

The Holy Spirit and the Hypostatic Union.

We define “Hypostatic Union” as the unique union of God and man in the person of Jesus Christ during that period of time roughly beginning with His birth through to His death and including such events that are directly related to that. I am not defining this as a separate dispensation in human history, as some do, because it does not have the characteristics we usually ascribe to a dispensation, namely a beginning with blessings and testing for mankind, then man’s failure, followed by God’s judgment and discipline. But because of the presence of Jesus Christ and His ministry being so unusual, we are looking at this 33 year period of the life of Jesus as distinct enough to warrant study under our main heading of the Holy Spirit and the Divine Dynasphere. One very good reason for that is this period is the first formal use of the Divine Dynasphere under the concept of a universal indwelling of the person of Christ and all the empowerment associated with that, as we experience it today.

Before we start we need to discuss the difference between enduement, indwelling, and filling of the Spirit. We have already thoroughly covered enduement and seen it as occurring in Old Testament times when the Holy Spirit came to certain believers and endued them with special abilities and powers to accomplish assigned ministries. It was temporary and its empowerment could be removed because of successful completion of the ministry or carnality.

Indwelling is quite different, in that it is the Holy Spirit coming to reside in the person of the believer permanently at the moment of salvation through to the end of human life. It is best seen in 1 Corinthians 6.

1 Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The filling of the Spirit is the operation of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of the indwelt believer in this Church Age. The term is also used in the context of an endued believer in OT times and, in that case, could be considered as another way to express the idea of enduement. Though indwelling during this Church Age is permanent and cannot be lost, the filling of the Spirit and all benefits related to that can be lost through

carnality. It is recovered with the practice of confessing one's sins (1 John 1:9). Understand that losing the filling of the Spirit is NOT losing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is losing the benefits of the indwelling Holy Spirit who remains resident in the believer to chastise the carnal believer and urge him back to a condition of filling. We will look at the filling of the Spirit in a bit more detail later in this study.

During this period of the Hypostatic Union, there were a few believers who were described as "filled by the Holy Spirit," such as John the Baptist.

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be **filled** with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

As you are probably aware, the wife of Zechariah, John The Baptist's mother, had been barren. As the Luke passage above states, during the administration of his priestly duties, an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him his wife Elizabeth would conceive and have a son, "And he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15).

Then it is said about John's mother Elizabeth, "And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost" (Luke 1:41). And we are told the same thing about Zacharias in Luke 1:67: And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost...

Furthermore, we have a similar statement about Simeon, the old man who held the infant Lord Jesus in his arms when He was brought to the Temple. In Luke 2:25 we read, "And the Holy Ghost was upon him," and in verse 26 we are told, "It was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost...." Then, verse 27 reads, "And he came by the Spirit into the temple."

I think it is debatable whether or not Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John were indwelt rather than simply endued. Jesus did later teach his disciples they could ask for the Spirit. My position is we are looking at the Old Testament process of empowerment by the Holy Spirit we have called "endowment" or a temporary empowerment by the Holy Spirit for some task or ministry.

All this happened from soon before Mary conceived to soon after she delivered and some 33 years before the ministry of the Holy Spirit formerly changed at Pentecost from enduement to indwelling. What makes this period so special is not that Zechariah, Elizabeth, John and Mary were endued with the Spirit; what makes it special is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to Jesus as compared to the enduement experienced by OT saints.

We need to understand one simple fact concerning this man Jesus and the deity of the Second Person of the Trinity. He is said to be the God/man, undiminished deity and true humanity. The Second Person of the Trinity agreed to become humanity as part of the plan of God for the recovery of all that was lost by Adam in the Garden. He agreed to become man and be the perfect sacrifice demanded by the perfect righteousness of God to atone for man's sins.

John 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.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

This God/man lived some 33 years among us, lived a sinless life and performed many miracles. Here is the catch: None of this was done by Jesus in the power of His deity as the Second Person of the Trinity. NONE of it!

Phil 2:5 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**. ⁸ And being found **in human form**, he **humbled himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

These statements indicate that Christ became a man, a true human being. The words "He emptied Himself" means He made Himself nothing. "Emptied," from the Greek *kenoō*, points to the divesting of His self-

interests and power, but not of His deity. Though He functioned as a man He remained the Second Person of the Godhead. “The form of a servant” certainly points to His lowly and humble position, His willingness to obey the Father, and serve others. He became a man, a true human being. “Likeness” suggests similarity but difference. Though His humanity was genuine, He was different from all other humans in that He was sinless.

Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Thus it is seen that Christ, while retaining the essence of God, was also human. In His incarnation, He was *fully* God and *fully* man at the same time. He was God manifest in human flesh.

John 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.

The Second Person of the Trinity humbled Himself and became flesh, meaning He set aside the powers of His deity in that He relied not on His own awesome power as God (He did create the world, remember?) but rather lived life as a human being just like you and me and faced all the same temptations as you and me—with one exception, of course; he had no sin nature and more resembled the first man before the fall. He is often called the “Second Adam”.

The most important thing to understand is Jesus performed all the miracles He performed as a MAN and not as God. All that he did was done in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Jesus was test driving the *prototype* Divine Dynasphere. Jesus would prove it worked and would leave it here for us to use.

Matt 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

John 1:32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”

First understand that Jesus was not being baptized for any remission of sins. This was the beginning of His ministry as a priest. All priests in the Temple began their ministries at 30 years of age and went through a ritual bath (baptizing) to begin their service in the Temple. The Spirit descending as a dove was not the moment of indwelling; that occurred before birth through the Spirit's impregnation of the seed of the woman. The descent of the Holy Spirit was the beginning of His earthly ministry and empowered the Son, the Messiah, for His ministry among people. It was also in keeping with Isaiah's prophecy that the Spirit would rest on the Messiah. Every step of His life was guided and enabled by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil

Matt 12:18 "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. (quoting Isa 42:1-4)

Matt 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 1:80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

Luke 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

As part of His ministry, our Lord depended on the Father's provision, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This would establish a precedent for the Church Age. This process of living a life guided by and enabled by the indwelling Holy Spirit that Christ lived for 33 years was the prototype Divine Dynasphere, and it proved to all believers who would follow that it works exactly as advertised. Its coming was prophesied in Isaiah.

Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and knowledge, and occupation with the Lord.

That is the passage Jesus quoted in Luke 4:14 above. Note that Isaiah gives some of the benefits of being filled with the Spirit of the Lord.

- You have your own counsel and understanding. The Spirit edifies and gives clarity to understanding of issues WHEN you are in the Spirit.
- You have Wisdom, which is doctrine stored in your soul for application to life.
- You have Knowledge" is the understanding of how to apply that wisdom in your spiritual walk, which only the Spirit can reveal.

Our Lord later offered the filling of the Holy Spirit to any of his disciples who would ask for Him. This is why it says, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." That was Jesus giving a promise to the disciples to show them the mechanics for getting the filling of the Holy Spirit prior to the Church Age.

Lk 11:13 If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children [and you do], how much more shall your Father from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for Him.

We do not ask for the Holy Spirit during the Church Age, since we receive Him as of the moment of salvation. None of the disciples ever did ask the Lord for the Spirit. Consequently, just prior to the ascension, our Lord gave the Holy Spirit to the disciples without their asking, so that they would be ready for the Church Age to begin on the day of Pentecost.

Jn 20:22 And when Jesus had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Our Lord was sustained in His humanity by the Holy Spirit. He did not use His own divine attributes to glorify Himself or to accomplish anything in the strength of His own divine power. Everything was done in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit who was with Him always.

There is one exception to this, and that was the Cross. During the period that the sins of the world were being imputed to Him and judged, during that three hours of darkness on the Cross, He endured the pain without any support from God the Holy Spirit or God The Father.

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (And Mark 15:34)

God had forsaken Him, left Him to endure the worst part of the Cross, the imputation of our sins to Him and being judged for them in our place. The agony of the scene was so horrible that God hid His face with supernatural darkness. And He screamed out “My God, My God.” Why did He call out twice? Some argue it is meaningful, because the other two persons of the Trinity were compelled to separate from Him while our sins were imputed to His person.

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

He was alone for the first time, alone without the Father or the indwelling power of the Spirit. Never mind the pain of our imputed the sins, but that separation was the worst part of the Cross for Him.

What is important to remember about this 33 year period is that the humanity of Christ did not operate in His own divine power but relied completely on the power of the indwelling Spirit of God. He used the Divine Dynasphere and proved it worked.

What is this Divine Dynasphere? Simply stated it is a place with access to divine power, power so strong it can enable a life that is victorious over sin, performs miracles, and even resurrect the dead. It is accessed through the Holy Spirit. Noah used it. Joseph used it. Moses used it. Joshua used

it. David used it. The prophets used it. And Jesus used it to live His life here on earth. And it is now available to us to use.

Summary

- The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament was limited to a very few believers, probably less than 1%, and was very different from His ministry to believers in the Church Age.
- Not only was His Old Testament ministry limited to a few believers, but it could be taken away because of the believer's carnality or the completion of the mission associated with this temporary empowerment.
- In the Church Age the Holy Spirit does much more for the believer than He did for the believer in the Old Testament.
- Fundamentalist Christianity today sometimes fails to make this distinction.
- In the Old Testament a believer could ask for the Holy Spirit and pray for His continued presence.
- In the Church Age we are never commanded to ask for the Spirit, since we receive Him at salvation.

Pentecost — and Everything Changes!

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own

tongues the mighty works of God.”¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”¹³ But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

The Son humbled Himself and was born as a babe in Bethlehem. But it is an equal act of humiliation for this Third Person of the Trinity to come and to dwell in you and me.

1 Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Everything changed on that day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago. God’s Plan of Redemption shifted gears into a new and updated dispensation. The old things passed away to be replaced by the new. This new dispensation we call the Church Age or Age of Grace interrupted the Age of Israel (also called the Age of the Law), leaving seven years on Israel’s prophetic calendar. (Dan 9:24-27). Those seven years represent the final period of their discipline and last chance to find redemption. We call it the Tribulation. What was offered to Israel by Jesus, the Kingdom, was rejected by them when they rejected the King. That rejection resulted in this change that took place on Pentecost. God *temporarily* turned from dealing with Israel and offered the Kingdom to the Gentiles, at least the spiritual aspects of the Kingdom, mainly that part we refer to as the Divine Dynasphere. This does not mean God is finished with Israel and certainly

not that the Church has replaced Israel in God's Plan. God will resume dealing with Israel at the beginning of the Kingdom.

Rom 11:11 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. ²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. ²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Israel stumbled over the stumbling stone—Jesus Christ.

Isa 8:14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the

inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.

Peter speaks of this “stumbling stone”.

1 Peter 2:7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Israel rejected the stone, Messiah, and it became the foundation, the cornerstone upon which God built the Church. And their rejection means favor for the Gentiles.

Rom 11:12 Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

But Israel will be included in God’s Plan again. Follow the reasoning beginning in 11:17 with the story of the olive trees and grafting, concluded in V23-25.

Rom 11:23 And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. ²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Born again Israel, those who “do not continue on their unbelief,” will again be “grafted” back onto the olive tree at the end of the Tribulation and enter into their promised Kingdom (Millennium). Until then their hearts have been hardened. Many Jews have and will come to Jesus as Messiah, but they represent only a fraction of the world’s Jewery.

Summary

The Second Person of the Godhead set aside all the power associated with His deity and operated for 33 years here on earth as a man facing all the temptations we face, and He did so in the leading and the enabling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It was through this power that Jesus was able to live a life without any sins and to go to the Cross as the only man, with perfect righteousness, who was fully qualified to stand in our place and be judged in our stead for our sins. He knew no sin and was made sin for us. Jesus lived and operated in this sphere of power we are calling the Divine Dynasphere.

Obviously, we have much more to cover on this subject, but that will have to wait until next week.