The Activities of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

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References: Genesis 1, Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 6:9; Deuteronomy 32:9-11; Psalm 104:29-30; Job 34:14-15; Genesis 2:7; Genesis 6:3; John 3:3-5; Psalm 90:10; Hebrews 9:27; Exodus 31:1-6; Numbers 27:18-19; Judges 14:5-6; 1 Samuel 16:13; Isaiah 61:1; Haggai 2:5; Numbers 11:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Romans 8:13; Psalm 51:11; John 16:7

Introduction: The Person of the Holy Spirit

This evening, I want to speak to you guys about the Holy Spirit. You know, people don't speak about the Holy Spirit all that much. But I remember I spoke about the Holy Spirit some time ago—quite a while ago, actually. And I thought it would be good to go back to that again. Not the same message that I had. I never say the same message. Each time I speak, it might be a similar kind of a thing, but it's never the same message.

So anyways, the message that I gave on the Holy Spirit, I think, was the attributes of the Holy Spirit before. And this time I'm going to speak on the activities of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament prophets, and the believers there.

So as an introduction, we know that we believe that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And they're three in one, all equal, equally God, the triune God. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, and He's got the same qualities and gifts as the others. He's omnipresent, He's all-powerful, and He's all-knowing. And because He's a Spirit, He doesn't have a body. So it's not like the Son, God the Son, who took on Himself a body, and He came into this world to fulfill the desires of His Father, who asked Him to come and put through this plan of salvation that we could be saved.

So He's eternal; He has no beginning, and He has no end. And so He draws attention to the Father and to the Son. He doesn't draw attention to Himself. And so—thank you—we never pray to the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Father. Our Lord Jesus, the Son of God, He introduced the Father to us, and He taught us how to pray. And He says:

> [Matthew 6:9 NKJV] - In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

So that's how He asked us to pray. So we don't pray to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit in Creation and Sustaining Life

But the Holy Spirit's interaction with the world in the past has been quite unique to what it was in the past compared to what it is in the present. But in the past, if we could first turn to Genesis chapter 1 and verse 2, we know that in creation, all three were there: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But since I'm speaking about the Holy Spirit this evening, I will point some verses out that would be concerning the Holy Spirit.

So in the first chapter of Genesis, Genesis chapter 1 and verse 1, it says:

> [Genesis 1:1 NKJV] - [1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

So God, when He says "God," He means God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They were all there in this creation. And verse 2 says:

> [Genesis 1:2 NKJV] - [2] The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.

So when God started creating, He created this, He created the earth, He created the waters and so forth, but there was no form to it. Okay, there was no life in that. And so in verse 3 it says—no, it says there, and because there was void and darkness was upon the face of the deep:

> And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

So there was no life there at that time. But the Spirit of God was hovering over that creation that God had made, the earth, the water. And in this, it says the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. But in the Hebrew language, the Hebrew language uses that word

hovering. It's a Hebrew word called rachaph. Rachaph is the Hebrew word that describes this verse. And that word is only used three times. It's used in Jeremiah when he was speaking, and it also was in Deuteronomy chapter 32 as well. And it has a similar meaning: the Holy Spirit hovering over.

And if we could turn to Deuteronomy chapter 32. And so this is a little better explanation of what the Holy Spirit was doing, hovering over the deeps of the water when there was no form in the earth. So Deuteronomy chapter 32 and verse 11—we'll start reading at verse 9 first, okay, starting from verse 9. Deuteronomy chapter 32 and verse 9:

> [Deuteronomy 32:9-10 NKJV] - [9] For the LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance. [10] "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.

So the creation that God was going to create when the Spirit of God was hovering, He was getting ready for this creation that God was going to create in the six days. So this is God speaking about Jacob, who was in the desert. He found him there. And He found him in a desert land and in the waste, howling wilderness. So that's the way the earth was in the beginning. There was no life there. And, you know, Jacob didn't have any life until the Lord touched him, and He brought life into his world. So He founded Jacob. And it says in verse 11—verse 11 explains what He was talking about:

> [Deuteronomy 32:11 NKJV] - [11] As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,

So this is like the Holy Spirit. He's hovering over the earth and getting ready for God's creation. Like an eagle, when he prepares his nest, he hovers over his nest. He's going to protect that nest, and he's going to feed those little ones that are going to be coming in that nest, and he's going to watch over them and nourish them. So this is what the Holy Spirit does as well. He's watching over God's creation. He's hovering over it and bringing life to creation.

You know something? The earth and everything in the earth, if it's just created and there's no life in it, what good is that? And that was the job of the Holy Spirit: was to breathe life into that creation that God was going to create in six days. Okay, so that's what He was

doing. He was hovering, as an eagle hovers over his nest, and being prepared for the life and to protect the life that was going to be in that nest.

Now, in Psalm 104, if we can turn to that one, Psalm 104 and verse 29. Psalm 104 and verse 29:

> [Psalm 104:29-30 NKJV] - [29] You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. [30] You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

So it's the Holy Spirit's job to renew the face of the earth, and that's what happens when the Lord sends His Spirit. It's the breath; it says, "Thou takest away their breath." The breath is the life that's in the earth. It's the breath of every creature that the Holy Spirit breathes into them to sustain them.

So He's hovering over the earth, getting ready for the creation that God's going to create: all the animals, all the fish in the sea, and the birds in the air, and then also man, as He's going to create man, the human race. He's going to give them life and sustain life to all of God's creation: the sun, the moon, the stars, the heavens, the earth, and all there is in there. It's the job of the Holy Spirit that He will perform that job of giving life to all this creation.

So Job 34 and verse 14 and 15:

> [Job 34:14-15 NKJV] - [14] If He should set His heart on it, If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, [15] All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.

It says that the Spirit is breathed in, and the same Spirit breathed in is by the Holy Spirit, is essential to all life. And he also says that if the Lord takes away that breath, that there's no life in that.

Genesis 2 and 7: you remember the story about when Adam was created in chapter 2 of Genesis. It says that God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living soul. So Adam, when God created Adam, he was just made out of the dust of the earth. And you know something, when He gave him a body like that, a body is not really all that much, is it, unless there's life in that body. So it was the Spirit of God that was breathed into him to give him life. And that's why it says there, it says, it says:

> [Genesis 2:7 NKJV] - And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Before that life was breathed into him, he was really nothing. He was just dust. And we know that that dust isn't really worth all that much, but he became a living soul and precious to the Lord. And so if we could turn to—let's see. So the Holy Spirit is essential to all life, and in Genesis 2 and 7, God breathed into Adam the breath of life, and he became a living soul.

I remember the last time I was preaching on the Holy Spirit, I was telling you about our trip to Hawaii. And you know, in Hawaii, if you've been there, that everybody says, "Aloha, aloha," just like we say hello, how are you, or whatever—or "Lord bless you"; in Israel, maybe they say that. But anyways, in Hawaii, they say, "Aloha." And I didn't know what that meant. That was just a foreign word to me. I heard it before; it's not that I didn't hear it, but I didn't really know what it meant. And I talked to many people and the younger people, and they really didn't know the real meaning of that, where it came from and why they started saying that. But I talked to this older and elderly gentleman, and I asked him, and he told me the history of that aloha. It means, "I give my breath to you. So I give my life to you." So that's what aloha means, but people don't know that.

And so anyways, that's what God gave to all of His creation: life. He breathed into all of creation, whether it be the birds of the air, whether it be the creeping things on the earth, whether it be the things in the sea, and most definitely mankind as well. And He set them apart to be designed and created in His own image. Thank you.

The Spirit Giving Ability and Empowering Leaders

Genesis 6 and 3: the Holy Spirit determines the length. Let's go to Genesis chapter 6 and verse 3. Let's see here somewhere. Genesis 6 and verse 3:

> [Genesis 6:3 NKJV] - And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

So that's what the Spirit of God gave as a length of time for man at that time. And we know that in the first part in creation, in the history of creation and that, men used to live into the 800, 900 years and that. But after the flood, it changed. Something changed. And it's the Holy Spirit that gives life, so He's the one who determines the length of life.

And you know, when Nicodemus went to Jesus by night, and the Lord Jesus said:

> [John 3:3-5 NKJV] - 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

So it's the Spirit that gives us eternal life. So the length of life is determined by the Holy Spirit. He's the one who gives the number of years that we have to live. So that was 120 years at that time.

But now when we read that the Lord has given us, you know, 70 years, three score and 10, and that's mentioned in the Lord's Word that we have on the average 70 years to live. And by strength, the Lord says we might live longer than that. My grandmother and many others, they live over 100 years. And so they got strength to live over that much. The Holy Spirit has given them that time. So my grandmother lived to be 105, so that's what the Lord gave her. And the Lord gives each and every one a different time for him to live.

Thank you.

So the Holy Spirit determines the length of life for every creature, whether it's the birds of the air or the fish of the sea, the creeping, crawling things, and also human beings. And it's His to give. He's the one who gives, and it's His to take. So we can't argue the point that some have been taken at an early age and others have a long life. We can't complain about that because it's not ours to give. It's not ours; it's His. He's the one who gives.

So in Genesis 6 and 3, He gives 120 years. And in Psalm 90 and verse 10:

> [Psalm 90:10 NKJV] - The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Now as sin and corruption increased in time, the Lord cut the average age to 70 years, three score and 10. So some people live longer.

It's quite the role that the Holy Spirit has. You know, many times we don't really consider it all that much, but He plays a very, very important role in God's plan. He's the one that's

hovering over all of mankind, all of life, striving for them to take the breath of life and to live. And that's the Spirit. The Spirit strives to give man and all creation life. And when He takes the Spirit away from us, He takes the breath away from us, immediately death follows, and the Spirit is taken away. And our body and Spirit get separated, and we die. And you know, the Lord's Word says:

> [Hebrews 9:27 NKJV] - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

And so that's all the life that the Lord gives.

So He gives also ability to mankind. If we could turn to Exodus chapter 31 and verse 3. So He sustains us in the first one, and now He gives us ability. And in Exodus chapter 31 and verse 3, it says, "And I have filled..." This is now the building of the tabernacle. So, you know, the Lord wanted the tabernacle brought in a certain way, a certain pattern. And He couldn't just say to Moses, "Build me a tabernacle," because that's not the way the Lord does things. He's very particular and articulate about what He wants and the way He wants it. And He chooses people to do it His way.

And so in this chapter here, chapter 31, reading at verse 1:

> [Exodus 31:1-3 NKJV] - [1] Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: [2] "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. [3] And I have filled him with the Spirit of God,

See, it's the Holy Spirit that's going to empower this man and give him that ability to—to do God's will.

> [Exodus 31:3-6 NKJV] - in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, [4] to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, [5] in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. [6] "And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:

So this was to be built according to the way God wanted it, and God chose these people, and He enabled them, gave them the Holy Spirit to build this tabernacle in the way He wanted it built. And it was built according to that. Okay? So God gives the ability to men in the Old Testament to do the way He wants it done.

And in Numbers chapter 27, Numbers chapter 27 and verse 18:

> [Numbers 27:18-19 NKJV] - [18] And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; [19] set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight.

You see, this is the job of the Holy Spirit. And if the Spirit is not with you, then you are not with Him. And if the Spirit is not with you, then you are not with Him. The Spirit isn't in that person. And how does that Spirit get into that person? He has to be a God-fearing person, one that then had his heart changed to love God and to serve God, not anybody else. He can't do anything with anyone else that reject Him and reject His ways.

You remember the Lord Jesus, He was saying that when He went into His own town, He could do very few miracles there because people didn't believe in Him. And so it is with the Old Testament as well. People that didn't obey God, didn't believe in Him, didn't love His commandments, didn't love His laws, He couldn't do much work with them. But He chose men that loved Him and followed Him, and these were the ones. And it says in verse 18, and the Lord said unto Moses, "Take thee Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay thy hand upon him, and set him before Eleazar."

You remember the story of Elijah and Elisha? Do you remember when he was going to leave, and so he gave a portion to his right-hand man there, Elisha, and he gave him power. And now the same thing: the power of God as leader of the people of Israel was going to be transferred from Moses to a man named Joshua. And it's the Lord that does that. And He puts the Spirit in that man to become the leader, to fulfill the purposes of God concerning His people Israel when they were going to be taken to the promised land.

And you remember Joshua was one of the faithful ones who did not rebel against God during the 40 years. And when they went into the promised land to spy it out, he was one of them that came with a good report. And the Lord loved him and honored him for that. So He gives ability to these ones that He chooses that love Him. And in Numbers here, chapter 27, He chose Joshua to set him aside. When Moses put his hands on Joshua and before the whole

congregation, that was to acknowledge the fact that Joshua would be honored by God and honored by the people, set aside to take these people into the promised land.

And you know something, it's also quite common in many of the assemblies, when the Lord chooses an elder, that it's the duty of the other elders to put their hands on the new elder before the assembly, that this man is led by the Spirit of God to do the purposes of God and to be one of the elders and to serve the Lord and to serve the people. So anyways, that's one of the things that happened here: Moses put his hands and set Joshua aside to be the next leader. And actually, it was God that chose him.

The Spirit Empowering Samson and David

The Holy Spirit has power to deliver Israel from their enemies. Many men we read that God, the Spirit, the Holy Spirit empowered them to defeat Israel's enemies in the book of Judges. Okay, it was very, very tough times during that time, and people did as they wanted to do, as their hearts desired. So Israel was in a very dark state, and their enemies were very strong. And they were few, and their enemies were many. So in the Judges, God chose men to deliver Israel from their enemies. And Samson was—He chose many, many, but we don't have time to go through so many.

So Samson was one of them. And in the book of Judges, chapter 14, if we could turn to that, Judges chapter 14 and verse 6:

> [Judges 14:6 NKJV] - 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

Now, this was a lion that he had tackled. It says in verse 5:

> [Judges 14:5 NKJV] - 5 So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him.

So he took this lion on, and he tore him with his bare hands. And this power did not come from an average man, okay, just a common man. This power came from the Holy Spirit. That

was powerful! And that's what it says: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him to tear that lion to pieces. Okay?

So in Judges, Samson was the one—he was one of the judges that defeated the enemies of the Lord and of Israel because the Spirit of God was with him. Now, you know, Samson himself thought, as many other people think as well, that the power was in his long hair because he wasn't to cut his hair. And that's what Samson thought, and that's what many, many people thought: that because his hair was cut, he lost power. That wasn't the reason! The hair wasn't the reason why he had this tremendous amount of power. The reason was that the Holy Spirit was upon him. The Holy Spirit gave him power to overcome the enemies, to rip up a gate like that and walk away with it, and all the powerful things that he did there. And he took a jawbone of a donkey and he killed so many Philistines. And then at the end, we see him at the pillars there, standing by the pillars, and he knocked down the pillars and he just killed so many of the Philistines that were there.

So the power was not in his hair, but the power was in the Holy Spirit that gave him power to do that. So many people think that because his hair was cut that he lost his power. You know, before he was born, his mother and father were also told that he was not to cut his hair. He was not to drink alcohol whatsoever, or grapefruit and grapevine from the grape. And this was a Nazirite covenant that they would make, that he would be set aside for the Lord. And so his strength was from the Holy Spirit, and it was a Nazirite vow that he had. And he was to drink no alcohol, he was not to touch any dead person or dead thing, and he was not definitely to cut his hair. And so when he broke that vow, he lost his strength. And it wasn't because of the hair; because he disobeyed the Lord. And you know something, many times he disobeyed the Lord. He also knew that he wasn't to take a wife from other people, other ungodly nations. And his heart was always yearning for the women of the other, but he was supposed to take a wife from his own, from Israel. And his mother and father told him that, but he was always looking at the Canaanite women and the other women for wives and that. That's how he got into the big trouble.

And then King David in 1 Samuel chapter 16. 1 Samuel chapter 16 and verse 13. And this was when Samuel—David was just a teenager. And the Lord was going to take the kingdom away from that wicked man Saul, and He was going to give it to David. And David was just a teenager at this time; he was just a young stripling. He wasn't all that strong. You can imagine he's still developing in his teenage years. His body is still developing; he's not matured yet. In verse 13, it says:

> [1 Samuel 16:13 NKJV] - Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

And we read that, you know, right after that in the next chapter in 17, he took on Goliath. And Goliath was offended that the people of Israel would put up, you know, a young kid like that to fight with him. He felt insulted. But this was what the Lord was going to do: He was going to take that young stripling that was just still growing up—his bones weren't even fully developed yet—but He was going to show the enemies of Israel that the battle is the Lord's. It's not David's battle or the nation of Israel's battle, but the battle was the Lord's. And the Spirit was in David when he slew Goliath. And not only that, we read that he also slew a lion and a bear as well with his bare hands. So this power came from the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit in the Prophets

And then in Isaiah chapter 61—time is moving along, but in Isaiah chapter 61 in verse 1, Isaiah says:

> [Isaiah 61:1 NKJV] - "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

God has put a Spirit upon him to bring glory to God. And you remember the Lord Jesus also quoting this verse as well. And Isaiah acknowledged the fact that it was the Spirit of God that was leading him into the different prophecies that he was prophesying for the future, and that he would be bringing glory to God.

And Haggai chapter 2 and verse 5—we don't have time to read all these verses, but you might want to make a note of that. When Israel was very small compared to their enemies, the Lord said to them:

> [Haggai 2:5 NKJV] - "According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'

So if the Holy Spirit is there, they've got power to conquer their enemies. And the Lord was reassuring them.

And when Moses was getting really overburdened—there was over a million people, maybe two million people, and many of them came with problems to Moses. There was probably a lineup maybe 10 miles long to bring their problems to Moses to judge, and he was getting very worried. So the Lord told them in Numbers chapter 11 and verse 16:

> [Numbers 11:16-17 NKJV] - [16] So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. [17] Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

To choose seventy elders, and these elders were to have the Spirit of God in them, and they were to judge along with Moses to help him out.

So the prophecy is a history of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, we know that when we read in the book of the Psalms that David wrote the Messianic Psalms concerning the Lord Jesus, and we read Ezekiel and Daniel and all the prophets that were inspired by the Holy Spirit for them to write for the future and what was going to happen. And then we read also in Hebrews chapter 11 about all the prophets that were inspired by the Holy Spirit—the people of faith, you know, a whole parade of them that lived in the faith of the Lord God, and they knew Him, and they were led by the Spirit of God to fulfill the purposes of God.

And in 2 Peter 1, verse 21:

> [2 Peter 1:21 NKJV] - for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy is not of man. These old prophets in the Old Testament were moved to write what was going to happen. So it was the Holy Spirit's job.

The Spirit in the Present Age (RIBS)

And you know something? We don't have time now to go into Romans 8, in verse 5 to 8, and chapter 8 in verse 13:

> [Romans 8:13 NKJV] - 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.

But you know something? In the Old Testament, we read about the Holy Spirit coming upon men and working in their hearts and working through them and so forth. He was in them and working through them. But it was a different experience for those people in the Old Testament with the Holy Spirit. Even though David, when he was convicted of his sin in Psalm 51, when he had committed that great sin of murder and adultery, he prayed to the Lord:

> [Psalm 51:11 NKJV] - Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

And so the Spirit of God was in him. But it wasn't the same experience that people had with the Holy Spirit after Pentecost.

Pentecost started a whole new era. It didn't happen before that because the Lord Jesus, God the Son, hadn't come into this world, and He hadn't died on the cross of Calvary to bring salvation to mankind. And also He said:

> [John 16:7 NKJV] - 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 depart, I will send Him to you.

And He said, "If I go away, I will send you the Holy Spirit. And He will teach you, and He will guide you, and He will be your great comfort, and He will be your great help. And He will teach you all things and manner, and teach you about Me." And so the Holy Spirit has got a very different job, even though He convicts sinners of their sins and leads them to salvation through Christ.

But I like to think of—I think many people maybe have this thing like RIBS. R-I-B-S. And if you want to remember the Holy Spirit, the nature of the Holy Spirit, you go to this RIBS.

R would stand for regeneration. The Holy Spirit regenerates the heart of people to love the Lord, to love His laws, to love His ways, and conform to His ways, and to be more like His Son, the Lord Jesus. And the Lord regenerated the hearts of the Old Testament believers as well, that they would love the Lord, and they would be guided and led through life and accomplish the purposes of God. So the first one is regeneration; the R stands for regeneration. It's the awakening of the heart, of a sinful heart, to realize that they are sinners before a holy God, and to turn to the Savior.

And the second one, the **I**, is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. You know, we live in an age that we're very, very privileged to have the Holy Spirit in us permanently. Not coming and going like He was in the Old Testament. Many of the people, He just came upon them for that very purpose of doing that job that He wanted them to do, but He wasn't permanently there with them. And some of them, maybe He was, but it wasn't to the same degree as we have the Holy Spirit. So He indwells in us permanently.

And **B** stands for baptized in the Holy Spirit. And the Old Testament believers didn't have that privilege that we have. We are baptized in the Holy Spirit, and it's wonderful to have that privilege.

And **S** stands for sealed. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit, and we can never lose our salvation. Because once we're sealed, born again, we belong to God. And Jesus said—so, you know, we have a great, great privilege.

And the Holy Spirit has been given out like, you know, God has opened the doors of heaven and flooded the whole world with the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is guiding and leading missionaries into all parts of the world and leading them to tell the world about Jesus and salvation through Him. And He's changing even the believers' hearts to become more and more like Christ. And it's just a wonderful age that we live in. The experience of the Holy Spirit and His job is way wider of a scope than what the Old Testament used to be. And we are living in wonderful times.

You know, the Old Testament believers never had the privileges of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we have access to. We have access to the power of the Holy Spirit. You know yourselves in your life how that power has been exercised. And many, many times I could tell you the stories of my past life and how the Spirit of God has exercised His gifts through me and through you as well. And this is a wonderful thing that the Spirit of God is doing through us.

And through the whole world, there's an awakening going on. I think the Spirit of God has never worked so overtime, you could say, as He does in this day and age. It's a new age; it's called the age of the Holy Spirit. And you know something? He's not crediting Himself. All that He does is pointing to the Son and to the Father. He wants to bring glory to God. He wants to bring glory to the Son. And He wants the people of the world to know His Son, the Father—to have a wonderful relationship with the Father through His Son, the Lord Jesus. And this is what He's doing: He's changing lives throughout the whole world and making people to become more and more like God the Son. So we're a very privileged bunch of people, and it's wonderful to be living in this day and age, the day and age of the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer

So let's pray and give thanks to the Lord, our loving Father in heaven.

How we thank Thee again for this privilege that we have, that we are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. And Lord, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. And our Father, we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. And we are sealed in the Holy Spirit; it's like a brand being put on us. No one can claim us but the Holy Spirit. We belong to Thee, Lord. Nothing can separate us from Your great love.

We thank Thee for the great price that You paid, Lord, when You came to the cross of Calvary, that the Holy Spirit might be poured out into this world. And we see that the hearts of men have gotten bolder and courage is given to them—a courage that they never had. And so, Lord, we read about it, about the apostles, Peter and them. They were just like chickens hiding up in the upper room. But when the Spirit of God took hold on them, He gave them courage and they spoke boldly the gospel, and thousands of people got saved.

And we want to thank You, Lord, that even a greater work is going on by the Holy Spirit now, as Thy people are sent through all four corners of the world to take the gospel, the good news of Christ, to them. So, Lord, we thank Thee that we are a part of this work. We thank Thee again for the privilege that we have, all because of Thy beloved Son. And we thank Thee, our Father, that the Holy Spirit is making us to be more and more like Him until we're perfected and we are like Him, and we'll have the fragrance of Christ before our Father. We thank Thee for the wonder of wonders that we are involved in.

We give Thee thanks in Jesus' precious and holy name. Amen.

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