

Week 1: Spirit as Person

Home group notes (Van Johnson)

Problem: our tendency to see the Spirit as *something* rather than *someone*

Short history of the Spirit as a person in the Bible

From OT to Jesus

1. It is in the New Testament (NT), not the Old Testament (OT), where the Holy Spirit is presented clearly as a person who is also God.
2. Many references to the Spirit in the OT:
 - 2.1 In OT period, Spirit thought of as *an aspect of God, not someone separate from God.*
 - 2.2 Spirit enables individuals to do God's will:
 - 1Sam 16:13** – the anointing of David was with the Spirit (oil as symbol)
3. With the arrival of the Messiah came a time of new revelation, and as part of it, the Holy Spirit was seen as a person.
4. **Lk 3:22:** Jesus is anointed, like David, at the beginning of his ministry
The Spirit will empower Jesus to preach and to perform miracles.

From Jesus to the Holy Spirit

The Spirit's prominence begins to change after Jesus leaves; Holy Spirit takes on leadership role (guiding, teaching), moving into the foreground of the Church

A. John 16:5-7 During Jesus' farewell address to his followers in the upper room, he tells them he must go so the Spirit may come as *Counsellor or guide*

B. Acts 1:8 During Jesus' last conversation with his disciples, he tells them to expect from the Spirit *power to witness, to carry on the ministry of Jesus*

The Spirit as power is a very important idea; how He empowers our speech will be covered in 'Spirit as Communicator'

The Spirit in the early church

Acts 5:3 Peter calls the lie of Ananias as a lie made *to* the Holy Spirit

They recognized the Holy Spirit's presence among them

Acts 10:19-20 Holy Spirit speaks to Peter to guide the mission outwards

We see here the Holy Spirit as speaking, directing. *He can be obeyed or disobeyed.*

Acts 15:28 The decision made at leadership meeting in Jerusalem was made using name of the Holy Spirit ("It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us")

We see here the Holy Spirit as giving wisdom. *He can be agreed with or disregarded.*

