

## The Holy Spirit- Study 4

### Introduction

In part 3 of the study of the Holy Spirit we studied that the Bible is the **Inspired Word of God** because God Himself was directly involved in the writing of the Bible. We studied that **The Holy Spirit** Himself personally superintended the human authors of the books of the Bible so that the words themselves were a transcript of God's very words to mankind. **The Holy Spirit** is the Source of Inspiration, we cannot properly understand Scripture without Him. He revealed God's will to the writers of the Bible. He gave understanding of spiritual truths to the Apostles and He does to us.

Today we are going to look at the work of **The Holy Spirit at work in the Gospels**. The gospels are made up of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In these four books we see the amazing work of **The Holy Spirit** that brings understanding as each writer focuses on different aspects of Jesus. So by way of an introduction to the gospels lets start by looking at Ezekiel 1:5 where we read about the four living creatures. Each of these reflect Jesus. Remember all scripture is prophetic and **The Holy Spirit** inspired Ezekiel to write this. *And in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, <sup>6</sup>but each of them had four faces and four wings.* And in Revelation 4:6 -7 *Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup>The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.*

Each of these creatures is revelation of the nature of Jesus discovered in the gospels. Matthew portrays Jesus as the **King (Lion)**, Mark portrays Jesus as the **Servant (OX)**, Luke portrays Jesus as the **Man**, and John portrays Jesus as the **Divine Son of God (Eagle)**. All four depict the glory of Jesus. **The Holy Spirit** brings revelation of who Jesus is and brings glory to Jesus.

**Matthew:** Although the writer of the Gospel of Matthew is anonymous it is firmly believed it was written by Matthew who used to be a tax collector before he became a disciple of Jesus. Matthew's focus is to present Jesus not only as the Messiah but as the Son of David and therefore Jesus' right to be King. He shows how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament Prophecy. How Israel's rejection of Jesus is in accordance to prophecy, and how that rejection caused the transference of the divine privileges of the chosen people from the Jewish to the Christian community. Matthew was one of the original twelve and became an Apostle.

**Mark:** Once again the writer of the Gospel of Mark is anonymous. It is firmly believed that this was John Mark who was the close associate of Peter and a companion of Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Mark was not an Apostle. He is known as *Mark the Evangelist*. Mark focuses on Jesus's adult ministry, His baptism and his death. Mark portrays Jesus as a heroic man of action, healer and miracle worker. Jesus is also seen as the **Son of God**, but He keeps his **identity secret**, concealing it in **parables** so that even the **disciples** fail to understand. All this is in keeping with prophecy, which foretold the fate of the **Messiah** as **Suffering Servant**.

**Luke:** This writer is Luke the physician, a close associate of Paul. He focused on giving a historical account and evidence of Jesus as a man and all that He said and did. Luke was not an Apostle.

**John:** The writer is John the **beloved disciple**. He focused on the divinity of Jesus, and His pre-existence and His incarnation as the only begotten Son of God who became flesh. As the Lamb of God He secured the redemption of Mankind, and through His life He revealed the Father. At Jesus death the Son's glorification came at the crucifixion. John was one of the original twelve and became an Apostle.

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### The Holy Spirit and the Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:15-17 *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.* <sup>16</sup> *Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.* <sup>17</sup> *And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.* Luke 1:41 *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* Luke 1:67 *His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.* Luke 1:80 *And the child grew and became strong in the Spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.*

### The Holy Spirit and the Birth of Jesus

Luke 1:35 *The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.*

Matthew 1:18 *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 1:20 *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

### Inspiring the Praises of God at the Sight of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:25-28 *Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.*

### John's Baptism and Jesus

Matthew 3:11-12 *I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering the wheat into his barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.* See also Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16-17.

### The Holy Spirit and the Baptism of Jesus

John 1:32-33 *Then John gave this testimony: I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.* See also Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22

### The Holy Spirit and the Temptation of Christ

Mark 1:12 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert.* See also Luke 4:1.

### The Holy Spirit as the Source of Jesus' Joy

Luke 10:21 *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.*

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### The Holy Spirit and the Ministry of Jesus

Luke 4:14 *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

Jesus said Himself in Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.*

John 3:31-34 *The One who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The One who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the One whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.*

### The Power of the Spirit in Jesus was a Fulfillment of Prophecy

Matthew 12:18 *Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.* (see Isaiah 42:1-4) Matthew 12:28 *But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.* (see Daniel 2:44)

Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.* (see Isaiah 61:1-2)

### The Rejection of Jesus and Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

Matthew 12:31-32 *And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.* See Mark 3:29-30, Luke 12:10

### Men are Saved by Means of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

John 3:5-6 *Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

John 16:8-11 *When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

### The Holy Spirit Would be given to the Disciples and to all those who Believe

Luke 11:13 *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.*

John 7:37-39 *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

John 14:15-17 *If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him,*

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*because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

### **The Holy Spirit Would Facilitate True Worship**

John 4:23-24 *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*

### **The Holy Spirit Would Teach and Guide Believers**

John 14:26 *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

John 15:26 *When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.*

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.*

John 16:15 *All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*

### **The Holy Spirit Would Give the Disciples the Words to Say When Put on Trial for Their Faith**

Matthew 10:20 *For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

Mark 13:11 *Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.*

Luke 12:12 *For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.*

### **The Power of the Spirit is Vital in the Fulfillment of the Great Commission**

Matthew 28:19 *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.* As Disciples of Christ we too are given the Holy Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the authority of the triune God.

Luke 24:48-49 *You are witnesses to these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.*

John 20:22 *And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit".*

John 15:26-27 *When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me; but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

Additional Notes:

**Matthew:** There are five major references to the work of **The Holy Spirit** in Matthew.

**Mark:** There are four major references in Mark.

**Luke:** There are 13 major references in Luke.

**John:** There are five major references in John.

There are 42 major references in Acts and over 96 in the New Testament.