



# ANointed WITH THE SPIRIT AND POWER

## A Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit

*A central truth of the Christian life is that it can't be lived without the Holy Spirit. Relying on our own power, our best efforts are but filthy rags. Christian life is not just hard; it's impossible — without the Holy Spirit.*

### **Week 1: Introducing the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is, and has always been, the eternal source of God's power in enabling His people to achieve His purposes.

### **Week 2: The Spirit and Israel's Leaders**

The Spirit empowered diverse leaders in Israel—including Joseph, Bezalel, Moses, Joshua, and judges like Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson—enabling them to preserve, organize, and lead the people despite their varied backgrounds and limited natural abilities.

### **Week 3: The Spirit and Israel's Prophets**

The Holy Spirit empowered the prophets throughout Israel's history — during the trying times of the monarchy, the exile, and the return — enabling them to deliver God's messages with authority, wisdom and courage.

#### **Week 4: The Spirit and John the Baptist**

All four Gospels record the Spirit's work in the life and ministry of John the Baptist, the divinely commissioned forerunner of Jesus who fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, "making straight" the way for the Messiah.

#### **Week 5: The Spirit and Jesus' early years**

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke detail Jesus' birth and early life, emphasizing the Holy Spirit's role in the miraculous conceptions of Mary (a virgin) and Elizabeth (barren), and in announcing Jesus' birth to Mary and Joseph, thus confirming his divine nature and purpose.

#### **Week 6: The Spirit and Jesus' ministry**

Jesus began his public ministry with a powerful anointing at his baptism. This anointing—marked by the descent of the Spirit and God's affirmation of Jesus as His Son—equipped Jesus for the testing in the wilderness and the challenges that followed.

#### **Week 7: The Spirit and Jesus' departure**

Jesus' ascension was the pivotal event enabling the Holy Spirit's descent at Pentecost, fulfilling his promise to his disciples. This empowerment is essential for the church's mission and its effectiveness in reaching the world, all for God's glory.

#### **Week 8: The Spirit and the early church**

The Holy Spirit drove the early church's growth and outreach, empowering early believers to continue Jesus' mission. This work sets the pattern for contemporary churches to rely on the Spirit for witness, leadership, and decisions.

#### **Week 9: The Spirit and the contemporary church**

Spirit empowerment is essential for confident living, distinct thinking, steady growth, obedience, and fulfilling the universal command to be Spirit-filled. The Holy Spirit is vital to the Christian life, enabling believers to fulfill their spiritual duties and grow in faith.

#### **Week 10: Catching the wind of Holy Spirit empowerment**

The Holy Spirit is the enduring source of empowerment for God's people throughout history.

*Next: Acts of the Holy Spirit*

