

Holy Spirit

These readings show that the Holy Spirit is working in God's people for God's purpose throughout the Bible.

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**BIBLE
SOCIETY**

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Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: New International Version

Day	Readings	Reference	Question
1	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.	Genesis 1:1	<p>This month, we're thinking about the Holy Spirit. On the one hand, the Spirit is mysterious, as theologian Abraham Kuyper writes, "Eye can not see Him, ear can not hear Him, much less the hand handle Him."</p> <p>And yet, in the Bible we see that we can know the Spirit in person, because of what it says about Him. Let's dive in.</p> <p>Here, we see that the Spirit is involved from before creation itself. What does it mean for the Spirit of Creation to be involved in your personal Christian life?</p>
2	Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills..."	Exodus 31:1-3	<p>This verse is often cited as how God enables the Spirit to help people be creative within the arts. But how do we see that God sends the Spirit into Bezalel? And how is this understanding of the Spirit and creative arts balanced out by what happens in Exodus 32?</p>
3	The Spirit of the Lord came on him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The Lord gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him.	Judges 3:10	<p>Here we see the Spirit of the Lord coming into Othniel, one of the judges - one of the human redeemers of Israel. What does it mean for the Spirit of the Lord to come into Othniel? How does this balance our understanding of the Spirit from the last chapter?</p>

Holy Spirit (continued)

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4	So he sent for [David] and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.	1 Samuel 16:12-13	Here we see the Spirit come upon David, the great king of Israel. Read the rest of the chapter, to see what this means for the Spirit to come upon one king, and leave another. What is the deciding factor for who the Spirit goes into?
5	Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.	Psalms 51:10-11	he has committed adultery and confesses his sin to God. What is David afraid of? Are there particular sins that you can confess, knowing the grace that God offers to all?
6	A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.	Isaiah 11:1-2	In the last two readings, we saw two snapshots of the rise and fall of Israel's king. But in this reading, we hear the prophecy of a greater king to come. What will be the mark of this King? What does this mean for the trust that we can have in this King?
7	I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.	Ezekiel 36:26-27	In the last reading, we heard about the coming King, who will truly have the Spirit of the Lord. But here we see another promise to God's people, after that king comes. What will happen to God's people, and what does it have to do with the Spirit? How will the Spirit help us?
8	At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."	Mark 1:9-11	In the last two readings, we saw Old Testament prophecies about the Spirit, but now we see the Spirit come. How do we see all three persons of God in this verse? How does this verse fulfil the Old Testament prophecy about the coming King/Messiah?

Holy Spirit (continued)

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9	But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”	John 16:13-15	In this passage, Jesus, God's Spirit-filled King, teaches his disciples about what the Spirit will do. What does he call the Spirit here? And what marks truly Spirit-filled truth from other kinds of knowledge?
10	When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.	Acts 2:1-4	In this passage, after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, we see the Spirit come onto the disciples, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies, like the passage in Ezekiel. Compared to Genesis 11:1-9, what does it mean for the disciples to speak other languages here? What is the central point of Peter's sermon after being filled with the Holy Spirit? (Hint: see 2:37-38)
11	But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.	Acts 2:30-33	In the last passage, we saw the Spirit come upon the disciples, fulfilling the promise of God to give the Spirit into the hearts of his people. Here, Peter is preaching to the gathered people. What did Jesus do to fulfil the promise of the Holy Spirit? Why does Peter talk about it here?
12	Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.	Romans 8:1-6	This is an important passage about the Spirit from the book of Romans, the heart of the New Testament. While it's a long passage, what does the Spirit enable us to do, that we could not do without Him? How do we know what is truly of the Spirit? What is your mind governed by?

Holy Spirit (continued)

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13	<p>Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.</p>	1 Corinthians 12:3-7	As we draw to an end this series of readings in the Holy Spirit, we come to another key passage about the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit relate to God and Jesus here? And why does the Holy Spirit give gifts to the church?
14	<p>The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.</p>	Revelation 22:17	Here in the last chapter of the Bible, we see that the Spirit of God is there - just as he was before creation. What does the Spirit say to those who are looking? How can you be part of this message that the Spirit brings to a world that is dying of thirst?