

THE
HOLY
SPIRIT
IN YOU

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DEREK PRINCE



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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The forms *LORD* and *GOD* (in small capital letters) in Bible quotations represent the Hebrew name for God *Yahweh* (Jehovah), while *Lord* and *God* normally represent the name *Adonai*, in accordance with the Bible version used. Boldface type in the Scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis. Personal pronouns and adjectives relating to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in Scripture quotations from the *New International Version* have been capitalized to correspond to the overall style used in this book.

The definitions of *pneuma* (G#4151) and *arrhabon* (H#6162) come from *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* (Thomas Nelson Publishers).

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ISBN: 978-1-64123-113-8
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-60374-430-0
Printed in the United States of America
© 1987, 2019 by Derek Prince Ministries—International

Whitaker House
1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

The Library of Congress has cataloging the original trade paperback edition as follows:
Prince, Derek.

The Holy Spirit in you / Derek Prince.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-88368-961-8 (pbk.)
I. Holy Spirit. I. Title.
BT121.3.P75 2003
231.3—dc22
2003017920

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PART ONE:
WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

BEFORE PENTECOST

Through Scripture, we receive knowledge we can't receive in any other way—knowledge that comes from supernaturally inspired revelation. One of these supremely important revelations is that of the essential nature of God. The Bible unfolds the mystery that God is one—yet more than one. He is three persons, yet one God. These three persons are God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

This book centers on the third person of the Godhead. It contains one of the most profound and distinctive revelations of the whole Bible: the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Some studies of the Holy Spirit begin at Pentecost. But we will examine essential Scriptures from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Ultimately, the truths in this book will help us to understand what it means for the Spirit to dwell within a believer—the blessings and responsibilities of *The Holy Spirit in You*.

Here are some of the themes we will investigate more fully in coming chapters:

THE SPIRIT'S PERSONHOOD

The first truth we will discover is that the Holy Spirit is a person, just as much as the Father and the Son are. Because of human parallels, it is comparatively easy for us to realize that God the Father is a person and God the Son is a person. But it is not always as easy for us to realize that God the Holy Spirit is a person, with all that this truth signifies.

THE SPIRIT'S OMNISCIENCE AND OMNIPRESENCE

Another important theme we will explore is that, through His Holy Spirit, God knows everything; there is nothing hidden from Him. Additionally, through the Spirit, God is present everywhere at the same time. These two characteristics are represented, respectively, by the theological terms *omniscient* and *omnipresent*. We see these realities unfolded in various passages of Scripture. For instance, in the book of Jeremiah, we read:

“Am I a God near at hand,” says the LORD, “and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the LORD; “do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:23–24)

God fills heaven and earth. There is no place where He is not. There is no place where activity is happening that God does not know about. This is very beautifully revealed in the opening verses of Psalm 139:

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I

cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me; indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You.

(Psalm 139:1–12)

What marvelous language! What a wonderful unfolding of the greatness of the wisdom of God! God's presence permeates the entire universe. There is nowhere you and I can go to be hidden from Him. No distance can separate us from Him. No darkness can hide us from Him. God is everywhere, throughout the entire universe. He knows everything that is happening in every place.

The key that unlocks this secret is in the seventh verse, where the psalmist says, "*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*" This is a typical example of parallelism in Hebrew poetry, where the two halves of the verse say essentially the same thing. God's presence throughout the universe is His Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, God is present everywhere. Through the Holy Spirit, God knows all that is going on in the universe at any time.

THE SPIRIT'S ACTIVITY IN THE UNIVERSE

We will also note how the Holy Spirit has been active in the universe from creation onward. The psalmist has recounted the actual process of creation, in which the Spirit fully participated:

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. (Psalm 33:6)

Where the English translation says “*breath*,” the original Hebrew can also mean “*spirit*.” That would change the reading to: “*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the [spirit] of His mouth.*” In other words, the two great agents of creation that brought the whole universe into being were the word of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord, or the Holy Spirit. If we turn back to the verses at the beginning of the Bible that describe creation, we see this fact unfolded in greater detail:

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. (Genesis 1:2–3)

The presence of the Spirit of God was there in the formless darkness—in the void, in the waste. The word “*hovering*” suggests a bird. In Scripture, the Holy Spirit is identified as being the heavenly dove. (See, for example, Luke 3:22.) Here we have heaven’s dove, the Holy Spirit, hovering over the face of the dark, formless waters.

Genesis 1:3 says, “*Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.*” Here again are the two agents of creation. When they are united, creation takes place. When the Spirit of God and the word of God are there, then a new phenomenon—in this case, light—comes into being. The Holy Spirit has been at work in the universe from creation onward and has always been present everywhere in the universe. In a sense, the Holy Spirit is the active, effective agent of the Godhead.

THE SPIRIT’S ACTIVITY IN PEOPLE

The Holy Spirit also inspired and empowered all the men and women of God in the Old and New Testaments. The list is too long to give all the names. But we will consider several examples from the Old Testament.

The first one is Bezalel, the man who designed and created the ark of the covenant and all the furniture for the tabernacle of Moses. This is what the Lord said about him:

See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship [“craftsmanship” NASB].
(Exodus 31:2–3)

It was the Spirit of God filling Bezalel that gave him the ability to produce such outstanding creative workmanship. It always impresses me that Bezalel is the first man whom Scripture records as being filled with the Spirit of God. The result, in his case, was craftsmanship. That gives a very high value to such workmanship.

In Deuteronomy 34:9, we read this about Joshua:

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Joshua was the great military leader who conquered the promised land. He was able to do this because he was filled with the Spirit of God.

Next, the book of Judges describes the Spirit’s activity in the life of Gideon:

But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.
(Judges 6:34)

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and made him a mighty leader. Before that, he was a timid young man, cowering at the winepress, unable to do anything effective. But he was changed when the Spirit of God came upon him. (See verses 11–27.)

Then we read this about David, the great king and psalmist:

Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue." (2 Samuel 23:1–2)

David gave us those beautiful psalms because "*the Spirit of LORD spoke by [him], and His word was on [his] tongue.*" Notice again the combination of the Spirit of God and the word of God.

In 2 Peter 1:21, the apostle Peter summed up the ministry of all the Old Testament prophets when he said,

For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved ["carried along" NIV] by the Holy Spirit.

No prophet who brought a true message from God ever spoke out of his own initiative or from his own thinking, reasoning, or understanding. Instead, each prophet was inspired (prompted, "moved," or "carried along") by the Holy Spirit. That made the prophet's message more than human. It became a message from God Himself.

When we look at these examples and many others, we come to the conclusion that all the men and women who served God acceptably and effectively did so solely through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Surely, this is a lesson for us. If they could not serve God effectively without the Holy Spirit, neither can we.