

Welcome

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*“15” Symbols
of the
Holy Spirit*

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The Holy Spirit in Action

When the restrictions are lifted and the Holy Spirit is allowed to move, He produces mighty, supernatural acts in our lives, our churches and our communities.

*“Men ought to seek with their whole hearts
to be filled with the Spirit of God.
Without being filled with the Spirit, it is
utterly impossible that an individual
Christian or a church can ever
live or work as God desires.”*

Andrew Murray

The 15 Symbols

- Oil and Dew
- Rain, River, Water
- Fire, Dove, Clothing
- Wind
- Gift
- Seal and Earnest
- Glory and Light
- Wine

The Holy Spirit in Action

- The Holy Spirit Moved in Old Testament
- The Holy Spirit Was Intimately Involved in Jesus Life
- Acts is a Portfolio of the Holy Spirit in Action
- The Holy Spirit Moved on the Day of Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit Moved When the Disciples Prayed

The Holy Spirit in Action

- The Holy Spirit Released Healing Through Peter's Shadow
- The Disciples Displayed the Dynamic Power of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit Moved on the Gentiles in the Same Manner
- The Holy Spirit Foretold the Future and Gave Divine Direction

The Holy Spirit: Oil and Dew

Throughout scripture, there are 15 primary symbols, or metaphors, used to represent the Holy Spirit. They describe the *person*, the *power*, and the *work* of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit: Oil and Dew

Jesus was anointed With the Oil of the Spirit

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is referred to as oil 200 times.

Acts 10:38; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

The Holy Spirit as Oil

Oil is Inseparably Linked to God's Presence

The first-time oil is seen as a symbol of the Holy Spirit is in Genesis 28:18, 19

God appeared to Jacob in a dream and told him He would bless him and be with him always. Jacob arose early in the morning and set up a pillar and poured oil on it and called it Bethel.

The Holy Spirit as Oil

Anointing Oil Was Applied to
Everything in the Tabernacle

In Exodus 30: 22-31, God spoke to Moses, instructing him on what ingredients to use to make the anointing oil. This oil was to be used on everything in the tabernacle

8 Ways Oil Was Used That Defines the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. Consecration of Priest

Exodus 30:30; Leviticus 4:3-5; Numbers 3:3

When a priest was installed into the ministry he was always anointed with oil, because oil represents the Presence of the Holy Spirit

2. Consecration of Kings

1 Samuel 10:1; 15:17; 16:13; 2 Samuel 2:4,7; 5:3;
1 Kings 1:39

Just like priests, kings were anointed with oil, for it represents the presence of the Holy Spirit.

3. The Messiah had the title “Anointed”

Psalm 2:2; Acts 10:38; John 3:34

The word Messiah means “Anointed One.”

This oil represents the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

4. Anointing of oil symbolizes the filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit

1 Samuel 16:13; Zechariah 4:1-6; Acts 1:8

When a person repents of sin and declares that Jesus is their Lord and Savior, the oil of the Holy Spirit enters their life and consecrates them, sanctifies them and separates them for God's service for the rest their life.

5. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit

Luke 4:18, 19

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹ to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

6. God anointed the believers with the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:21; 1John 2:20, 27

Everyone who accepts Jesus is endowed with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. Anointing with oil symbolizes the healing work of the Holy Spirit

James 5:14, 15

¹⁴ Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

8. The oil symbolizes the teaching work of the Holy Spirit

1 John 2:27

This means once you are saved, the Holy Spirit moves into you, and He becomes your resident Teacher that permanently lives inside of you. In times when you don't have a human teacher available to you, you still have the anointing (oil) of the Holy Spirit teaching you and enabling you to know and understand things supernaturally by divine revelation.

The Holy Spirit as Dew

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.” Psalm 133:3

The Holy Spirit as Dew

The fact of the matter is, moisture is in the air all the time, but you can't see or touch it. It's invisible. However, when the atmospheric conditions are just right, and the air cools down to the "dew point," the moisture in the air condenses and begins to manifest as water droplets all over everything. These droplets of water are what we call "dew."

The “dew point” is the point at which the air molecules become fully saturated with moisture and cannot hold another drop. Suddenly, the moisture in the air appears everywhere — on outdoor furniture, plants, trees, grass, everything. Moisture was there all along. But it didn’t manifest until the right conditions were met.

Psalm 133:3 says the anointing of the Spirit is much like dew. Verses 1 and 2 let us know that “unity” among God’s people is the condition that causes the anointing to be released. In other words, “unity” is like the dew point that triggers the anointing to manifest. Like the moisture that is always in the air, the Holy Spirit is always with us.

Although we may not see or sense His presence, He is there in our churches, our homes, and our lives. But He only manifests His presence where there is unity and peace.

When a church or person is in strife, they will most likely not experience the manifest presence of God. But when unity emerges, suddenly the power and presence of God begin to show up, and everyone gets touched by it. Evidence of the Spirit's anointing shows up everywhere.

That is what happened when the disciples were unified in prayer on the Day of Pentecost. Indeed, where there is unity, “...the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore” (Psalm 133:3).

The Holy Spirit: Rain, River, Water

In Scripture, the Holy Spirit is also often likened to **rain**, which reflects God's favor and presence; a **river**, which is teeming with life and brings great change; and **water**, which satisfies and refreshes our thirsty souls.

The Holy Spirit: Rain, River, Water

1. “flow” — (rheo): pictures a rushing stream, so full that it over-flows its banks
2. “living water” — (hudatos zontos): water that is living; water filled with vibrancy and life
3. “drink” — (potidzo): literally, to drink; consume

The Holy Spirit is Like Rain

One of the most notable passages in the Bible where the Holy Spirit is paralleled with rain is in the book of Joel. The Scripture says, “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month”

(Joel 2:23)

The Holy Spirit is Like Rain

Because Israel was an agricultural region, rain was very important. Everything in life centered around and depended on the two main rainy seasons. The former rain or early rain occurred from October to November. This rain softened the ground to germinate the seeds that were planted. The latter rain was March through April. This rain would help bring the crops to maturity, so they could be harvested.

Rain is associated with God's favor and His powerful presence. The right amount of rain was a blessing or God's favor, bringing a healthy crop and a bountiful harvest. When the rain came at the proper time and in the proper amount the people rejoiced. Too much rain was destructive. It damaged the fields and homes, destroyed crops, paralyzed life, and ruined the harvest. A lack of rain (drought) was viewed as God's displeasure by the people.

Spiritually speaking, we need the right amount of rain at the right time for us to grow and for souls to be harvested. Just as the people of Israel were totally depended upon God to regulate the rain, as believers we are totally dependent on Him as well. Sometimes Christians who are not mature in the Lord will pray,

“Oh Lord, let it rain, rain, rain, rain,” not realizing that too much spiritual rain isn’t good for us. God knows when we need rain and exactly how much to give us. We must learn to trust Him to give us the rain we need in due season.

The prophet Joel went on to say, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also, upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28,29).

Metaphorically, God said through Joel, “I’m going to send an early rain upon the Church and a latter rain.

In the context of Scripture, rain symbolizes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The early rain — or outpouring — is what took place on the Day of Pentecost. The apostle Peter declared this in Acts 2. God brought the early rain of the Holy Spirit to prepare the soil of humanity to receive the seeds of the Gospel.

With the early rain, God also forecasted that there will be a latter rain, or a latter outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The latter rain is essential to bring about the final harvest of souls just before the coming of Jesus. That is what we're experiencing today, and it will continue to increase as we come nearer to the rapture of the Church.

The Holy Spirit is Like a River

Another strong symbol of the Holy Spirit in Scripture is the imagery of a river. Jesus most notably described this in John's gospel when He stood and cried "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John7:37). The word "drink" in Greek, literally means to drink deeply; consume.

It carries the idea of being completely irrigated. Thus, when Jesus said to come and “drink,” He was saying, “If you’re spiritually thirsty and hungry come to Me and drink deeply. I will completely irrigate every inch of your parched heart.” He went on to say, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...”

(John 7:38,39).

Notice the phrase “out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” The word “flow” in Greek pictures a mighty rushing stream that is so full it overflows its banks. In this case, the stream is overflowing with “living water.” This is a translation of the Greek, which describes water that is living; water filled with vibrancy and life. Here, Jesus Himself is comparing the refreshing, life giving work of the Holy Spirit with a mighty rushing river that is teeming with life.

Not only will God move unwanted things out of our life, but He will also move people out of His way that are resistant to what He is trying to accomplish. Again, the river of God is a powerful force that cannot be stopped. If anyone stands in opposition to Him, they will be removed. Indeed, the Holy Spirit is a mighty agent of change!

- **Rivers Bring Change**

Think of the mighty Mississippi River flowing through the center of the United States. The tremendous volume of water it carries is a powerful force that picks up things and moves them out of the way. In the same way, the Holy Spirit flowing in our lives picks things up — especially things that are outdated or no longer needed — and moves them out of the way.

- **Rivers Vary in Size and Depth**

It should also be noted that not all rivers are the same. For example, some rivers are very shallow, and because they lack depth, they are noisy. In fact, the shallower the river, the noisier it is as it flows. Deep rivers, on the other hand, are much quieter as they make their way downstream. Some rivers are so deep they are nearly silent as they flow. And the deeper they are the more power they pack.

Similarly, there are some believers who are shallow and have a minimal flow of the Holy Spirit in their life. These shallow, immature Christians seem to make a lot of “noise” as they carry out their lives. Then there are other believers who are deep and have an enormous volume of the Holy Spirit flowing in and through their lives. These older, more mature Christians are virtually silent as they serve the Lord, but they pack the power of the Holy Spirit to effectively move things out of the way.

- **Rivers Separate into Different Streams.**

Many rivers start off as a single waterway and then separate into several streams as they meander along. One of the greatest factors determining the different branches is the lay of the land through which the river flows. Likewise, there are different streams of how the Holy Spirit moves and manifests in the Church. The Bible confirms this, declaring, “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God...” (Psalm 46:4 (NIV)).

- **Rivers Separate into Different Streams.**

Here we see there is one river with multiple streams. Clearly, the Holy Spirit is one river that moves in countless ways. Just when you think He's going to move one way, He moves in a way that is totally unexpected. We need to be careful not to get stuck in doing things for God the same way.

- **Rivers Separate into Different Streams.**

We need to be flexible and go with the flow of the Spirit. The bottom line is, the Holy Spirit wants to move like a mighty river in your life. He wants you to jump in and surrender your life to His flow. Are you ready?

The Holy Spirit is Like Water

In addition to being described as a river and as rain, the Bible also compares the ministry of the Holy Spirit to water itself. In Isaiah 44:3 (NIV), God said, “For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.”

In this verse, the second part clarifies the meaning of the first. God said He is going to pour out His Spirit like water on the thirsty ground — the ground being the offspring or descendants of His people. The apostle Paul also used the metaphor of water in 1 Corinthians 12:13 when he said, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

Notice he said we “have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” God has created us in such a way that we can drink of the Holy Spirit. Hence, when we are spiritually thirsty for more of the Holy Spirit, God promises to satisfy our thirst by pouring out His Spirit!

What is interesting is that there is desert land in Israel today — land that has shown no signs of life for centuries — that is now blossoming with vegetation because engineers have developed specialized irrigation to water the land. That's what happens for us when the Holy Spirit begins to move in our lives. He irrigates us so wonderfully that the areas of our life that were once dry and fruitless now begin to produce abundant fruit!

The Holy Spirit is Simply Amazing!

He works in our lives like *WATER*, like *RAIN*, and like a *RIVER*. He is a Mighty Hydrating Force that refreshes, renews, and irrigates our souls to be wellsprings of vibrant life!

NEXT WEEK

Fire, Dove, Clothing

and

Wind