

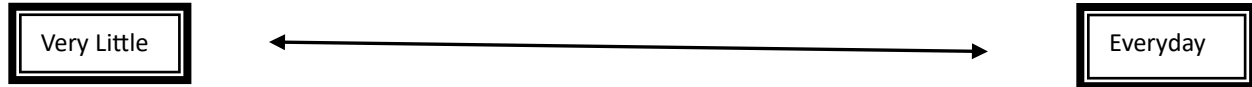
"The Spirit-filled Son of Man"

The Ministry of the Spirit

February 1, 2026

INTRO ... "Calibrating Our Holy Spirit Frame of Reference"

?? - **When it comes to the concept that the Spirit of God is going to engage, impart, and express Himself TO and THROUGH human people--What are we to anticipate that looking like? ...What are you "expecting" in this realm of the "Ministry of the Spirit"??** (For you ...for others ...for your church ...as the Church Engages the World?)



The Spirit-filled Son of Man

Luke 3-4 ...The Starting Point of Jesus Life-Mission is FILLED with Intentionally Highlighted References to the Holy Spirit! (Episode Introduction - **"Meet the Messiah, Featuring the Holy Spirit!"**)

Luke 3

v. 4-6 ...John the Baptist—"Preparing the Way" ...for what? ...The 2nd Adam, the Messiah whose ministry would be an "expression" of the ministry of the Spirit!

v. 15-16 ... "the people were in expectation"!! This is HUGE! What's coming is Earth Changing!—THE CHRIST!!

v. 21-22 ...the highlighting of the descent of the "Ministry of the Spirit" on the Son of Man!!

"A turning point in redemptive history has been reached, and with it the climactic moment in the history of redemptive revelation. James D. G. Dunn sums it up well: "The experience of Jesus at the Jordan is far more than something merely personal—it is a unique moment in history: the beginning of a new epoch in salvation-history—the beginning . . . of the End-time, the messianic age, the new covenant." ... " it is clear that the Spirit's role at the baptism was not episodic. The Spirit remains." **Graham Cole**, "He Who Gives Life, The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit", p. 158

Matt 3:13-15 ¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "[I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?]" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "[Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

-- **Jesus was "fulfilling all righteousness" in all that he did!**

"Unlike the others who came for baptism ([Matt. 3:6](#)), Jesus had no personal sins to confess. Yet He willingly received "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" ([Mark 1:4](#)), a sign that He identifies with the sins of those He came to save ([2 Cor. 5:21](#))."
Knox Chamblin, "To Fulfill All Righteousness" (Ligonier Min.)

Php 2:5-7 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

The great "kenosis" ...the mysterious "emptying" of the Son of God that accompanied His incarnation!

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Rom 8:3-4 ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Note Jesus "humanity" ...he had a "dimension" of his existence on earth that is under the heading of "flesh". He had an "earthly", "natural" dimension. Something that is part of our "being" as "man".

- **Adam (man) is NOT Angelic. He is NOT a heavenly being.** ...He is a "God-glorifying Earthly Being"! ...The glory of God was intended to be seen and "imaged" through man's "body, soul/spirit"—His natural & spiritual dimensions!
- **Jn 1:14 ... "the Word became FLESH ...and we have seen his glory"** ... "flesh" can express & reveal glory!!

1 Cor 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

"In the power of the Spirit, Jesus is all that Israel should have been as God's son and all that Adam should have been as God's son. In other words, Jesus is the true Israel and the true Adam."
Graham Cole, "He Who Gives Life, The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit", p. 160

Thought Outline (Jesus 'mode' of earthly life/ministry):

"Prequel" ...Long ago, in a heavenly place far, far away ...the Trinity existed in Eternal Harmony (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit)

=> **Creation ...then Fall ...then Redemption/Restoration**

=> **Kenosis** (Php 2)

=> **Son of Man** (2nd Adam)

=> **Spirit Filled** (Lk 4)

- Spirit Filled "ways" observed - How does a man live a Spirit-filled life on earth? (Lk 4 ... Led by the Spirit ...Time in Isolation & Time of Natural Diminution ...Time of Testing)
- Spirit Filled Ministry "explained" (Lk. 4:18-19)

Luke 4

NOTE the Experiential Elements at this "Inaugural Exchange"!!

- (1) **Experiencing the "pleasure of God"** (Lk 3:22) (the awareness of God's presence & pleasure in your life is INDISPENSABLE!
- (2) **Experiencing being "Full of the Spirit"** (Lk 4:1)(next week)
- (3) **Experiencing being "Led by the Spirit"** (v. 1) (This week)

v. 1-2 ...The Spirit LEADS the Son of Man

- **"Led by the Spirit"** – The 1st Time a Person is described this way in the N.T. ...**Somehow there is a "recognizable EXCHANGE" between the man Jesus (the "kenotic-man") and the Holy Spirit!**

"How did Jesus walk on water? How did he feed five thousand with five loaves and two fish? How did he raise Lazarus from the dead? ...Unless we have been carefully taught, many Christians would be quick to say simply, Because he is God! And he truly is. But is that how the New Testament answers these questions? If we follow the emphasis of the Gospels, we might say that what Jesus's miracles show is that he is God, but how he, as man, performs these wonders, is not quite as simple as we may assume. ...In particular, what are we to say about the many texts that testify to the Holy Spirit's presence in the human life of Christ? Did Christ, in his humanity, actually need the Holy Spirit if he performed such signs simply by virtue of his divinity? ...When we recognize the surprisingly recurrent theme of the divine Spirit's relationship to the divine Son in his humanity, we might understand Jesus (and the Gospels) better, and freshly marvel at what grace Christ offers us in the gift of his Spirit." **David Mathis**, "Did Jesus Need the Spirit" (desiringgod.org)

- **What was this like?**
- **What was on the Spirit's Agenda?** (In this "inaugural moment")
 - Isolation, seclusion, and fasting
 - Testing
- **The Spirit and "Wilderness Withdrawals"** ... an extraordinary version of the ordinary for Jesus.... *If you never do things that are "extraordinary" you will never move beyond what is natural and ordinary in your walk.* [40 days of withdrawal might not be common... but Spiritual Seclusion is!]
- **Fasting**
- **Seclusion and singularity**

"Jesus is thirty years old. He has just been acclaimed by God to be his Son. Three years of mounting conflict lie before him which he knows will end in his torment and execution. How shall he begin? ...He begins full of the Holy Spirit. ... as a human in the trenches with us he availed himself of the same power offered to us in the Holy Spirit. ...With that fullness the Holy Spirit led him into solitude for forty days. He went away from family and friends and crowds and lived in the desert for forty days. That's almost six weeks. No radio. No television. No computers. No billboards. And this wasn't the only time ... It must be that preparation for ministry demands significant times of solitude. We simply can't maintain a radical God-centeredness under an unbroken barrage of human interaction. The depth and value of what you bring in your heart to other people will depend on what you do with your solitude. ...woe to me if there is no wilderness of solitude ... I urge all of you to find a pattern of personal solitude." **John Piper**, "Christ in Combat: Defense by the Spirit"

...Fasting/Seclusion/Silence ...These are all activities that help us "connect" and "experience" life beyond the Natural! ...They "turn down" natural drives, impulses, & reflexes

- "REBOOTS" our "Bread Alone Tendencies"
- "RESETS" our "Earthly, Natural, Personal ALGORITHMS"

This is a Significant Moment in Jesus Life/Ministry ...and it is accompanied by a significant practice and posturing of the soul in order to interact with God the Holy Spirit!!

The One Human Being whose "flesh" is not Corrupted or infected with a "virus"—Models a life that "Dials-Down the Natural" in order to have an "Exchange w/ the Spirit"!!! ...This is NORMAL for the 2nd Adam!

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

John 4:31-34 ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³² But he said to them, "[I] have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."