were full of hatred (such as Saul's toward David) to prophesy. There is something similar to this in the New Testament. Philippians 1:15-18 speaks of preachers full of envy and strife who were proclaiming Christ out of selfish ambition. Paul said they didn't need to be stopped because at least they were preaching Christ, and he would rejoice in their message, though not in the men themselves.

Back in the Old Testament, when some of the strongest men in Saul's army defected to David, the Spirit of the Lord **came upon** the chief of the thirty strongest men, and he declared that God was with David and he would prevail (I Chronicles 12:1-18). The word prophecy isn't in this passage, but that is what Amasai was doing.

Centuries later, during the reign of King Asa, "the Spirit of God **came upon**" Azariah who went to the king to tell him God would be with him as long as he was faithful. Thereupon, King Asa destroyed all the idols in the land and repaired the altar of the Lord in the temple (II Chronicles 15:1-8).

Years after that when Jehoshaphat was king, a vast army of Moabites and Ammonites from Edom headed to Jerusalem to

destroy it. “The Spirit of the Lord **came upon**” a little-known Levite named Jahaziel. He went to the king and declared something we sometimes quote even today: “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

Jumping to the Christian era, we know the church has always had its enemies. At first, it was the pagans with their false gods, lasting in some parts of Europe up to the Middle Ages. Then it was the Muslims against whom misdirected Christians led crusades. Then it was infighting within the church. For awhile, it was Buddhism, Hinduism, the New Age movement, and atheism that precipitated by wars in the Far East. Now some major enemies of the church are Muslims.

Remember, this chapter is how God’s Spirit came upon ordinary people and worked through them. What advice did Paul give young Timothy? “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline.”

Today, we must bravely stand before our enemies, not flinching, refusing to give in to them, standing firm and not deserting our post. We must fight. But fight with words, the Sword of the Spirit, and with Love that conquers all. And never, ever, ever back down.

Saved or Not?

The word “prophecy” comes from the Hebrew word, *naba* meaning to abundantly utter or pour out. A marvelous example of “pouring out” is Jeremiah who was made the laughing stock of Jerusalem, and lost all his friends for predicting Jerusalem’s fall. He wanted to just quit prophesying altogether. But then he wrote this:

*But if I say, “I will not mention him or speak anymore in his name,”
His word is in my heart like a fire,
A fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
Indeed, I cannot!*

Jeremiah 20:9

So now, we come to another misconception of what God's Spirit does. Many believe that, once God's Spirit comes upon someone, he stays permanently. That is not true, as was seen above in the case of Saul and his soldiers.

An extension of this belief is that, if the Holy Spirit comes upon someone, it proves they just got saved. We shall now consider Balaam.

Numbers 24:1-2 said Balaam was a sorcerer for the king of Moab. He was probably what we would call a priest. Kings in the first few millenniums of the earth usually surrounded themselves with priestly advisors to keep them in good standing with the gods. Numbers 23 and 24 explain how Balaam prophesied in favor of the Israelites on more than one occasion. But did it last?

Revelation 2:14 recalls that Balaam taught people should eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. The apostles said in II Peter 2:15 that Christians who fall away are following the way of Balaam. So, we know Balaam only prophesied as God told him to temporarily. Then what happened to him in addition to him reverting to his old teachings? The Israelites killed him (Numbers 31:8).

FILLED/FULL

Exodus 28:3; Exodus 31:3-5; Exodus 35:30-35; Deuteronomy 34:9

There are two instances among ordinary people in the Old Testament of people being filled with the Holy Spirit. They both were given mental powers.

In Exodus 28:3, it explains that God gave wisdom to men to make garments for the priests and high priest. Three chapters later in Exodus 31:1-5, the Lord said of Bezaleel, "I have **filled** him with the Spirit of God" to have skill in all kinds of crafts in wood and precious metals. It was Bazaleel who led in the construction of the

tabernacle and all the furnishings in it.

Later, Joshua in Deuteronomy 34:9, was “**filled** with the spirit of wisdom” so he could lead the Israelites after Moses died, and take them into their Promised Land.

So, it is not always the prophet who God’s Holy Spirit helps. God gives talents to many people. We may not be filled with the particular talents we want or many talents, but we all have some talents to some degree. Skills in craftsmanship were important long ago, and they still can be important. We can help people in our neighborhood, our congregation, our city, or even people in other nations with our craftsmanship talents. We do not need to be highly intelligent or even reach the stature of a great prophet for God to use us. God needs everyone, and now.

2. Relationship with Old Testament Prophets

Came or Fell UPON

*I Samuel 16:13; II Chronicles 24:20-21; Ezekiel 2:2; 3:2;
Ezekiel 3:24-27*

SPIRITUAL

When the Spirit of God **came upon** Zechariah, a priest, he stood on a platform above the people and declared that, since they had forsaken the Lord, the Lord had forsaken them. He had hoped they would develop fear in their heart because God had given up on them (II Chronicles 24:20-21). Indeed, in that case, they should have feared!

We often talk about being saved, and we automatically think about going to heaven. But what are we being saved from? When we're saved while swimming, we don't think of getting better at it, but being saved from drowning. When someone is saved during a mountain climb, it doesn't mean he was saved to reach the top but saved from falling.

What fire are we being snatched from so we can be saved from it? What darkness? What pain? What tears? What are we being saved from?

Perhaps we should bring up hell more often. Many people are converted because they fear hell. They don't fall deeply in love with God until they mature in the faith more. They are grateful to

God, but the kind of love that makes them want to be with God more than they fear hell comes later. We need to bring out people's fears more.

These people did not fear the priest of God, for they decided to stone Zechariah, kill the messenger. But the Holy Spirit was upon him, and he had to speak the message of God.

(The prophet who wrote our "book" of Zechariah in the Bible was a different Zechariah.)

Long before either of these Zechariahs, God's Spirit came upon David when Samuel anointed him king (I Samuel 16:13). But he did not come upon David for a specific message. "The Spirit of the Lord **came upon** David from that day forward." In fact, Peter, on the Day of Pentecost called David a prophet (Acts 2:29-30). That is how we know all the psalms that David wrote were inspired by God.

Further, David made numerous prophecies about Jesus, his descendant, that he would be betrayed, afflicted, deserted, estranged, slandered, mocked, hated, tried, pierced, be buried, then come back to life from the grave. His prophecies are found in Psalms 8, 18, 21, 22, 23, 34 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 55, 69, 88, 102, 19, 116, 118 and others.

BOTH PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL

Some people speak of being "slain in the Spirit" and falling down. But notice how Ezekiel responded. "The Spirit entered me when he spoke to me, and set me **upon** my feet" then gave him a message to pass on to God's rebellious, impudent and stubborn people (Ezekiel 2:25). God warned him that the people may or may not listen to him, but he was to go and speak anyway.

It happened again in Ezekiel 3:24-27. This time "The Spirit entered me and set me **upon** my feet," same as before. Next, God told him he was to enter his house, be bound with ropes so he could not leave. Further, he would not be able to speak until God gave him a message to give the people.

Notice what was similar in both cases. The Holy Spirit did not make Ezekiel fall down onto the floor. The Spirit made him stand up. Never, in the entire Bible, did the Holy Spirit ever make someone fall down.

Went/Lifted/Took/Brought UP

*II Kings 2:9-11; II Kings 2:16; Ezekiel 3:12-15; Ezekiel 8:3a;
Ezekiel 11:1-2; Ezekiel 11:24; Ezekiel 37:1; Ezekiel 43:1-5*

LITERAL MOVEMENT TO HEAVEN

Let's look at Elijah. II Kings 2:16 says that Elijah's students thought the Spirit of the Lord had **taken** him **up** to some mountain or down into a valley. What had actually happened is that the Spirit of the Lord had taken him all the way up to heaven (verses 9-11).

So, when the Christian dies, surely it is God's Holy Spirit who takes us from this life to the next in glory. What comfort. What gladness. We are never left alone.

MOVEMENT BY VISION TO HOLY PLACE

All of the instances noted below happened to Ezekiel, the one God's Spirit stood up onto his feet, as stated above. Chapter 3, verses 12 and 13 explains that, when Ezekiel was **lifted up**, he went in a vision to heaven.

In 8:3; 11:1-2,24; and 43:1-5, Ezekiel, while in Babylon (today's Iraq), he was **lifted up** by the Spirit and brought by visions of God to the temple in far-off Jerusalem. It had to have been a vision because the temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed. Then God's Spirit **lifted** him **up** again and returned him to Babylon.

One time, the Spirit of the Lord **brought** him to a valley full of bones (Ezekiel 37:1). This too, of course, was a vision. If you read the whole account, you will see that Ezekiel watched flesh return to

the bones and life returned to the bodies ~ all in his very symbolic vision. Even today this vision can be a comfort because there can be a congregation about to die, but God puts new life into it and it grows again. The same with individuals falling away.

A later vision ~ Ezekiel's final vision ~ was when God's Spirit **brought** him to the east gate of Jerusalem. Remember, Jerusalem had been destroyed, and this was only a vision. Then the Spirit **lifted** him **up** and brought him to the inner court of the temple. This vision was reassurance that both the holy city of Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt someday.

What comfort to the Jews far from their homeland. As nations fall today, we can take comfort that perhaps some day in another generation it can rise again by returning to God.

CARRIED/TAKEN

I Kings 18:12; II Peter 1:20-21; Micah 3:8

LITERAL MOVEMENT TO ANOTHER PLACE

Elijah told Obadiah to tell the king where he was hiding. But Obadiah objected, saying that the king might punish him for giving false information. He said, "...the Spirit of the Lord will **carry** you to a place I do not know" (I Kings 18:12).

This does not say whether it involved walking to another location or suddenly appearing in another location. The important thing is that movement occurred.

SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT OF THE MIND

Peter, in the New Testament, explained that the prophets were **carried along** by the Spirit to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:20-21). Some translations say they were **moved**, but it comes from the same Hebrew term.

We must never forget when we read those words on the pages of our Bible that a real person was carried along by the Spirit, was inspired by the Spirit to write those words down so they could be preserved from one generation to another for thousands of generations yet unborn. How blessed we are.

SPEAK/SPOKE/PROPHECY

Deuteronomy 34:9-10; I Samuel 16:13 (Acts 2:29-30); I Samuel 19:20; II Samuel 23:1-2; II Kings 2:5, 15, 17; Nehemiah 9:30; Zechariah 7:11-12; Matthew 22:43; Acts 1:16; 2:29-28; I Peter 1:10-12; II Peter 1:20-21

When the Spirit moved a prophet, he spoke the words of the Lord. Here is a list of all such statements in the writings of each of the prophets in the Old Testament.

David (Psalms) "the Lord spoke by me"

Isaiah – visions and "the Lord said"

Jeremiah – "the word of the Lord came unto" and "the Lord said"

Ezekiel – visions and "the word of the Lord came unto"

Daniel – visions

Hosea – "the word of the Lord came unto" and "the Lord said"

Joel – "the word of the Lord came to"

Amos – visions and "Thus says the Lord" and "hear the word"

Obadiah – vision

Jonah – "the word of the Lord came unto"

Micah – "the word of the Lord came to" and "the Lord said"

Nahum – "the burden of the vision"

Habakkuk – "the burden he saw"

Zephaniah – "the word of the Lord came unto"

Haggai – "the word of the Lord came unto"

Zechariah – "came the word of the Lord unto"

Malachi – "the burden of the word of the Lord"

A special note here about David. II Samuel 23:1-2 says God

spoke by him, and Peter referred to David in several places in Acts 1 and 2 as the prophet “through whom the Holy Spirit spoke.” If the Holy Spirit spoke through David, he did so through all the prophets.

FILLED/FULL

The prophet, Micah, said he was **full** of power by the Spirit of the Lord to declare his message (Micah 3:8). When something is full, it can easily spill over. When poured out, it comes rushing out. The word “prophecy” literally means to pour out. Jeremiah 20:9 explains this phenomenon that prophets experienced. I quoted it in chapter one, but it is so dynamic, so heart-stirring, here it is again:

*But if I say, “I will not mention him or speak anymore in his name,”
His word is in my heart like a fire,
A fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
Indeed, I cannot!*