

## BFF405 The Spirit from Genesis to Revelation

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families Podcast" with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good afternoon, Steve. How are you today? It is a different feel meeting this time of day, isn't it?

**Steve:** Yes, I've all had a lot of things that have already happened. I had lunch with a good friend of mine. I've known him for a long time, and we continue to meet regularly, Our times are always special and edifying, so it's good.

**Steve:** How was your day so far?

**Scott:** I took my wife to have surgery. It was a minor surgery on her thumb, but everything went well and she's resting now.

**Steve:** Good. We're going to continue our series today on the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, and we're going to focus on the Old Testament, all the way from Genesis to Malachi, to give us a good overview of where the Spirit appears. As I have mentioned before, the Holy Spirit is really good at disappearing into the background.

It takes a little bit of effort to focus on the Spirit because He really likes to magnify Christ, which is right and legitimate, and He's good at it. I think it's important that we understand the Spirit as well, coming up on the season of Pentecost. Let's pray.

Father, here we are searching the scriptures to learn more about the third person of the Trinity. I pray that you'll give us ears to hear what the Spirit is teaching us today because it's a little tricky, but we would like to know more about Him.

We'd like to know more about His ministry, His attributes, His functions, and who He is as a specific individual person. Help us today to that end, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** I think we would remiss if we didn't start with the second verse in the Bible, "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Then we could move into Exodus and talk about the Spirit.

As I was thinking about this, I noticed two things in that first verse -- the Spirit of God and the presence of water. In 2 Peter 3.5, "The heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the Word of God." We see water. We also see the Word of God. We have three factors, present at creation.

We have the Spirit. Water. The Word. You're enough of a Bible scholar. You probably already see where we're going here. I'm going to read some passages with the Spirit, the water, and the Word. Hebrews 11:3, "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God."

John chapter one, Colossians chapter one, and Hebrews chapter one -- to see the connection between Jesus and the Word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the

Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him, and He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

Hebrews, "In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed the heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world." I think we can make an easy transition here, that when we're thinking about the Word, we're thinking about Jesus. He is the Word-Made-Flesh.

What I'm leading to, though, is this wonderful passage in John chapter 3, where Jesus is talking to Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, or born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?' Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

'Do not be amazed that I said to you, you must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'"

Now 1 Peter 1:23, "You have been born again, not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable. That is through the living and enduring Word of God."

Titus 3:4-6 pulls together all three of these concepts, Jesus the Word, the work of the Spirit, and water. "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 the renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

In my head, I'm visualizing darkness and water and the Spirit hovering, and then the world begins to be formed, the creation, the original creation. As I did that and started connecting all these different verses, I realized that this is the same thing that happens when you and I become a new creation.

We have water, we have the Spirit working, and we have Jesus and the Word of God, and they all collaborate. They work together, and we are born again. We are like a new creation, which is exactly what the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if

anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

The big picture is that as you meditate on how creation happened, God spoke the word. Through Jesus, the world was created, out of water with the Spirit bringing life. Every time one of us comes to Christ, it is a result of the collaboration, the interconnectedness of the Word of Jesus, of the water, and of the Spirit, a beautiful picture.

Now let's go back to looking chronologically at the mentions of the Spirit in the Bible. I placed Job at the time of Genesis, but we don't know for sure. Job 27:3, "As long as my breath is in me and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils." Then in the 33rd chapter, fourth verse, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

The Spirit of God is being connected to the breath of the Almighty. Joseph, in the Book of Genesis 41:38, "Pharaoh said to his servants, can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?" That's how Joseph was known.

This man, it's not merely a Hebrew, what set him apart was he possessed the Holy Spirit. Now I'm going to talk about Moses, but surprisingly, I'm going to be reading from Isaiah 63:9-12, "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them. In His love and in His mercy, He redeemed them, and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.

"But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. Therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy. He fought against them. Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock?

"Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them, Who caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, Who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name?" Amazing picture. "But they grieved His Holy Spirit." We don't read much about that when it's happening in Exodus and Numbers and reiterated in Deuteronomy. We think about the angel of God that they were fighting and kicking against. We think of their rebellion against Moses. Here, from Isaiah's perspective, they grieved His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who was in the midst of them.

Now, we'll shift gears a little bit. Bezalel, the anointed craftsman to build the tabernacle. Exodus 35:31, "He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship."

It's a wonderful image, and it resonates in my heart. It convicts me because there was such a long period of time that I thought that the Spirit of God was only connected

with evangelism, or revival, or renewal, or preaching, or reading the Word, or something to do with Scripture or the Church.

The Spirit of God filled Bezalel with skill, with brains, with knowledge, and with craftsmanship. He was able to produce what he produced and build the magnificent tabernacle because of the Spirit of God.

One of the questions I have in my stewardship book that I wrote for teenagers, "Is it more spiritual to be a pastor or a plumber?" When I show people that at the booth, people hesitate. I tell them, for many, many years, I thought pastor would have been the correct answer.

But if we're doing all to the glory of God, if we're living life to the glory of God, whatever we do, whether we eat, or drink, or plumb, or pastor, or whatever, if we do it to the glory of God, we can be inspired and helped by the Spirit of God. We like boxes. The Spirit of God does not fit in a box.

The Spirit in Joshua, "Jehovah said to Moses, 'Take Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.'" That's Numbers 27:18. Then later in Deuteronomy 34, "Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him.

"So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as Jehovah had commanded Moses. Since that time, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom Jehovah knew face to face. For all the signs and wonders which Jehovah sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land."

In the book of Judges, and even in 1 Samuel, where we also had judges, I like to think of this as the book of Acts in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the book of Acts is the wonderful acts of the apostles filled with the Spirit. It's the same thing with these judges. Some translations say that the judges had the Spirit rush upon them. Others say it came mightily upon them.

The point was that the Spirit of God was the one that helped these men to do supernatural things. I'm going to use the expression "came powerfully," or mightily, "upon them" because these men did acts that were mighty and powerful.

Othniel, Judges 3:10, "The spirit of Jehovah was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and Jehovah gave Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim."

Gideon, in Judges 6:34, "The Spirit of Jehovah took possession of Gideon. He blew a ram's horn as a call to arms, and the men of the clan of Abiezer came to him."

Samson, Judges 13:25, "The Spirit of Jehovah began to stir him while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol." Then two chapters later, "When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him.

Then the Spirit of Jehovah 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."

In 1 Samuel 10:6, Saul, the first king of Israel, "Then the spirit of Jehovah will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man." Every time I read that, I think he was born from above. The Spirit came upon him. 1 Samuel 11:6, "And the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled."

Of course, you can't mention the Spirit in the Old Testament without observing the life of David. 1 Samuel 16:13, "Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of Jehovah came powerfully upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah."

This is at the beginning of David's reign before he slew Goliath. At the very end of his life, in 2 Samuel 23, "Now, these are the last words of David, 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 Jehovah speaks by me. His word is on my tongue.'" That was absolutely true.

David's mighty men, 1 Chronicles 12:18, the Spirit clothed Amasai, chief of the Thirty. He said, "We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse. Peace, peace to you and peace to your helpers, for your God helps you. Then David received them and made them officers of his troops, a new expression appears here. The Spirit didn't come mightily upon Amasai, it clothed him.

Elijah, talking to Obadiah, in 1 Kings 18:12, "As soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of Jehovah will carry you. I know not where. When I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me. Although I, your servant, have feared Jehovah from my youth.

This is similar to the New Testament when the Spirit of Jehovah picked up Philip. He was transported to another place. This is what happened in the Old Testament with Elijah, and Obadiah knew it. Elijah had just said, "Go tell Ahab I'm here." He says, "Oh no, as soon as I do that, you'll be gone."

Then Isaiah 40:13, "Who has measured the Spirit of Jehovah, or what man shows him His counsel?"

Isaiah 48:16, "Draw near to me, hear this, from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. Now the Lord Jehovah has sent me and His Spirit."

There's lots more verses I could have quoted in each of these books. I'm trying to give you a sampling in order to portray a good overview. Ezekiel 43:5, "The Spirit lifted me

up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the glory of Jehovah filled the temple.”

Ezekiel 37:1, “The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of Jehovah, and set me down in the middle of the valley. It was full of bones.” Of course, we know what happened in the rest of that. The Spirit breathed life into these dead bones. They came to life.

Micah 3:8, “As for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of Jehovah, and with justice and might to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.”

Zechariah 4:6, “He said to me, ‘This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, not by might nor by power, but by my spirit,’ says Jehovah of Hosts. “Wonderful verse.

Malachi, this will be our last verse. He was talking about marriage. He was very clear that he was not in favor of divorce. He makes his appeal here in Malachi 2:15. “Did He not make them one with a portion of the spirit in their union?

What a great reminder. Perhaps that's why it says that the man and the woman, they come together and they become one flesh, because it's a portion of the spirit is in their union.

How did that overview strike you, Sir Scott?

**Scott:** It's just so powerful to me how none of what we think of as these great people throughout the Old or New Testament, for that matter, would have come to pass without the Spirit. I mean, you listen off all these guys, if the Spirit didn't come upon them, we wouldn't know their names.

**Steve:** Yep.

**Scott:** It's all by Him.

**Steve:** Well, that's encouraging. Then you and I can do something, too.

**Scott:** Yes, and it takes a little bit of the burden off. I mean, we do have a role to play in all of this, but there's such a mystery to it, to me, too. The older I get, the more I walk with God. I don't know how much more mature I'm getting, but let's assume I am, for the sake of argument. The more the mystery occurs to me that I have less control and maybe that's the way He wants it. He must increase and I must decrease kind of thing.

**Steve:** I think when we're younger, we have more juice. We think we can do more.

**Scott:** Yeah, that could be.

**Steve:** Sometimes, we do stuff and then we realize it didn't really have the lasting fruit that we thought. We need God to do His work because unless God does it, it's not going to last.

**Scott:** Boy, have I seen that bear out in my life.

**Steve:** That's why verses like Zechariah are such an encouragement to me. It's not by might. It's not by power, but by my spirit. This is how we are transformed.

What we started with in the very beginning, this is how the world was created with God's Word, God's Son, God's Spirit out of water. This is how you and I are born again.

Nobody knows where the Spirit would blow. It's God that moved in our heart and it's God Whose Spirit breathed on us and brought new life to us.

I'm very happy to be a result of the work of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the Word, the Water, the whole package, because that's how we're born from above.

That's how we become new creations.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** I think He's going to make the whole world a new creation. I'm still believing that every knee is going to bow, every tongue is going to confess. He's going to pour out His Spirit. just like He did in Pentecost.

He's going to do it in a great way in the last days. He's going to pour out His Spirit on all flesh, not just a bunch of people in Jerusalem. Let's wrap it up.

Father, thank you for this encouragement. It's nice to the washing of water with the word. As we study the spirit and we see how, as Scott observed, these were men that the spirit of God moved upon to do great works for you. We are anticipating and looking forward to that day when you pour out your Spirit on all flesh.

I pray that you'll begin with your Church, pour out your Spirit on us. Help us to honor you, believe in you, be filled with you in a whole new way.

I pray for the light that shines from the Church to reach all men so that every knee bows and every tongue confesses that you are God, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families Podcast with Steve Demme."

If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.