

“The Helper’s (the Holy Spirit) Ministry in Christ’s Life” John 3:34

³⁴ For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. John 3:34 (NKJV)

When John 3:34 tells us Jesus is not given the Spirit by measure, it means there was no LIMIT on the Holy Spirit’s presence and ministry in and with our Lord Jesus Christ. In this sermon I want to preach about some of the specific ways the Bible tells us God’s Holy Spirit was with Jesus.

I. The Holy Spirit formed Jesus’ human body in the womb of the virgin Mary –

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. Luke 1:31 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Luke 1:34–35 (NKJV)*

1. The conceiving of the human body in the womb of the virgin Mary is obviously miraculous and wonderful, unique in human history. Not only is His human body conceived by the Spirit’s power, but His entire human nature.

*2. The overshadowing mentioned in **Luke 1:35** means, at the very least, that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary’s sin nature and therefore it was not a part of Jesus’ nature –*

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

3. Belief in Christ’s virgin birth is often used by churches as a litmus test for discerning true and false pastors.

II. The Holy Spirit endowed Jesus with all spiritual graces -

¹¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1–2 (NKJV)

1. There would seem to be no need for these endowments of God's Spirit, since Jesus was and is God's Son and yet as a Human Being, and as the Christ, the Anointed One, Jesus would be blessed and empowered by God's Spirit, like we all need to be:

*A. To be saved – **John 3:3-8**, needed for us not Jesus!*

B. To grow in spiritual graces –

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

C. To minister / serve –

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (NKJV)

Note, we are the Body of Christ, and we share various gifts with each other, none of us has all of them, Jesus had them ALL!

2. This endowment of the Holy Spirit starts before His earthly ministry –

⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

... **⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. Luke 2:41-42 & :46-47 (NKJV)**

III. The Holy Spirit anoints Jesus as the Messiah / Christ at the beginning of His earthly ministry –

1. The title Christ / Messiah means the Anointed One and is a reference to Jesus' anointing with the Holy Spirit –

⁶¹ “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*; Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16–17 (NKJV)

2. The title Christ rolled into one the three anointed offices of the Old Testament –

A. Prophet –

²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. Acts 3:22 (NKJV)

Corresponds to our NEED of knowledge!

B. Priest –

¹⁷ For He testifies: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 7:17 (NKJV)

Corresponds to our NEED for righteousness!

C. King –

¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*” Revelation 17:14 (NKJV)

Corresponds to our NEED for holiness!

IV. The Holy Spirit “Led” our Lord Jesus –

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NKJV)

of the Spirit—that blessed Spirit immediately before spoken of as descending upon Him at His baptism, and abiding upon Him. Luke, connecting these two scenes, as if the one were but the sequel of the other, says, “Jesus, being full of the Holy Ghost, returned from Jordan, and was led,” &c. Mark’s expression has a startling sharpness about it—“Immediately the Spirit driveth Him” (Mk 1:12), “putteth,” or “hurrieth Him forth,” or “impelleth Him.” (See the same word in Mk 1:43; 5:40; Mt 9:25; 13:52; Jn 10:4). The thought thus strongly expressed is the mighty constraining impulse of the Spirit under which He went; while Matthew’s more gentle expression, “was led up,” intimates how purely voluntary on His own part this action was. Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible](#)

Across the will of nature leads on the path of God,
Not where the flesh delighted, the feet of Jesus trod.
Gerhard Tersteegen

V. The Holy Spirit is the Power behind our Lord’s casting out of demons –

²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matthew 12:28 (NKJV)

VI. The Holy Spirit, “The Eternal Spirit” is the Power (and Person) behind Christ’s taking up the cross as a Holy Sacrifice for our sins –

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13–14 (NKJV)

1. In the Old Testament, the blood of bulls and goats was a stopgap measure. Even people living then are ultimately saved by Christ’s blood.

2. His death was the ONLY WAY even He could save us –

³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” Mark 14:35–36 (NKJV)

3. It is through the Spirit Christ choose obedience to the will of the Father, though He prayed in Gethsemane for another way –

⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,” Hebrews 5:7–10 (NKJV)

4. It is the Eternal Spirit, according to Hebrews 9:14 Who enabled Our Lord Jesus for such a task, he had part in Jesus’ washing us, His part in Christ’s self-sacrificial love –

Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14 B (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

VII. The Holy Spirit is the Great Power behind Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead –

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

1. *Sin causes DEATH, even Jesus Christ's death was caused by SIN, though not His own. God's Spirit gives LIFE –*
 - A. *He raised Christ – Romans 8:11*
 - B. *He raises us –*

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63 (NKJV)

2. *The same Holy Spirit Who gave Jesus, victory over death, helps us to get victory over sin and hope for our own resurrection –*

⁸ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of

sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:1–11 (NKJV)

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