



Fundamentos

LESSON 46

Foundations Curriculum

The Holy Spirit in History

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Introduction

The Holy Spirit in History

In this forty-sixth lesson, we will talk about the Holy Spirit in history. We will learn about His wonderful manifestations in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, from His presence at the creation of the earth and of man until the present day.

In the previous lesson, we affirmed that the Holy Spirit is God. We learned that He is not a “God’s active force,” nor a lesser God than God the Father, or a lesser God than God the Son. On the contrary, all three are equally and perfectly God.

There is no distinction between them; they differ only in function — the function of God the Father, the function of God the Son, and the function of God the Spirit.

Today, our challenge is to show the participation of God the Holy Spirit in history. This is not an easy task, for we will need to address the subject all the way from the creation of the world to the present day.

For teaching purposes, we have divided it into two parts: the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament.

1) Manifestations and Workings of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament there are at least 88 references to the person and work of the Holy Spirit:

Manifesting Himself in some for specific tasks;

Visiting or anointing others for some specific mission;

Pouring out abundant anointing upon the prophets.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is not, as in the New, poured out upon everyone. Some men were chosen, visited, and received revelation. He granted grace to some to administer, to work

as craftsmen, to lead, to judge; He gave physical strength (as in the case of Samson) and enabled kings to administer and govern.

The Holy Spirit was not present in every person. Some of the men He worked through did not always walk in holiness. In the Old Testament, God used vessels of clay who did not obey the heart of our Father well, as in the cases of Balaam and Samson. Sadly, these are examples of wicked men who could have done the will of God and walked in holiness, yet did not do so — unlike in the New Testament.

In the New Testament, His manifestation and His presence became abundant and constant. Let us look, throughout history, at the presence of the Holy Spirit.

a) The Holy Spirit was present at the creation of the universe.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1–2 (NKJV)

Nothing existed. Everything was without form and void, and the Spirit was there, together with the Father and together with the Son. He was present at creation. The three were together in that setting.

When we study mathematics, we study the empty set, a set with no elements. What value is there in an empty set? What would man do with something without form and void? Yet that was what God had in His hands when He set out to create the whole set that is the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions — This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; There is that Leviathan Which You have made to play there. These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; May the Lord rejoice in His works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalms 104:24–35 (NKJV)

b) The Holy Spirit was present at the creation of man.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:26–27 (NKJV)

“God said” — singular; “let Us make” — plural. Here we see the presence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” Yes, we were made in the image and likeness of the Trinity.

While studying this material, I was deeply moved as I meditated on the presence of God the Holy Spirit in God's work of creation, both the visible and the invisible.

c) The Holy Spirit was manifested in the lives of the patriarchs.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, and so many others — God manifested Himself in the lives of these men. Each of them bore the unmistakable imprint of God's work on their lives..

And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.” So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.”

Genesis 40:8 (NKJV)

And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”

Genesis 41:38 (NKJV)

See the testimony of Joseph's experience with the Holy Spirit: “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”

d) The Holy Spirit granted skill, intelligence, and technical and artistic knowledge for certain tasks.

Did you know that the Holy Spirit can equip us for all of this?

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.”

Exodus 31:1–5 (NKJV)

How interesting is the presence of the Holy Spirit upon men to give them specific abilities! How much power there is in God — creative power, power to turn us men into useful instruments in His hands, doing the things that please Him.

e) He equipped and gave strength to those who cooperated in leading the people of God.

This was not a human task. Leading the people of God requires that the grace of the presence of the Holy Spirit be upon us.

So the Lord said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone."

Numbers 11:16–17 (NKJV)

Moses was weary; he had complained of his weariness, and God gave him a strategy, using his father-in-law: certain men were to be anointed, specifically, to help him.

Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!" Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!" And Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Numbers 11:25–30 (NKJV)

And the Lord said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him."

Numbers 27:18 (NKJV)

When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Judges 3:9–11 (NKJV)

But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

Judges 6:34 (NKJV)

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.

Judges 11:29 (NKJV)

And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 14:6 (NKJV)

Samson had several experiences of supernatural strength because the Spirit of the Lord took hold of him. This is the example of someone who, even though used by God and equipped by Him, did not walk wisely and in the fear of the Lord's presence.

f) The Holy Spirit upon the kings for the task of guiding and governing the people.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 16:13 (NKJV)

The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

2 Samuel 23:2 (NKJV)

This was the declaration David made concerning what God had done through his life.

g) The prophets were anointed by the Holy Spirit.

We have several prophets, but let us mention just two.

Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

Ezra 5:1 (NKJV)

h) The prophets, inspired by the Holy Spirit, prophesied about the coming of Jesus.

God the Son was the target of the prophecies inspired by the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Isaiah 53:1–7 (NKJV)

The prophets came to realize that Jesus would truly come into this world and would become man.

“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3:1 (NKJV)

i) It was promised that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all flesh.

So now we understand that, in the Old Testament, there was also a prophecy that would change the way God the Spirit would be manifested in the New Testament.

And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:28–29 (NKJV)

We have made a quick pass through the Old Testament so that we might see the powerful manifestation of God the Spirit on many occasions among the human race, from creation to the prophecy of Joel.

2) Manifestations and Workings of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

a) The Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:18–21 (NKJV)

b) The Holy Spirit confirmed to Simeon that Jesus was the Christ.

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face

of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

Luke 2:25–32 (NKJV)

c) The Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus.

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:21–22 (NKJV)

I find myself imagining what it must have been like to be in that place, at that moment, hearing that voice, witnessing that great day, when it was testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

d) The Holy Spirit led Jesus in the temptation.

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

Luke 4:1–2 (NKJV)

Many people, when they are tempted, forget that the Holy Spirit is with them and is able to help them overcome temptation.

e) The Holy Spirit was present throughout the whole ministerial life of Jesus.

This fills us with faith, for what happened with Jesus happens with us today as well.

Jesus overcame the temptations and came out full of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Luke 4:13–15 (NKJV)

Jesus comes out full of the power of the Holy Spirit and continues His ministerial life, turning toward Galilee.

Jesus received the anointing of the Holy Spirit to carry out the many tasks of His ministry.

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight

to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:16–21 (NKJV)

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

Our beloved Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit so that He might manifest all grace, all power, and all authority here on earth.

Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit.

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 12:28 (NKJV)

By the Holy Spirit, Jesus prayed and glorified the Father, revealing His kingdom.

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

Luke 10:21–22 (NKJV)

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to face the sacrifice of the cross.

how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:14–15 (NKJV)

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to all of us.

It was because of this promise that a new relationship between God the Spirit and the human race began.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:16–18 (NKJV)

As we have studied up to this point, reading so many biblical texts, we are filled with joy, security, certainty, conviction, and faith that we are not alone. There is a God present in history — a God present from eternity past.

He is a God present, by His Spirit, in every moment of the life of Jesus, giving Him victory and grace to pass through that time of pilgrimage.

And that is the same Holy Spirit who is here with us, communicating these words to our hearts right now. We can have victory only because of the presence and the dependence we have on the Holy Spirit of God.

I know that you have had experiences with the Holy Spirit, and that, just as happened with me, as you read all these verses, your eyes have been opened to a more abundant and deeper richness of the person of God the Spirit.

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 139:1–10 (NKJV)

We know about this wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit upon us. May this study lead us to have more fear of God, and more trust in this God who is present in our lives. We are never alone. God is with us; He has not left us as orphans. We have God-Spirit present not only in the history of humanity, but also present in the history of our very own lives.

May God bless us richly, so that we may keep these words in our hearts, that we may walk more and more in dependence on the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

CONCLUSION

In this forty-sixth lesson, we learned about the working of the Holy Spirit in history. We studied His manifestations in the Old and in the New Testament. We saw that, in the Old Testament, the Spirit is not poured out on everyone; there are manifestations in some individuals for specific tasks and missions and anointing upon kings and prophets. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is available to all, and we saw His work in the life of Jesus, from His conception to the cross.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

01 Testify in your own words: what has it been like for you to see the presence of the Holy Spirit in history?

02 What texts would you read to someone who has not yet seen God the Spirit present in the creation of the universe and in the creation of man?

03 Can you give at least three examples of people who were equipped by the Holy Spirit?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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