

May 8, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions
“The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament”
Acts 2:1-4

- Please read *Acts 2:1-4* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

At the day of Pentecost, there was a great outpouring of the Spirit among those who believed in Christ. In order to understand what the outpouring of the Spirit means for us today, we need to first gain an understanding of the blessing of the Holy Spirit before Pentecost.

In the Old Testament we see that the Holy Spirit was both the **Creator and Sustainer** of natural life.

- **Psalm 104:29-30** (ESV) *"When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground."*

Why do you think God chooses to sustain life rather than create life free from His constant provision?

If God is your Creator and Sustainer, is he then also in control of your death?

Old Testament believers experienced the **new birth and indwelling** of the Holy Spirit.

- **Numbers 14:24** (ESV) *"My servant Caleb, because he has a different Spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into this land."*
- **Numbers 27: 18** (ESV) *"And the Lord said to Moses, 'Take Joshua the son of Nun, in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him.'"*

Do we need the Holy Spirit in order to follow God?

Can we please God by our own will?

- No. As we are sinful people, we need the Holy Spirit in order to please God.

Believers of the Old Testament understood that there was a **constant presence** of the Holy Spirit.

- **Psalm 139:7–10** (ESV) *"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? [8] If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! [9] If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, [10] even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me."*

How does being conscious of the Spirit's constant presence form confidence within us?

- **Zechariah 4:6** (ESV) *"Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord of hosts."*

Why can we find comfort in knowing that God is omnipresent and sovereign?

- **Romans 8:30-31** (ESV) *"And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"*
- **Haggai 2:5** (ESV) *"Work, for I am with you . . . My Spirit abides among you. Fear not."*

In the Old Testament, the Jewish people understood that the **gifts of craftsmanship and artistic ability** were from the Holy Spirit.

- **Exodus 31:1–5** *"The LORD said to Moses, [2] 'See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, [3] and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, [4] to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, [5] in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.'"*

Have you acknowledged the Holy Spirit as the source of your gifts and talents?

Is the God your inspiration as you use your abilities?

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit brought the **power to bring death to life**.

- **Ezekiel 37:11-14** (ESV) *"Then he said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' [12] Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. [13] And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. [14] And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.'"*

Just as God raised the Israelites from the grave in the Old Testament, how has He made a way for us to live today?

- Through the death of God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

How have you seen the Holy Spirit helping you live for Jesus?