

# Living in Awe of the Holy Spirit – week 1

## 3/17/2019

This morning we begin a 4 week study on “*Living in Awe of the Holy Spirit*”. We began this series of “*Living in Awe*” with a discovery of the *Awe of God* and then last week finished up the *Awe of Jesus*. And now for the next 4 weeks we’re going to be studying the gift of the Holy Spirit which, my desire and prayer, is that as we study it we will be transformed through a deeper understanding and total dependence upon God’s Holy Spirit.

The series will lay out as follows:

**Week 1** – basic understanding of the Spirit and His activity in the Old Testament

**Week 2** – the work of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus

**Week 3** – the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church (book of Acts)

**Week 4** – the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ’s followers

And there will obviously be some overlap between each of these weeks.

### Nature of the Holy Spirit:

#### He possesses God’s qualities

##### 1. He is eternal

(Hebrews 9:14) How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

##### 2. He is Omnipotent (all powerful)

(1 Corinthians 2:4-5) My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the **Spirit’s power**, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.

There is an incredible power which is made available through the HS

##### 3. He is omniscient (all knowing)

(1 Corinthians 2:9-11) However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way **no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God**.

##### 4. Omnipresent

(Psalms 139:7-10) Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? {8} If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

##### 5. The HS is an equal member of the Trinity

(Matthew 28:18-20) Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. {19} Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

He’s equated with God in Acts 5 when Peter first declares to Ananias that he lied to the Holy Spirit and right after that declared that he’d lied to God (**Acts 5:3-4**)

## The Holy Spirit has a personality

### 1. The Holy Spirit is a person not an It

(John 16:13) *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

The HS is always referred to in the masculine tense not neuter.

### 2. The Holy Spirit speaks (Acts 13:2)

### 3. Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5 Annanias & Saphira)

(Acts 5:3-4) Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

4. **Holy Spirit can be grieved:** grieving is breaking someone's heart. You can't grieve a rock. Ephesians 4:30 (NIV) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
- That's way different then merely breaking a rule. This reminds us that being a follower of Jesus Christ is not about following rules and regulations but it's about a relationship with God and the Holy Spirit has been given to each and every person to enable us to successfully and continually deepen that relationship. And when we choose not to do that we grieve the Holy Spirit, we break his heart, just like it breaks a parents heart to see their children make poor choices which leads them down a destructive path.

## The Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament

### 1. The Holy Spirit was active in creation

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV) *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

### 2. The Holy Spirit equipped individuals with craftsmanship (to build the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant) (Exodus 31:1-5)

### 3. The Holy Spirit equipped others for leadership

- **Moses** had become overwhelmed with leading and serving as judge over the Israelite nation, so God took some of the power of the Spirit that was upon Moses and placed it on 70 others. Numbers 11:17 (NIV) *I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.*

Interestingly, when God actually did this (vs. 25) it says that these 70 men prophesied, but they never did it again. It's as if God was trying to give them credibility to the rest of the nation of Israel that they would be serving as judges over.

- Similarly, God also equipped **Joshua** to take over for Moses by placing the Spirit on him, just as he did with Moses (Deut. 34:9).
- The Holy Spirit equipped **Saul** (1 Samuel 10:6) – although later in Saul's life the Spirit left Saul (1 Samuel 16:14).

- **David** (1 Samuel 16:13) to serve as king. After his sin with Bathsheba was exposed, David pleaded with God not to take the Spirit away from him (Psalm 51:11)

#### 4. The Holy Spirit equipped others as deliverers

- **Othniel** (Judges 3:9-10)
- **Gideon** (Judges 6:34)
- **Jephthah** (Judges 11:29)
- **Samson** (Judges 13:24-25; 14:6, 19; 15:14)

#### 5. The Holy Spirit equipped others to prophecy (declare God's truth)

- Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:15)
- Azariah, son of Obed (2 Chronicles 15:1)
- Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20)
- Isaiah (Isaiah 48:16; 59:21)
- Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:2)
- Micah (Micah 3:8)
- Jahaziel - When **king Jehoshaphat** was surrounded by huge threatening armies and was scared and didn't know what to do, the Spirit empowered **Jahaziel** to speak words of encouragement to the king (2 Chronicles 20:14-15)
- There's a somewhat humorous use of prophecy when king Saul is trying to capture David for the purposes of killing him. He finds out David is hiding out with Samuel the prophet so Saul sends a bunch of soldiers to capture him. But when they arrive they see a group of prophets also there and when they hear them prophesying, the soldiers start prophesying as well. Saul hears about this and sends a second group and the same thing happens. So, a third time Saul sends another group of soldiers and they start prophesying as well. So, finally, Saul has had enough of this nonsense and so he goes himself. And while he's on the way there, the Spirit of God comes upon him and he begins prophesying. And when he arrives, he strips off all his clothes and laid there naked all day long (1 Samuel 19:20-24). It's as if God is telling Saul, I'm the real king here - not you.

#### 6. The Holy Spirit imparted to David the plans for building the temple, which he then passed down to his son, Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:12)

### Looking Forward:

7. **The Holy Spirit will empower the Messiah** (Isaiah 11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1)
8. **It's prophesied that one day the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all people** (Joel 2:28-29) which Peter recognizes happened on the Day of Pentecost.
9. **It's also prophesied that God would one day, put the Holy Spirit inside of each and every follower of Jesus Christ** as a transforming influence to change our hearts from hearts cold to God to hearts that are open and sensitive to God's love and leading (Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26-27)

The difference we'll see as we switch to the New Testament next week, is that in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was given for **temporary help** for a **specific purpose**. Graham Cooke says that in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit **visited** individuals while in the New Testament, beginning with Jesus, the Holy Spirit **inhabits** His people.

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### Nature of the Holy Spirit

#### He Possesses God's Qualities:

1. He is eternal (Heb. 9:14)
2. He is omnipotent (all powerful) (1 Cor. 2:4-5)
3. He is omniscient (all knowing) (1 Cor. 2:9-11)
4. He is omnipresent (everywhere) (Psalm 139:7-10)
5. He is an equal member of the Trinity (Mt. 28:19-20)

#### The Holy Spirit has a personality:

1. He is a person not an "it" (John 16:13)
2. He speaks (Acts 13:2)
3. He can be lied to (Acts 5)
4. He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)

#### The Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament:

1. He was active in creation (Genesis 1:1-2)
2. He equipped individuals with craftsmanship (Exodus 31:1-5)
3. He equipped others for leadership (Numbers 11:17)
4. He equipped others as deliverers (lots of judges) (Judges)
5. He equipped others to prophecy (Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, etc.)
6. He imparted the plans for building the temple (1 Chron. 28:12)

#### Looking Forward:

1. He will empower the Messiah (Isaiah 11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1)
2. He will one day be poured out on all people (Joel 2:28-29)
3. He will be inside every follower of Jesus Christ (Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26-27)

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