

DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WEEK 2 – WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

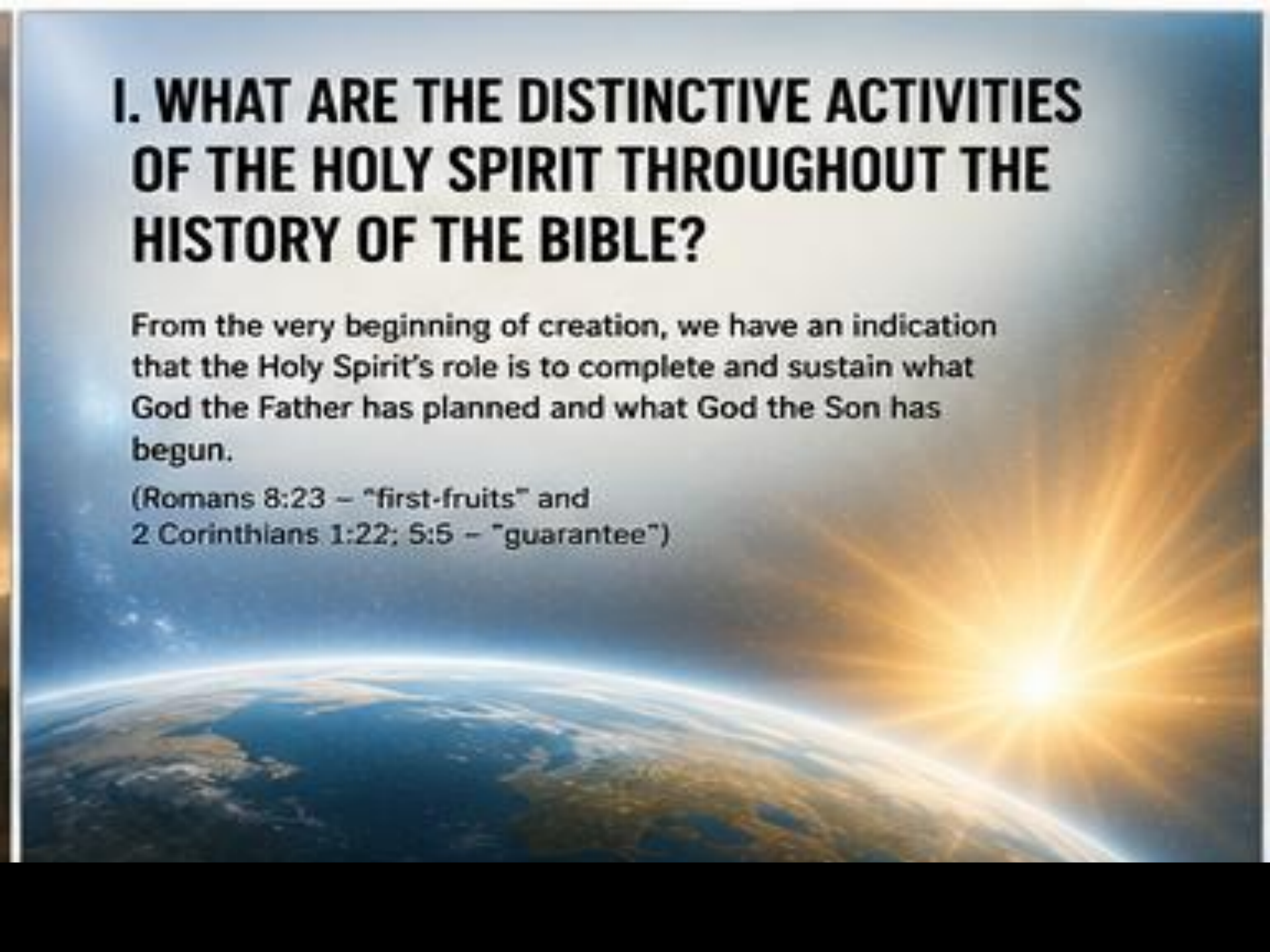
“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.” – John 14:16



I. WHAT ARE THE DISTINCTIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE?

From the very beginning of creation, we have an indication that the Holy Spirit's role is to complete and sustain what God the Father has planned and what God the Son has begun.

(Romans 8:23 – “first-fruits” and
2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5 – “guarantee”)



THE TWO GREAT WORDS

- **The written word – 2 Peter 1:20–21**
 - “Carried along by the Holy Spirit” – Greek verb used refers to guidance by the unseen hand of the Holy Spirit, both in the moment of writing and in the numerous circumstances of the writer’s life – culminating in the production of the Scripture.
- **The living word – John 14:13–14**
 - When we pray in alignment, according to His will, God is given credit for the work manifested by the Holy Spirit (rather than the person performing the work).
 - All miracles and manifestations of God’s presence are meant to make God’s greatness known to all those around.
 - God’s *dunamis* (power)
 - appears 117–120 times in Scripture
 - translated as power, strength, ability, or might



THE TWO GREAT WORKS

- The work of creation – Genesis 1:2
 - “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep.”
 - “and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters”
 - Sustaining and manifesting God’s immediate presence
 - Ruach “spirit” or “wind” → translated as “Spirit of God”
 - Source of human life – Psalm 104:30; Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4
- The work of redemption – Revelation 22:17
 - An invitation by the Holy Spirit to salvation and eternity with Jesus in heaven.



A. OVERARCHING MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



1. Life-giving source in Jesus's virgin birth – Luke 1:35

- Protected the Messiah from contamination of sin inherited through one's father



2. Inspired the writers of God's Word – 1 Peter 1:20–21

- Scripture is infallible, inerrant, and wholly trustworthy, protected from human contamination



3. Primary roles today:

- Glorifying God – John 16:14
- Indwelling believers to empower what God has called – Acts 1:8
- Convicting unbelievers of sin and coming judgement – John 16:7–11

B. OLD TESTAMENT (O.T.) COVENANT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Regeneration – “Circumcision of the heart” – Deut. 30:6

- Covenant relationship – The Holy Spirit’s role emerges in this context as a transformative within the heart of the believer.
 - Ezekiel 11:19–20 – God’s promise for a new heart and His Spirit, which enables obedience and faithfulness.
 - Hebrews 11:13–14 – shows OT believers “welcomed” God’s promises by faith, which indicates the Spirit’s role in enabling that faith.
- Heart transformation and spiritual renewal/rebirth
 - Ezekiel 36:26–27 – This heart circumcision results in loving God completely and gaining intimate knowledge of Him, with their sins forgiven.
- The OT prophets articulated this transformation in vivid terms:
 - Ezekiel 37:1–14 – Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones illustrates how God breathes life into the spiritually dead
 - Jeremiah 31:33–34 – describes God writing His instructions on people’s hearts, while God promises to give people unified purpose for worship and place within them a desire to serve Him forever. (Jeremiah 32:39–40)



2. HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS BY INDWELLING OR FILLING

- He worked to reveal God's words to OT prophets
 - Examples: Num. 24:2; Ezek. 11:5, 24:12
- He Gives Evidence of God's Presence
 - Holy Spirit came upon the seventy elders with Moses
 - Causing them to prophecy – Numbers 11:25-26
- He came upon the judges to enable them to great works of power and to deliver Israel from their oppressors.
 - Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14, et al.
- The Spirit "came upon" anointed people of God, such as:
 - Joshua – Numbers 27:18
 - David – 1 Samuel 16:12-13
 - Saul – 1 Samuel 10:10
- He came upon individuals for specific tasks planned by God.
 - The indwelling was a sign of God's favor upon that individual's life (in the case of David).
 - If God's favor left an individual, the Spirit would depart (e.g. in Saul's case in 1 Samuel 16:14)
 - The indwelling of the Holy Spirit doesn't always indicate that person's spiritual condition (e.g., Saul, Samson, and many of the judges).
 - He came upon certain OT individuals for specific tasks,



3. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS

- He gives life to all animate creatures, whether on the ground or in the sky or sea, "for when you send forth your Spirit, they are created." – Psalm 104:30
- He gives and sustains human and animal life.
 - Job 34:14–15
- He empowered Joshua with leadership skills and wisdom
 - Num. 27:18, Deut. 34:9
- He empowered the judges to deliver Israel from their oppressors
 - Othniel – Judges 3:10
 - Gideon – Judges 6:34
 - Jephthah – Judges 11:29
 - Samson – Judges 13:25; 14:6, 9; 15:14
- He came mightily upon Saul to arouse him for battle against the enemies of Israel – 1 Samuel 11:6
- David anointed king, "the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward" – 1 Samuel 16:13
 - He equipped David to fulfill the task of kingship
 - to which God had called him
- Holy Spirit endowed Bezalel with artistic skills for the construction of the tabernacle and its equipment – Exodus 31:3; 35:31



4. RESTRAINT AND GUIDANCE

- Restraint

- He restrains man's sinfulness, which can be removed when God's patience regarding sin reaches a "boiling point." – Genesis 6:3
 - Echoed in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–8 – "Until the preordained time when the "man of lawlessness" (v. 3) will be revealed, the Holy Spirit restrains the power of Satan and will release it only when it suits His purposes to do so."
- Holy Spirit ultimately left Samson when he persistently disobeyed God – Judges 16:20

- Guidance

- He guided Israel in the wilderness – Nehemiah 9:20
- He guided the nation during the period of the judges – Judges 2:18
- He guided the prophets to speak God's words – 2 Peter 1:21



SUMMARY OF OLD TESTAMENT WORK



Transforms hearts and regenerates believers
(Circumcision of the heart)



Reveals God's Word through prophets
and inspired leaders



Empowers individuals for specific tasks
and mighty works



Shows evidence of God's presence
and favor



Restrains sin and guides God's people
according to His will

**All pointing to the coming fullness of the Holy Spirit
in the New Covenant!**

LOOKING AHEAD

The Old Testament ministry of the Holy Spirit prepared the way for the New Covenant, where He would come to dwell permanently in believers, empowering the Church to glorify Christ and accomplish God's purposes in the world.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

– John 16:13





THE HOLY SPIRIT

**COMPLETES, SUSTAINS,
EMPOWERS, AND LEADS**

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

To God be the glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.

— Ephesians 3:21