

The Spirit's Work in the Inauguration of the New Covenant: Gospels and Acts

I. As in the Old Testament (OT), the Spirit Regenerates the Spiritually Dead

- A. The Holy Spirit's work in the OT included regenerating spiritually dead sinners (Deut. 30:6).
- B. This work continues when the Messiah comes (John 3:1-8)

II. The Spirit Empowers Jesus's Messianic Ministry

- A. First, the miraculous conception of the Messiah—ensuring that in Jesus we have one person who is fully God and man (Luke 1:33-35).
- B. Second, we see that the Spirit empowers the Messiah's ministry—Jesus does ministry as a human in the power of the Spirit (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-2, 4:14-20).

III. The Spirit is Given as the *Paraclete* to Indwell New Covenant (NC) Believers

- A. Paraclete: "helper," "comforter," "advocate."
- B. What does Jesus promise in his "farewell discourse" in John 14:15-17?
 - 1. When will this happen? (See John 7:38-39, 12:23-24, and 20:19-22.)
 - 2. How and why is this different from the OT role of the Holy Spirit? (The temple, where God's special presence dwells among his people, changes: John 1:14, 4:21-26, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, 2 Cor. 6:16.)
 - 3. Summary: Upon the enactment of the NC, the Spirit is now given to indwell all believers.
- C. Application
 - 1. We have a calling: We are the temple of God
 - a. Gospel light shines through the church.
 - b. Holiness must mark us.
 - 2. We have comfort: the Spirit of God as our Helper/Comforter.
 - a. Rely on him when you face temptation, when you sin, and when you are fearful or anxious.

IV. The Spirit's Work in Acts

- A. Unique Work: The Baptism of the Spirit gives clear, divine approval to the church and shows that the gospel church is made up of all who believe in Jesus.
 - 1. The pouring out of the Spirit ("baptism of the Spirit") in Acts happens at key moments in the early days of the church—to show the church is God's NC people.
 - 2. We see that it is in fulfillment of Joel 2 and is accompanied by speaking in tongues and prophecy.
 - 3. This happens to the newborn church at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-18), to Samaritan believers (Acts 8:14-17), to Gentile believers (Acts 10:44-47), and to John's disciples (Acts 19:1-7).
- B. Ongoing Work: Believers need to be full of the Spirit (a lifestyle marked by the Holy Spirit's presence and of dependence on his power) for ministry and to live a faithful and bold Christian life (Acts 6:3-5, 4:29-31).