

The Power of God for the Purposes of God: The Holy Spirit and the Church of Jesus Christ

Joe Alcantar, Jr.

Background // A few years ago Joe put together a list of Scripture references with comments to help us as a pastoral team better understand appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit in the church. This isn't an academic paper, rather the fruit of one pastor's study with key references. Reading through this served to encourage our hearts and give us boldness as we pursue the mission God has given us. It's our prayer this could do the same for you!

The purpose of this study is to examine the role of the Holy Spirit in Scripture and specifically His role in the Old Testament, Gospels, Acts and the Epistles. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity and this paper will show his role from the time of creation to his importance in the birth of the church and his role in the life of a believer in Jesus. Being baptized or filled with the Spirit is critical for believers and for the church today. **The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and continues to empower believers to make us powerful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace.**

This study will rely on the very word of God that the Holy Spirit has inspired as its basis. 2 Tim 3:16 "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

"All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.:
Sovereign Grace Churches Statement of Faith, Empowered by the Spirit.

"With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God's purpose to dwell among his people entered a new era (Exodus 34:14-16; Leviticus 26:12, John 14:16-17, Acts 2:14-21). We believe the Holy Spirit desires to continually fill each believer with increased power for Christian life and witness, including the giving of His supernatural gifts for the building up of the church and for various works of ministry in the world (Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16-18, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7). We are eager to pursue God's active presence in all its breadth, that Christ may be magnified in our lives, in the church, and among the nations (Psalm 105:4, 1 Corinthians 14:1, Ephesians 2:22)."
7 Shared Values of Sovereign Grace Churches, Continuationist Pneumatology

" 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, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” Joel 2:28-29

This study will be in five sections.

Section 1. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Section 2. References to the future activity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Section 3. The Holy Spirit in the Gospels

Section 4, The Holy Spirit in the book of Acts

Section 5, The Holy Spirit in the Epistles

I. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit is introduced in the very first book of the bible and in the second verse. The Holy Spirit from the beginning was involved in creation

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2

Next we will see passages where the Holy Spirit is given to a few specific people for a work that the Lord wants them to do.

“and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work every craft.” Exodus 31:3-4

“and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence with knowledge and will all craftsmanship” Exodus 35:31

The passages in Exodus reveal how God through the Holy Spirit empowers people for specific tasks.

“And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.” Numbers 11:17

“Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.” Numbers 11:25

These two verses in Numbers show how the Lord had sent the Holy Spirit to be with Moses and then the Lord shares the Holy Spirit with other leaders. This is a preview of what the Lord would do in the New Testament.

“But Moses said to him, are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” Numbers 11:29

“And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him.” Numbers 24:2

“So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.” Numbers 27:18

This next section shows the Holy Spirit at work in the book of Judges.

“The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia in his hand.” Judges 3:10

Now the Lord raises up Judges in Israel and the first one is Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother.

“But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.” Judges 6:34

“Then the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites.” Number 11:29

“And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.” Number 13:24-25

“Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat.” Judges 14:6

The Lord clothes Samson with unusual strength through the Holy Spirit.

“And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle.” Number 14:19

“When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.” Judges 15:14

This next section will show scriptures where the Holy Spirit comes to men for prophetic ministry and purposes.

“Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.” 1 Samuel 10:6

This is the reference concerning the first king of Israel, Saul, and how the Holy Spirit came upon him and he began to prophesy.

“When they came to Gibeah, behold a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them.” 1 Samuel 10:10

“And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.” 1 Samuel 11:6

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.” 1 Samuel 16:13

“Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they prophesied.” 1 Samuel 19:20

“The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel. The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.” 2 Samuel 23:1-2

David was also a prophet as stated in Acts 2:30 “Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne”

“Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets.” Nehemiah 9:30

“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.” Psalm 51:11

David’s prayer to the Lord after Nathan the prophet confronted concerning his sins of murder and adultery.

“And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.” 1 Kings 18:12

Elijah, the fiery prophet of God who confronts Ahab and the false prophets of Baal.

“When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” 2 Kings 2:9

Elisha’s request to Elijah that a double portion of the Holy Spirit would be upon him which was fulfilled.

“The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded” 2 Chronicles 15:1

“And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, Son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly” 2 Chronicles 20:14

“Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’” 2 Chronicles 24:20

An example of the Holy Spirit coming upon one of God’s prophets to speak to his people.

“You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.” Nehemiah 9:20

“Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands”.
Nehemiah 9:30

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty give me life.” Job 33:4

“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.” Psalm 51:11

“When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.”
Psalm 104:30

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” Psalm 139:7

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!”
Psalm 143:10

II. References to the future activity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” Isaiah 11:2

Prophecy concerning Jesus the messiah.

“until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.” Isaiah 32:15

Another prophecy concerning what will happen after the messiah comes. A fresh outpouring of the Spirit.

Prophetic word concerning Jesus the messiah and the Spirit that will be poured on him.

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.” Isaiah 44:3

“ And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

Isaiah 59:21

“ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me ,because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”

Isaiah 61:1

Prophetic word quoted by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke 4:18, that he was fulfilling this word in their hearing.

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh”. Ezekiel 11:19

The book of Ezekiel has numerous references to the Spirit and this one is a specific future promise of the Spirit’s work.

“ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

Almost verbatim repeat of Ezekiel 11:19

“And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules”
Ezekiel 36:27

In the book of Joel there is a very specific prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the future.

” 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, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” Joel 2:28-29

This is the key prophetic word that was spoken through the prophet Joel that was quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost that it was being fulfilled. Whereas up to this point the Holy Spirit came upon men for the Lord’s particular purpose and tasks. Now there is a future promise of a broadening of the activity of the Holy Spirit in the “last days”.

This is a promise of the Holy Spirit being poured out on everyone, men, women, sons and daughters and servants. This is a new and different promise for the last days which began on the day of Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. One of the purposes of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit is to be able to fulfill the great commission command of Matthew 28:18-20

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and continues to empower believers to make us powerful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace.

III. The Holy Spirit in the Gospels

Matt 1:18 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:15 “for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.” Prophetic word about John the Baptist

Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.’”

Luke 1:41-42 “And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit”

Luke 1:67 “And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying”

Luke 2:25-26 “Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous 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.”

Next Scriptures concerning Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Matt 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worth to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Matt 3:16 “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him”

Matthew 12:18 “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.”

Matt 12:28 “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Mark 1:8 “I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 3:16 “John answered them all saying, ‘I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals, I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”

Luke 3:21-22 “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased’.”

Luke 4:1-2 “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and we led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.”

Luke 4:14 “And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,”

Luke 10:21 “In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, I that you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ye, Father for such was your gracious will.”

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

Luke 12:12 “for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

John 1:32 “And John bore witness; I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and it remained on him.”

John 1:33 “I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

John 3:34 “For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.”

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

John 7:37-39 “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

Jesus begins to explain about the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John.

John 14:16-17 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

John 16: 6-7 Jesus says “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16: 12-15 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

John 20:21-23 “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

IV The Holy Spirit in the book of Acts.

Acts 1:1-2 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.”

Acts 1:4-5 “And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me, **for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

In the book of Acts 1:8 it says “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus is telling his disciples that the Holy Spirit will empower them to be his witnesses starting in Jerusalem and from there to the ends of the earth. This is the primary purpose and function of the baptism with the Spirit or being filled with the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and continues to empower believers to make us powerful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace.

Even though the Apostles had been with Jesus for approximately three years they still needed something more, they needed the power of the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses and preachers of the Gospel.

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes “a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:4. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance”.

Acts 2:33 “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”

Notice that Peter is telling them two things. Seeing and hearing. “you yourselves are seeing and hearing”. There is a dynamic external change that happens to a person that is filled with the Holy Spirit and it is visibly noticeable. What were they seeing? People who were transformed and utterly joyful, so joyful that people said of them, “They have had too much wine”. They were also hearing them. “We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God”. Acts 2:11 and 13.

Acts 2:38 “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

After this a crowd is gathered and hears them speaking in “tongues” which are languages of many different people groups. “And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

This manifestation of the “gift of tongues” was for the purpose of testifying to all people groups gathered in Jerusalem at the time of the “mighty works of God”. It was a reversal of the tower of babel where God scattered that generation because they were not worshipping him but themselves. Here the Lord is revealing himself to many different people groups in order to bring them to himself and into his church. Also according to 1 Cor 14:22 “Thus tongues are a sign for not for unbelievers but for believers.”

Peter then explains what is happening and quotes the Prophet Joel “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit and they shall prophesy, And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor or smoke, the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day, And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Joel 2:28-32

Peter is announcing that the “last days” have begun with the fulfillment of this scripture. The Spirit is being poured out on all flesh and prophecy, visions and dreams will happen prompted by the Spirit and the result will be that “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”.

Since the “last days” have begun that the power of the Holy Spirit is needed in order that more people will hear and see the gospel and be saved. The power of the Spirit is now being manifested through Peter who had previously denied the Lord and now, through being “baptized” with the Holy Spirit, Peter is able to clearly and boldly communicate the gospel and the result is 3,000 people saved and added to the church. Acts 2:40-41 “And with many other

words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

This is Peter the, former fisherman, who is now able to powerfully preach the gospel to thousands of people and was so effective in this Spirit empowered preaching "so those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls". Peter, who now through the filling of the Holy Spirit, is explaining the outpouring of the Spirit and quoting old testament scriptures

After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit Peter and John are going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour, 3 pm. A man lame from birth was at the gate of the temple and Peter seeing them man tells him "look at us" and he fixed his attention on them expecting to receive something from them since he was a beggar. "But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk". (Acts 3:6) The man was healed and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Peter then begins his second sermon (Act 3:11-26) as everyone is wondering what has happened and how the lame beggar was healed and Peter explains that God has glorified his son Jesus by this healing. Peter then calls them to repent and turn back that their sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ "appointed for you" Jesus whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Peter and John are arrested and questioned as to how they healed the lame beggar and are put before the Jewish Elders, ruler and high priests and Saducees. They are commanded not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

In Acts 4:8-10 "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well."

This is now the second account of Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit, and responding to the elders, rulers and high priest. Peter is once again powerfully proclaiming the Gospel as he has been filled with the Spirit. **Again one of the manifestations of being filled with the Holy Spirit is boldly preaching the Gospel.**

After this they are released they report what has happened to their friends and they all pray to the Lord for boldness and that that the Lord would "stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. **And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness". (Acts 4:30-31)**

Notice what this passage says "and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness". Boldness to preach the word of God! Also the

scripture says “when they were released they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God”. Acts 4:23-24

This is the third time that Peter along with others are filled with the Holy Spirit in response to their specific prayer.

One can be filled with the Holy Spirit more than once and again it would seem that even their prayers are directed by the Holy Spirit and they pray specifically for boldness to proclaim the word of God and for healing and signs and wonders so that the proclamation of the gospel would be confirmed with demonstration of the gospel through these healings and signs and wonders.

The next mention of the Holy Spirit is when a man named Ananias sells a piece of property he owns and keeps back some of the proceeds and brings only part of it to the apostles. “But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold was it not at your disposal?”

It would appear that the Holy Spirit reveals to Peter that Ananias had been deceptive in trying to appear to give more of the proceeds of the sale of his property than he did and was wanting to appear to be more generous than he was and so grievous was this lie to the Holy Spirit that the man fell down dead. Ananias’s wife Sapphira was also aware of this and when questioned by Peter also lies about it and she also falls down dead.

This would seem to demonstrate to all that were there the presence of the Holy Spirit was something not to be tested through deception and the result was “And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who hear of these things”. Acts 5:11

Acts 5:12 “Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles.”

Acts 5:32 “And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

It could seem up to this point that the power of the Holy Spirit is limited to just the apostles, although it clear from Acts 1:15 that there were actually 120 that received the Holy Spirit, but in Acts 6 seven men are chosen to help to make sure the widows daily distribution is done fairly. The apostles prayed for these seven and laid their hands on them. **Acts 6:5 “and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”**. After this even one of the seven, Stephen, “full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people”. Acts 6:8. Stephen is later brought before the council and testifies about the gospel and gives one of the longest messages, 53 verses, if not the longest, in the book of Acts, to the council and as he is speaking “**But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” Acts 7:55**. Again Stephen, like **Peter, because he is “full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”** is able to boldly and clearly communicate the history of God’s people. Stephen’s speech is an incredible explanation of how God was at work beginning with the life of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon.

Stephen is then taken out of the city and stoned and becomes a martyr for his faith in Jesus.

In Act 8:5 Philip, one of the seven from Acts 6, who was chosen to serve in the daily distribution of food, goes to the city of Samaria and preaches the gospel. In Acts 8:6 it says “And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. Verse 7. “For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8. So there was much joy in that city.”

This is now the second person who, being filled with the Holy Spirit, is proclaiming the gospel with power as a witness. In Samaria men and women are believing and being baptized. **Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” People are hearing the gospel and believing and being water baptized.**

The apostles at Jerusalem hear that people are being saved in Samaria and they send Peter and John because they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17 “Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.**”

These Samaritans were now not only believers but had now received the same promise that had been quoted earlier in Acts 2:17-21 about being in the last days and the Spirit being poured out on all flesh. It seems that by the apostles coming and laying their hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit does two things. One, it shows that the Samaritans who were considered “half-breeds” were now “officially” connected to the Apostles and the church in Jerusalem. **Two, it shows that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for them as well as the 120 that received the fullness of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. In this case the Holy Spirit is imparted by the “laying of hands” on them.**

In Acts 8:18 -20 “ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God”.

Simon has taken note that the Holy Spirit was imparted by laying on of the apostles hands. “Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:17)

Although this passage does not say explicitly what happened to the Samaritans when Peter and John laid their hands on them it is implicit that something did happen to them that could be seen or heard and this causes Simon to want to be able to do this as well.

Peter rebukes Simon for thinking that this gift of helping people receive the Holy Spirit could be purchased.

Acts 8:29 “And the Spirit said to Philip, Go over and join this chariot.”

Acts 8:39 “And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.”

In Acts 9, Saul is persecuting the church in Damascus and on his way there has an encounter with Jesus himself and is blinded and for three days neither eats nor drinks. The Lord has humbled Saul and he accepts this not knowing what the Lord has in store for him.

In Damascus there is a disciple, not Apostle, named Ananias who the Lord speaks to and commands him to go and **in Act 9:12 “lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight”**. Ananias after resisting because he had heard how Saul had been persecuting the saints at Jerusalem, obeys the Lord and goes to where Saul is staying. **Acts 9:17 “So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit’”**

Notice that Ananias calls Saul “Brother Saul” indicating that Saul is now a believer and although a believer has not yet received the Holy Spirit and needed Ananias, a regular disciple, to lay his hands on him to bring healing and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

After this Saul was with the disciples at Damascus **and immediately begins to preach the gospel.**

Acts 9:31 “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

The next significant appearance of the Holy Spirit is in Acts 10. Peter is staying in Joppa and there is a centurion named Cornelius from Caesarea. He is a “devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.” Acts 10:1-2

He has a vision and an angel of God comes to him and instructs him to send for Peter who is lodging with Simon, a tanner. The next day Peter goes up to the housetop to pray and falls into a trance and sees the heavens opened and all kinds of animals being let down to the earth. A voice tells him to “Rise, Peter, kill and eat.” Acts 10:13. Peter responds “by no means Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean”. The voice comes to Peter a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” This happened three times.

As a person raised in the Jewish faith Peter would not have eaten anything that was “ceremonially unclean” according to Old Testament laws. Peter is perplexed as to the meaning of the vision. **While Peter is pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him “Behold three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation for I have sent them.” Acts 10:19-20**

The three men explain to Peter that Cornelius has sent them to Peter as he was instructed by an angel of God. The next day Peter goes with them to Caesarea and Cornelius has invited his relatives and close friends to his house to hear Peter. Peter who up to this point would not have

associated with “Gentiles” realizes that the vision from God was to prepare him for this moment and so he asks Cornelius why he has sent for him. Cornelius explains that he had been praying and that he had seen and heard the angel of God and was instructed to call for Peter. “So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” Acts 10:33

Peter then shares the gospel with those present, **Acts 10:38 “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.” and in verse Acts 10:43 says “To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”**

Amazingly while Peter is speaking, the Holy Spirit falls on these gentiles. **“While Peter was still saying these things the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ‘Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.’” Acts 10:44-48**

A similar manifestation of speaking in tongues and extolling God occurs as on the day of Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord has now added gentiles to the church and has given them the gift of the Holy Spirit divinely without anyone praying for them or laying hands on them. This seems to be a sovereign move on God’s part to add “Gentiles” to now be a part of his church and Peter needed the vision to understand that the gospel is for all people groups. “So Peter opened his mouth and said: Truly I understand that Gods show no partiality but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” Acts 10:34-35.

This is further fulfillment of the prophecy from Joel that “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh**, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit and they shall prophesy.” Acts 2:16-18

So now Samaritans have experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit and Gentiles are also experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Ironically the “circumcised party” of believers criticize Peter for “eating with uncircumcised men”. At this time eating with someone was a very serious matter and signified acceptance of people that were not Jewish (circumcised).

Peter explains to them what happened in Acts 11:15-18 “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit’. If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way? When they heard these things they fell silent.

And they glorified God, saying, ‘Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.’

The Holy Spirit is being poured out on not just the apostles or circumcised or Samaritans but to all people as he is now at work to bring to salvation as many as God has called to salvation. He is the gift that Jesus spoke about in John 16.

Acts 11:24 “for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.” A description of Barnabas who the church in Jerusalem had sent to Antioch.

Acts 13:2 “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”. The Holy Spirit gives a specific call to Barnabas and Saul to go out to proclaim the gospel. **At the end of Acts 13:52 “And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit”**. This is a response to Paul and Barnabas proclaiming the Gospel in Antioch. “And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.” Acts 13: 48

After this Saul, now being called Paul, has an encounter with a magician that was opposing Paul and Barnabas and the message of the gospel. The Holy Spirit fills Paul and Paul declares that the hand of the Lord is upon Elymas the magician and will cause him to be blind for a time. Acts 13:9-11 **“But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit,** looked intently at him and said, ‘You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time. Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.’”

Here Paul is filled with the Spirit and declares through a prophetic word that the Lord is going to bring about blindness to the magician that was opposing the gospel message and the result is that the proconsul believes the gospel message. A declaration of the gospel and demonstration of the power of God.

In Antioch Paul and Barnabas preach the gospel first to their Jewish brethren and then because of the Jews jealousy turn their message to the gentiles and many are saved and believe. Acts 13:48 “And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.” **The Jews again stir up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drive them out of their district. Those who believed had great joy in spite of this through the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:52 “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”**

Acts 15:28 “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.”

When Paul comes to Ephesus he finds some disciples and asks them if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed and they respond that they had not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. He then asks them into what were they then baptized. They respond into John’s baptism

and Paul explains that John's baptism is a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is Jesus. Acts 19:5 **"On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all."**

Here we see that Paul explains the difference in the baptism of John, the baptism of repentance, and the gospel, "to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is Jesus". They are they baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, meaning they are now believers in the gospel and Jesus, and then subsequently Paul prays for them to receive the Holy Spirit. **"And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying"**.

First they believe, next the Holy Spirit comes on them, and third they begin manifesting two gifts of the Spirit, tongues and prophecy.

This is the last specific description of the Holy Spirit coming upon believers in Jesus in the book of Acts.

One other scripture of interest. Acts 20:28 "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." Being an overseer is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Also for any that might think that women cannot prophesy. In Acts 21:8-9 "On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

So let us review the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts.

In the first one, Pentecost Acts 2, there is a very powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit as there is a **"sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting."** **The Holy Spirit is coming with sound, then as fire "And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them"**. **Finally they begin to speak in other tongues. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."** **The last manifestation is that they speak in "other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance"**.

In the second description of the Holy Spirit coming on people is in Acts 8 where Samaritans are becoming believers in Jesus and the gospel. The apostles in Jerusalem hear that Samaria had received the word of God and send Peter and John who come and pray for them "that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."** **Acts 8:16-17**

Here Samaritans are becoming believers and are being water baptized but are not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit. In this case two apostles come and lay their hands on them and pray for them

to receive the Holy Spirit. There is no further description of what happens after they receive the Holy Spirit.

Saul who was to become Paul the Apostle has Ananias lay his hands on him and heals him and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:17

The next description of the Holy Spirit falling on people is in Acts 10 when Peter is asked to come and speak to Gentiles who are gathered at the house of Cornelius, a centurion. Peter begins to share the gospel with them and amazingly the Holy Spirit falls on these Gentiles as Peter is speaking. In this encounter the manifestation is “speaking in tongues and extolling God”. Acts 10:46.

So now just as soon as we think that the Holy Spirit is received through the laying on of hands he falls on Gentiles. There are two manifestations, tongues and extolling God. Peter later describes what happens to the apostles in Jerusalem and says **“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way.’” Acts 11:15-17**

Here Peter is describing the experience as being “baptized in the Holy Spirit”.

In the fourth and last description of people receiving the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts 19 Paul finds some “disciples” and asks them **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed” Acts 19:2. There is discussion about what kind of baptism they had and in this case Paul does lay his hands on them and “the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.”**

The Holy Spirit has now come on Jewish believers, Samaritan believers and gentile believers. He is able to come to any and all groups of people and he does so in different ways.

One thing that is clear is that the Holy Spirit is going to continue to fulfill the prophetic word in Joel 2:19-21. He is coming on all flesh, men, women, sons and daughters, servants, in other words the gift and power of the Holy Spirit is not restricted to a select few but now in the “Last Days” he is here to help the church fulfill the great commission. He is “poured out” on all flesh. Baptism with the Holy Spirit or being filled with the Holy Spirit I believe are the same thing. Both descriptions are used in the Gospels and the book of Acts.

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and continues to empower believers to make us powerful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace.

V The Holy Spirit in the Epistles

Romans 1:11-12 “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith both yours and mine”.

Romans 2:29 “But a Jew is one inwardly and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.”

Romans 5:5 “and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Romans 7:6 “But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.”

Romans 8:5-17 “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through the Spirit who dwells in you. So then brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of Adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**”

This is a description of life in the Spirit and the better news that the gospel gives to believers of not only being saved but also being able to put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit. The Spirit also gives life to our mortal bodies and gives us adoption as sons and daughters of God by the Spirit and bears witness that we are now children of God.

Romans 8:23-27 “And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**”

One of the most encouraging portions of scripture addressing prayer. The Holy Spirit helps believers to pray because he himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And

he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. As believers we now have the Holy Spirit to help us in our weaknesses and one of the ways he helps us is in times of prayer.

Romans 9:1 “I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:16 “to be a minister Christ Jesus to the gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:19 “by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ.”

Romans 15:30 “I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf.”

1 Cor 2:10-16 “these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person which is in him? So also no one know comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself judged by no one. For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

As believers, we are now enabled by the Spirit to understand truth from God. “**Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.**”

1 Cor 3:16-17 “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy and you are that temple.”

Believers are now the temple of God because the Spirit dwells in us. Huge change from the Old Testament where God dwelt in the Temple. God is now dwelling in each believer by the Spirit and further fulfillment of the Prophecy from Joel.

1 Cor 6:11 “And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Cor 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Paul in the book of Corinthians gives an entire chapter explaining various aspects of the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Cor 12:4-11 **“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each individually as he wills.”**

Time does not permit in this document to explain about these various gifts but suffice to say that they are listed in the scripture and Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that each of these gifts were from the Spirit and they were given for “the common good”.

In 1 Cor 14:1-5 **“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets so that the church may be built up.”**

Here Paul is exhorting the Corinthians to earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophesy. He explains the difference between tongues and prophesy. Tongues builds up the one who has the gift of tongues whereas prophesy builds up the church through upbuilding, encouragement and consolation. This would be the biblical criteria to judge if a word meets these three different ways that prophesy should be used. It is upbuilding, encouraging or consoling? If it does not, then it would not meet the biblical definition of prophesy in the new testament.

1 Cor 14:12-19 “So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. **For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also. I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.** Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say Amen to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? For you may be giving thanks well enough but the other person is not being built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in

church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than then thousand words in a tongue.”

In this section of scripture Paul is instructing the Corinthian church about the use of tongues for personal and public use. Praying in the spirit and singing in the spirit are great personal blessings and one should pray that he can interpret so that it can be shared publicly, otherwise an outsider will not understand, whereas prophecy is for the church and for unbelievers as well to be convicted that God is really among you.

2 Cor 3:3 “And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

2 Cor 3:6 “who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.”

2 Cor 3:17-18 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed in the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

2 Cor 5:5 “He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”

2 Cor 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Galatians 3:2 “Let me ask you only this: **Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?**”

Galatians 3:5 “Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith”

Galatians 3:14 “so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”

Galatians 5:16 -18 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self control”

Ephesians 1:13 “in him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:18 “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

Ephesians 2:22 “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians to be strengthened with power through the Spirit. Ephesians 3:16 "that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit"

Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Paul's command to be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit**"

Ephesians 6:17-18 "and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."

Philippians 1:19 "for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance."

Philippians 3:3 "For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God"

Colossians 1:7-8 "just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit."

1 Thess 1:5 "because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction"

1 Thess 4:8 "Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who give His Holy Spirit to you."

1 Thess 5:19-20 "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good."

1 Tim 4:1-5 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer."

2 Tim 1:6-7 "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

2Tim 1:14 "By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the deposit entrusted to you."

Titus 3:4-6 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.**"

Hebrews 2:4 "while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."

Hebrews 3:7 “Therefore as the Holy Spirit says”

Hebrews 10:15-16 “And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds”

1 Peter 1:2 “in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood”

2 Peter 1:21 “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”

1 John 4:2-3 “By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.”

1 John 4:13 “By this we know we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”

Jude 1:19 “It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.”

Jude 1:20 “But you beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.”

Rev 2:7, Rev. 2:11, Rev. 2:17 Rev. 2;29, Rev. 3:6, Rev. 3:13, Rev. 3:32 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The question is now how does one receive the Holy Spirit?

First, when one is regenerated by the Holy Spirit for salvation believing that you are also filled with the Holy Spirit. That is found in 1 Cor 12:13 which speaks of the whole church being “baptized” into the Spirit at conversion.

But Ephesians 5:18 also calls us to be “filled continually” with the Holy Spirit. How do we pursue that?

First, one prays to receive the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 “how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

Praying in faith to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:2 “Let me ask you only this: **Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?”**

Galatians 3:5 “Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith”

Second, the Father sovereignly pours out the Holy Spirit on people as previously mentioned in two occasions in the book of Acts 2:1-4 and Acts 11:15-17.

The third, people who have been filled with the Holy Spirit lay hands on believers and pray for the Holy Spirit to come and fill them. Acts 8:16-17, Acts 9:17, Acts 19:2.

In my opinion to be filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean you must speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit may pour out that gift and I think it is beneficial to pray for that gift but I don't believe it is the confirmation that one is filled with the Holy Spirit.

What are the marks, signs and manifestations of being filled with the Spirit?

First, a sense of the glory of God, an unusual sense of the glory of God. These were displayed in the various descriptions in the book of Acts as people were praising God visibly and could be heard clearly doing this. Acts 2:11-12 "we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'"

Next the pronounced presence of God in believers. 1 Cor 3:16-17 "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy and you are that temple."

1 Cor 6:19 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Ephesians 2:22 "In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Next I believe it would be an assurance of not only salvation but being adopted into God's family. Romans 8:15-16 reminds us of receiving the Spirit of Adoption whereby we cry Abba, Father. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit of this truth and now we know it not only intellectually but inwardly by the Holy Spirit.

After this we see that there is an unusual joy and gladness in those that are filled with the Spirit. This is also apparent throughout the book of Acts accounts of being filled with the Spirit. Acts 2:42 "And day by day attending the temple together and breaking bread in the homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people." Acts 8:8 "So there was much joy in that city." Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

1 Thess 1:6 "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit."

These early disciples were so overjoyed that they wanted to be together every day, they wanted to worship together, eat together, share their worldly goods to those who had need. The Holy Spirit transformed their hearts so radically that they were ruined for anything less.

Power to be a witness of the Gospel and preach the gospel. As we have seen in the book of Acts, Peter, Stephen, Phillip and Paul were empowered by the Holy Spirit to testify about the gospel and preach the gospel. Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the

ends of the Earth.” Acts 4:33 “And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and continues to empower believers to make us powerful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace.

Prayer. Romans 8:23-27 “And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” 1 Cor 14:14 “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.” Jude 1:20 “But you beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.” With the gift of tongues one of the benefits is being able to pray to God when we don’t know exactly how to pray. The holy Spirit enables us to pray and we are also edified

Understanding the truth of God’s word. John 14:16-17 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

John 16: 6-7 Jesus says “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16: 12-15 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit

1. **Joy.** The Holy Spirit brings a great sense of joy to believers as his presence releases spontaneous praise and worship. Each time in the book of Acts that the Holy Spirit comes upon people they are praising God. Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” So besides joy there is also a sense of righteousness in our relationship with God, peace with God and the joy of his presence. 1 Thess 1:6 “And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit.”

2. **Hope.** Romans 15:13 “May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
3. **Witness.** Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.” We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to be witnesses in our day just as the early church did.
4. **Prophecy.** As stated in 1 Cor 12:3 “But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.” NIV This is a wonderful gift to encourage the church and also people personally as the Holy Spirit comes and gives words of strengthening, encouraging and comfort.
5. **Prayer.** 1 Cor 14:14 “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.” Jude 1:20 “But you beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.” With the gift of tongues one of the benefits is being able to pray to God when we don’t know exactly how to pray. The holy Spirit enables us to pray and we are also edified.
6. **Faith & Healing.** In 1 Cor 12:9 “to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing”. These are two of the “power gifts in the list of 9 gifts in this chapter and certainly two gifts that are needed to have faith to do the things the Lord is calling us to do and healing to heal those that are afflicted. These gifts were certainly manifest in the book of Acts along with miraculous powers and helped to confirm the preaching of the Gospel as well. As our culture is changing we need to ask the Lord to pour out his Spirit and these gifts so that the preaching of the gospel would also be confirmed through gifts such as these.
7. **Many Others //** All gifts mentioned in the New Testament would be released by the work of Christ. Six different passages mention different gifts that the Holy Spirit gives. 1 Cor 12:28, 1 Cor 12:8-10, Ephesians 4:11, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Cor 7:7. These total up to twenty-two different gifts that the Holy Spirit gives and would be the subject of another paper.

