

# Pneumatology

**Illustration:** Example of windblown trees in Utah. Wind is not seen, but the evidence is.

Evidence of the Holy Spirit can be seen, evaluated, and understood.

Pneumatology= **Pneuma** = wind, breath, spirit **Ology** = the study of.

Too many within the church misunderstand WHO the Holy Spirit is. In almost every presentation and discussion of pneumatology, the first and foremost consideration is distinguishing that He is a person and He is the third person of the tribune Godhead.

Kevin J. Conner defines the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as follows:

***The Holy Spirit is the third divine person of the eternal Godhead, co-equal, and coexistent with the Father and the Son. His ministry is to convict and convert man as well as to reveal the Son and the Father to the believer. Since the glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit in all His glorious operations is working through all who believe on the Father through the Son.***

While I don't agree with everything Conner might espouse, he makes important distinctions here.

1. The Holy Spirit is a person.
2. The Holy Spirit is co-equal and coexistent with the Father & Son.
3. The Holy Spirit convicts, converts, reveals the Father & Son, and is working in every believer.

## **I. Who is The Holy Spirit?**

- He is a person. **NOT** an abstract force, or impersonal form of energy.
- The idea of Father or Son is relatable. Idea of invisible Spirit is more abstract for us.
  - Jesus had a physical body, physically hung on cross, & was human.
  - We can sympathize w/ His pain when we look at the cross.
  - Yet, when we read the Spirit is grieved by our sin, we struggle to relate.
  - It may not have the same impact for us, though it should.

### **The Holy Spirit is a Person Because He Possesses the Attributes of a Person.**

#### **1. He has feelings**

- **Eph. 4:25-32** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit
- Word for grieve implies sadness and even offense.
- **Hebrews 10:29** He can be insulted just like you and me.

#### **2. He Has a Mind & He Thinks**

- **I Cor. 2:10-13** The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God.
- The Holy Spirit is the person who communicates things freely given to us by God.
- The Holy Spirit teaches us about God and the mysteries of God which we could not know otherwise without him.
- The Holy Spirit instructs us regarding the Word of God.

#### **3. He Has A Will**

- **I Cor. 12:11** He distributes gifts as HE wills and pleases.
- Gifts from God are not random acquisitions that we have been given.
- They have been distributed with intentionality and design, with a purpose.
- **Acts 16:6-11** He purposefully prevented Paul from going East & Northeast
- The Holy Spirit was preparing a harvest for Paul in Macedonia.

#### **4. He Is Described Like a Person, He Behaves Like a Person, He Relates Like a Person**

- **Acts 10:19-21** He is to be obeyed like a person is to be obeyed.
- He spoke to Peter in a way that Peter understood the instruction.
- **Acts 5:3** Annanias lied to the Holy Spirit. An abstract form of energy cannot be lied to.
- **7:51** Stephen told his accusers, *"You are a stiff-necked people with hard hearts and ears that resist the Holy Spirit just like your fathers did."*
- **John 16:8** He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- **John 16:13-14** He guides, He hears, He speaks, and He interacts with the Father & Son.

**Illustration:** We could say that The Holy Spirit signs His emails "He, Him, His"

## **II. What Did His Presence Look Like in the Old Testament?**

It is generally agreed that there are about 90-100 references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. Not everyone agrees each of these is a direct and obvious reference to the Holy Spirit.

### **1. He Was Active in Creation**

- **Gen. 1:2** The Spirit hovered over the unfashioned Earth.
  - Mykel once taught that “formless” is better translated as a wasteland, or barren.
- **Isaiah 40:12-14** The Holy Spirit was present and active with the Father & Son planning creation
- **Job 33:4** *“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”*
  - Holy Spirit was active in giving life to mankind.
- **Psalm 33:6** *“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.”*
  - Holy Spirit was active in creating the heavens.
- **Psalm 104:30** *“Thou dost send forth Thy Spirit, they are created and thou dost renew the face of the ground.”*
  - Holy Spirit was active in creation of the animals.

### **2. He Was Responsible for Inspiring the Authors and Prophets of the Old Testament**

- **II Peter 1:21** Prophecies were not born of man’s will but by the movement of the Holy Spirit.
- **II Timothy 3:16** *“All scripture is God breathed.....”* (Old & New Testaments)
- **II Samuel 23:2** *“The Spirit of the Lord spoke to me, And His word was on my tongue.”*
- **Micah 3:8** *“But I am full of the courage that the Lord’s Spirit gives, and have a strong commitment to justice. This enables me to confront Jacob with its rebellion, and Israel with its sin.”*
  - The Holy Spirit gave the words, and ALSO gave the courage to speak.
- **Psalm 110** Jesus quoted this with Pharisees regarding David’s everlasting throne. Jesus said the Holy Spirit enabled David to call the Messiah Lord.
- **Acts 4:25** Peter credits the Holy Spirit for giving David the Words to write Psalm 2.
- **Acts 28:25** Paul quoted **Isaiah 6:9-10** when he invited the Jewish Leaders to the house he was imprisoned to reason with them and share the Gospel.

### **3. His Presence Was Not Permanent & Mostly Relegated to the Nation of Israel**

- Ryrie summarizes the nature of the Spirit to the believer with 3 words
  1. He was **IN** certain ones.
    - **Gen. 41:38** Pharaoh recognized that the Spirit was IN Joseph
    - **Num. 27:18** The Spirit was IN Joshua.
    - **Dan. 4:8, 5:11-14, 6:3** King Belshazzar recognized the Spirit in Daniel
  2. He came **UPON** some.
    - **Num. 24:2** Spirit came upon Balaam & he blessed Israel (initially)
    - **Judges 3:10** Spirit came upon Othniel (Israel’s first judge), land had peace.
    - **Judges 6:34** Spirit came upon Gideon to assemble men against Midian
    - **I Sam. 10:9-13** Spirit came upon Saul & he was dramatically changed.
    - **I Sam. 16:14** Spirit left Saul & an evil spirit began to torment him.
  3. He **FILLED** some.
    - **Exodus 31:1-5, 35:31** God filled Bezalel with His Spirit so he could lead the construction of the temple. It appears to be a specific assignment.

### **III. What Does His Presence Look Like in the New Testament & Today?**

Before we jump directly to examples, it's important to recognize 2 distinct contrasts that we have been told would take place regarding the Holy Spirit's ministry pre and post crucifixion.

#### **Distinction #1: He Would Be Given As A Permanent Gift AFTER the Cross**

**John 14:16-17** Jesus Gives 4 promises regarding the Holy Spirit

1. He will be dispatched by the Father and **remain with believers forever**.
2. He is **NOT received** or known by unbelievers.
3. He **currently abides WITH** the disciples.
4. He **will be IN the disciples** at some point in the future when Jesus is gone.

#### **Distinction #2: He Would Be Given to **ALL** mankind.**

**Joel 2:28-29 / Acts 2:17**

- God promised a day when He would make the Holy Spirit available to all who believe.
- Holy Spirit would NOT be just for Israel, but for all who call upon the name of the Lord.

#### **These Two Promises Reveal a Distinct Shift In The Holy Spirit's Work With People.**

- He dwells in the believer forever and is not external or temporary.
- He comes to all who believe, not just the Nation of Israel.

### **Three Specific Ministries of The Holy Spirit In the New Testament & For Us Today**

#### **1. The Holy Spirit **Indwells** Us**

- **John 7:37-39, Acts 11:16-17, Romans 5:5, II Cor. 5:5, Romans 8:9-11**
- Each of these passages reveal that the Holy Spirit is given as a gift to each believer.
- He is not given based on performance or credentials. Just faith in Jesus.

#### **2. The Holy Spirit **Seals** Us**

- **II Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13-14, Eph. 4:30**
- Sealing guarantees that God will ultimately fulfill His justification of us.
- The Holy Spirit's sealing of us is the deposit on our inheritance of God's Kingdom.

**Illustration:** Banking, earnest money that reveals you're good for the payment.

#### **3. The Holy Spirit **Sanctifies** Us**

- **Sanctify** = to be set apart for holiness.

##### **1. Positional Sanctification** = Our eternal position in Christ Jesus.

- **I Cor. 1:2** *"....to the saints in Corinth, those sanctified in Christ Jesus."*
- **Heb. 13:12** *"Jesus suffered in order to sanctify the people through his blood."*
- **Acts 20:32** Farewell to Ephesian *"I commend you to God & His word which is able to build you up and give to you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."*
- **I Cor. 6:11** *"....but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God."*
- The Holy Spirit participates in sanctifying our position in Christ.

##### **2. Progressive Sanctification** = The process of being transformed more like Jesus now.

- **Phillipians 2:12-13** *"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling..."*
- This is the process of aligning our actions and lives with our position in Christ.
- **Romans 8:13** reveals the Holy Spirit is the agent who enables this process.
- **Romans 5:3-5** Exulting in tribulation, and persevering is not natural. This happens as a result of the love that has been given to us by the Holy Spirit.
- **Galatians 5:22-23** is "The FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" love, joy, peace, patience, kindness are not natural qualities. They are NOT default dispositions.

**II Cor. 3:18** *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

**Illustration:** Subtractive sculpting vs. additive sculpting.  
Subtractive the artist has to see the end within the medium.  
The artists has to progressively chisel away at the portions that don't look like the end.

The Holy Spirit's assignment for the Believer is to transform us into the image of Christ.  
He begins with the big stuff and progressively comes after everything that does not look like Jesus.

How amazing is it that we have a great helper, a counselor, God Himself sent as a gift for us.  
We have access and can tap into the power of God almighty, when we choose to allow our hearts and minds to be transformed by Him.

It begins with understanding WHO the Holy Spirit is.  
Then understanding WHAT He has done for us by sealing us and guaranteeing our salvation.  
And continues with allowing Him to transform us as only HE can.

We are not transformed by our works and own efforts, but by the power of God.