

Mechanics of the Spirit : Part 1

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God's Great Jigsaw Puzzle, Magnificent Pattern Woven Into Fabric Of God's Word, Carefully Study And Rightly Divide God's Word, My Belief: Holy Spirit Is An Extension Of God The Father, God Is A Spirit, Holy Spirit Is A "He" God The Father Is Greater Than Jesus His Son, To Blaspheme Against The Holy Ghost Is The Only Unpardonable Sin, Holy Spirit Dwelling In And Working In Us As Both A Teacher And Guide, Spirit-Led Interpretations Versus Forced Interpretations, A Scourge Of Man-Made False Doctrines And Novice Teachers, Cookie Cutter Religionists, Proliferation Of Online False Prophets And Teachers, Teaching God's Word Is Very Serious Business, Scriptural Warnings Regarding False Teachers And Prophets, Humility In Our Understanding Of God's Word, My Personal Errors, External Forces Influence And Shape Our Belief System, No Malicious Intent, Let Every Man Be Fully Persuaded, Propagated And Perpetuated, Silver Lining, Don't Blindly Follow Any Man Of God, Faith Comes By The Word Of God Just, Witty Christian Sayings Or The Actual Word Of God

As I was pondering some ministry work I had just completed, and some study materials I had written in earlier years, my thoughts turned to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and the nature of the Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost. This is a subject which I likewise discuss and examine in articles and series such as "A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: God's Promise of the Spirit", "Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled?", and "Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Holy Trinity".

I have mentioned on more than one occasion that the Bible is like God's great jigsaw puzzle. It is likewise similar to a magnificent pattern that has been woven into a fabric. The more time we devote to carefully studying God's Word, the more the pieces of the puzzle, or the many colored threads of the pattern, begin to come together and form the complete picture. As we examine each piece of the puzzle, and each thread in the tapestry, and determine where it should go,

our understanding slowly becomes clearer and clearer. It requires a lot of work in order to complete such a project, but the rewards are very satisfying. As the Prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Paul write:

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

Isaiah 28:9-10, KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

As I explain in some of the aforementioned articles -- and thus will not go into great detail to explain here so as to not be overly redundant -- based upon my personal study of the Scriptures, I have come to believe that the Holy Spirit is not really the third person in the so-called Holy Trinity. Rather, I have been persuaded by the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit is actually an extension of God the Father Himself. It is His very spiritual essence which flows from His Being. It is some type of force that creates, empowers, anoints, heals, takes authority, controls the elements, comforts, teaches and much more. In my mind, this explanation makes perfect sense, being as the Lord plainly informs us in the Gospel of John that God is a Spirit. Furthermore, Jesus always refers to the Holy Spirit as a "he". Jesus also teaches that His Father is greater than Himself. Finally, Jesus states that to blaspheme against the Holy Ghost is the only unpardonable sin. Consider the following verses as proof of these points:

"GOD IS A SPIRIT: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24, KJV

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that HE may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth HIM not, neither knoweth HIM: but ye know HIM; for HE dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

John 14:16-17, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father

will send in my name, HE shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, HE shall testify of me:"

John 15:26, KJV

"Howbeit when HE, the Spirit of truth, is come, HE will guide you into all truth: for HE shall not speak of HIMSELF; but whatsoever HE shall hear, that shall HE speak: and HE will shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

"My Father, which gave them me, is GREATER THAN ALL; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

John 10:29, KJV

"Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for MY FATHER IS GREATER THAN I."

John 14:28, KJV

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

Matthew 12:31-32, KJV

"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit."

Mark 3:28-30, KJV

So taken together, the previous verses -- and there are a number of others -- indicate to me that the Holy Spirit -- or Holy Ghost -- is in fact the Father's very essence, and an extension of Himself, which is why it is an unpardonable sin to blaspheme against it/Him. In other words, if one can be forgiven for blaspheming against the Son -- as Jesus says

in those verses -- but not be forgiven for blaspheming the Holy Ghost, this suggests to me that the Holy Ghost must be greater than Christ. But if the only one who is greater than Jesus is the Father, then this seems to equate the Holy Ghost with the Father. Therefore, I deduce that the Holy Spirit is an extension of the Father. Now, whether or not you agree with my understanding of these Scriptures, it will not have a major effect on the main point which I wish to share with you in this article, so don't worry about it.

To continue, as I was sitting here at my desk, in a matter of only a few minutes, a number of scenes from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, along with a number of Bible verses, popped into my head. I normally do not talk about this issue too often, because I don't believe that we should. One reason why I hesitate to discuss such things, is because, sadly, in our modern day, it seems that if an individual suggests that they're receiving things from the Lord, too often, other less mature Christians will begin to accuse them of boasting, or of trying to act spiritual, or some other such nonsense. In some cases, it could even be plain old jealousy. Who knows.

But the truth of the matter is that this kind of experience is a regular occurrence in my personal life. Related Bible Scriptures will just start popping into my head one after the other. In certain instances, it is almost as if I am in some kind of altered mental state -- although I am still totally conscious -- and a quiet voice deep within me is teaching me and instructing me. It is as if the radio frequency -- my conscious thinking -- has been tweaked ever so slightly. Whether these events are just my own head, heart or spirit talking to me, or the Holy Spirit, I will leave for you to determine, but that is what happens.

However, based upon what Jesus states in the previous verses regarding how the Comforter will teach us and guide us, I have simply come to accept by faith that it's the Holy Spirit who is instructing me. As Jesus reminds us, He -- meaning the Holy Ghost -- "shall be in you". I am also reminded of the following verses which verify this very same point:

"But we have this treasure [the Spirit] IN EARTHEN VESSELS, [in our flesh] that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above

all that we ask or think, ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKETH IN US, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21, KJV

"For it is GOD WHICH WORKETH IN YOU both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13, KJV

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by THE HOLY GHOST WHICH DWELLETH IN US."

2 Timothy 1:13-14, KJV

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, WORKING IN YOU that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:20-21, KJV

"And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and HE IN HIM. And hereby we know that HE ABIDETH IN US, BY THE SPIRIT WHICH HE HATH GIVEN US."

1 John 3:24, KJV

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, GOD DWELLETH IN US, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and HE IN US, because HE HATH GIVEN US OF HIS SPIRIT."

1 John 4:12-13, KJV

Moving on, when these "teaching events" occur, just the way that the verses flow and so easily come together, and agree with each other with really no effort on my part, convinces me even more that it must be Holy Spirit-inspired teaching, and that God is fulfilling His Word, as we read earlier in John chapters fourteen and sixteen, and elsewhere. The Holy Spirit is teaching us "all things", and guiding us into "all truth", as Jesus told us He would do. Some of you who have experienced these same kind of things will know exactly what I am talking about here, and it is so inspiring to be taught by the Lord, via the Holy Spirit.

When these occurrences take place, there is no trying to

force verses together, as some people tend to do, and there is no forced interpretation where we try to make the verses say what we want them to say, because we want the Bible to agree with what we want to believe, instead of us agreeing with what the Bible actually says and teaches.

Sadly, this is precisely what a lot of Christians do today, both preachers and lay persons alike. They twist the meaning of the Scriptures so that certain verses seem to agree with whatever happen to be the main doctrines of their church or organization. Because they belong to a particular seminary, church or organization, they are obligated to promote that party line. In other words, for example, a graduate from a Baptist seminary is going to preach Baptist doctrine, and nothing else. A Roman Catholic will only preach doctrines that have the explicit approval of the Vatican. And on and on it goes. It is cookie cutter religion where what one has been taught, is what one teaches, and if one dares to step out of line, prepare to be condemned and ostracized.

The end result is that our faith has become polluted with many man-made false doctrines, and the wayward opinions of men -- and women -- who do not know or understand the first thing concerning Bible prophecy. This has caused a lot of confusion within the Body of Christ, and many people do not know what to believe anymore. Quite frankly, the people who do this are novices when it comes to God's Word, and they have no right trying to teach it whatsoever. Yet they act as if they are seasoned teachers of the same.

Sadly, as you may already know, this kind of deception isn't limited to the churches, Christian seminaries and other such religious organizations. If you regularly participate on any of the social networks, you will undoubtedly know precisely what I am talking about. It seems that the online communities have become inundated with a horde of self-styled, wannabe, false prophets who erroneously say "The Lord told me", "I declare", "Thus saith the Lord", and other false utterances. It is really a tragedy, and it alarms me to see how many of my Christian brethren are being led astray by such people. I have to shake my head when I encounter some of the nonsense that is being espoused and promoted by some of these people. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote in his second Epistle to Timothy:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

Please understand that I am not necessarily saying that all of these wannabe false prophets are downright evil. In fact, they may be God-fearing Christians who are very sincere in their belief that they are hearing from the Lord. However, in my opinion, they are still clearly deceived, and they are deceiving others as well, and by the thousands or millions no less, thanks to the power and global reach of the social networks.

As I explain in some of my other articles such as "The Office of Prophets and Teachers", "Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism" and more, we need to be extremely careful when it comes to claiming that we are speaking for the Lord, because whether we claim to be a prophet or a teacher, God will hold us accountable for what we say and teach. Teaching God's Word to others is very serious business. It is not something which should be taken lightly by any Christian. If you're knowingly propagating false doctrines which have no basis in the Bible, watch out, because God will surely hold you accountable. As the Apostle James writes:

"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

James 3:1, KJV

Please note that while the word "masters" is used in the previous verse, it is actually translated from the Koine Greek word "didaskalos", which is likewise translated as "teachers" in the New Testament of the KJV Bible. Let me interject here that it is indeed true that prophets and teachers are ministries in the Lord's Church. This fact becomes evident by verses such as the following:

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?"

1 Corinthians 12:28-29, KJV

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-12, 14, KJV

Nevertheless, as I have already made very clear, we need to be extremely careful when it comes to who we choose to listen to and believe, because many false angels of light -- that is to say, deceivers -- are within our midst. Of course, this is not something new. Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been trying to deceive and confuse God's children with his lies. It was certainly true during the First Century when our faith was first established. Aside from the warnings Jesus himself gave regarding false christs and false prophets, consider the following group of verses which demonstrate how the Apostles constantly warned about false brethren and false doctrines in their midst:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Acts 20:28-30, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Romans 16:17, KJV

"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."

1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would

pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"

Galatians 2:4, KJV

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

Ephesians 4:14, KJV

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision."

Philippians 3:2, KJV

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do . . . From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

1 Timothy 1:3-4, 6-7, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:11-14, KJV

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Hebrews 13:9, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but

they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us . . . Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:18-19, 22, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:10-11, KJV

Now, in light of what I just said, I suspect that some of you may possibly be thinking to yourselves, "Well, Bill, what about you? You talk a lot about making certain that we are preaching Scriptural truth, and that we are not twisting the meaning of God's Word. Have you ever been guilty of this, or do you believe that everything that you are teaching is one hundred per cent correct and Scripturally accurate?"

My dear friends, in my view, only a fool would make such a boastful claim. Similar to what the Apostle Paul states in the previous verse, I honestly don't believe that anyone on this Earth has a full, complete understanding of God's Word; and anyone who claims that they do, is deceived and full of their own pride. As I mention in the article called "Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word", I do not have a problem in the least in confessing that my knowledge is limited, and my understanding is far from complete. Furthermore, yes; as I explain in more detail in some of the articles which you will find listed at the end of this same article, I haven't always taught Scriptural truth. One of the major reasons for this is that, like so many of you, from the time that I was a young teenage Christian over five decades ago, I was exposed to a lot of different ideas which shaped and influenced my personal belief system over the years.

Because I was not yet grounded in God's Word and had no real Spiritual Discernment, I automatically assumed that what I was reading, hearing and being told was true. Now, decades later, after spending over thirty years just studying the Scriptures on my own with the aid of the Holy Spirit, I have

come to realize that some of the things which I believed, preached and taught to others for many years, are not really sound, Biblical doctrines. Furthermore, I will humbly confess that even at this current time, there are still a number of ideas which I express in some of my articles and series -- particularly the older articles -- which do not stand up to Scriptural scrutiny, and thus are not accurate. This holds true particularly in the area of Bible prophecy.

I am sure that most of you will already understand that there was never any malicious intent on my part. In other words, I was not purposely endeavoring to deceive anyone. I honestly believed that what I was preaching, writing and teaching was true and in agreement with God's Word; just as many of you at this current time are also convinced of your personal beliefs, regardless of whether they are right or wrong and Scripturally accurate. As the Apostle Paul writes in his Epistle to the Romans:

". . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."
Romans 14:5, KJV

While Paul was specifically writing about whether or not it was necessary for Christian brethren to observe Jewish feast days, or to practice Jewish kosher laws, this same principle can be applied to other areas of our walk of faith. In short, we must each be convinced of what we believe. We cannot ride on another person's faith. However, as we have seen, a big problem arises when we embrace beliefs which do not conform to the Scriptures; and then we begin to propagate those same beliefs in various ways. The end result is that many false doctrines are perpetuated without end, year after year, and even decade after decade, until they become so deeply rooted in our Christian beliefs, that it becomes very difficult to eradicate them. When we add the Internet and other modern technologies to the equation, it only makes the problem that much worse. As I noted earlier, just visit any of the popular social networks, and you will see exactly what I mean.

In my case, however, there is a silver lining to this story. You see, it is a direct result of having made these mistakes, and having learned my lesson from them, that for many years now, I have constantly and repeatedly pointed my readers to the Word of God. Through the Bill's Bible Basics writing ministry and these articles, I will share with people what I personally believe. I will point to the Scriptures which in my view support my beliefs. And then I will leave it up to

each individual reader to make their own informed decision regarding whether or not I have got it right. If you are not convinced by the verses that I share with you, then so be it. Romans 14:5 kicks in.

The last thing that I want any of my readers to do is to place their faith in me. I do not want anyone to blindly follow me, or any other man of God for that matter. God's Word must reign supreme in each of our lives. That is why when you read my articles, or visit my Facebook timeline, or visit any of the other social networks where I participate, you will discover that I am constantly promoting God's Word, and not just myself, or my own ideas. You will find hundreds of topical King James Version Bible verse lists which I have personally compiled over the years, which will enhance your understanding of God's Word. These verse lists are dispersed throughout my articles because:

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:17, KJV

Faith comes -- and grows -- as a result of reading God's holy Word, and not man's word. I could very easily create a lot of web graphics which are full of all kinds of witty Christian sayings, such as you find on Facebook. They may sound cool, and they may even make a lot of sense. Nevertheless, they are still not God's Word. In fact, if I may be honest, and hoping not to offend anyone, sometimes I wonder if the creators of these graphics are merely trying to impress people with their wit, or trying to outdo each other by inventing more catchy phrases. In contrast, the vast majority of my web graphics contained actual typed out Bible verses -- or at least the references for the same -- because I want my friends to get hooked on the Word, and not just on my writings, or on my personal intellect. So again, it is very important that we promote God's Word, and not just ourselves or our own ideas.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Mechanics of the Spirit : Part 2

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Do You Preach Jesus And The Wisdom Of God's Spirit Or Just Yourself And The Wisdom Of Men, God's Eternal Word, Scripture Interprets Scripture, The Operation Of The Spirit Prior To The Day Of Pentecost In Acts 2, God Prepares Moses For His Public Ministry, Moses Makes Excuses And Tries To Back Out Of God's Assignment, God Becomes Angry With Moses Moses Fulfills His Destiny, God Speaks With Moses From Above The Mercy Seat, Moses Leads Israelites To Border Of Canaan And Dies On Mount Nebo, Old Generation Dies, Only Joshua And Caleb Survive From It, Joshua Is Anointed With The Spirit And Becomes The New Leader Of Israel, Conquest Of Canaan And Joshua's Death, The Period Of The Judges, Period Of Prophets And Kings, Prophet Samuel Anoints Saul As First Israelite King, The Spirit Falls Upon Saul, Saul Disobeys Samuel And God Rejects Him, Spirit Departs From Saul And An Evil Spirit Oppresses Him, Samuel Anoints David As The Next King And The Spirit Falls On David

As I concluded in part one of this series, my goal is to get my online friends hooked on God's Word, and not just on me, or on my writings and personal intellect. Why? Because that is where our faith is derived from. So again, it is rather important that we make sure that we are promoting God's Word, and not just ourselves and our personal ideas. I am reminded of the following verse that was written by the Apostle Paul:

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

2 Corinthians 4:5, KJV

I have mentioned before that if you visit a Christian website where all the author of that website does is talk a lot about himself and his own exploits, and rambles on and on preaching and teaching in his own words, and very rarely -- if ever -- quotes an actual verse from the Bible, watch out! Again, the Apostle Paul tells us the following:

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, KJV

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Colossians 2:8, KJV

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

1 Corinthians 3:19, KJV

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

1 Corinthians 1:19-21, KJV

So as I said, this is why I so heavily promote God's Word on the Bill's Bible Basics website, on my Facebook timeline, and on all of the other websites where I have a presence. I do not want you to make the same mistake that I made when I was a lot younger Christian. I do not want you to place the words of mere men above the actual Word of God. I want you to be thoroughly grounded in God's Word. After all, as King David was inspired to write:

". . . For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

Psalms 119:89, KJV

While we have gone off on one of my famous tangents -- I do hope that you have learned something from it -- it is time for us to return to our main discussion. To reiterate one of my key points, I am convinced that when an interpretation is Holy Spirit-inspired, everything just falls into place, and Scripture interprets Scripture. There is no need to try to force verses together which really don't belong together, so that they say what we want them to say. As we have already seen, this is precisely how the doctrines of men are created. In my view, it's one thing for us to be sincerely deceived by the teachings of others -- as I was for many years -- but it

is quite another when we consciously go about to create false doctrines which we know do not conform to the Scriptures. As the Apostle James wrote, such "shall receive the greater condemnation."

As I was explaining earlier, as these different scenes from the Bible and various verses came into my mind over a matter of a few minutes, it was as if I was being given some new pieces of God's great jigsaw puzzle, and new colored threads were being added to the tapestry of my understanding, so that I could better grasp the mechanics of God's Spirit. It was not that I was not already familiar with these past events. Rather, it was in the fact that by being presented to me in chronological order one after the other, I began to see this particular pattern, and I began to better understand in at least a small degree how God's Spirit has operated over the course of Biblical history. Perhaps you have already seen it yourself as well.

Basically, what I came to understand through this particular experience, is that prior to the well-known outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which occurred on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two, the Lord's Spirit seems to have operated in a somewhat different manner. In other words, my personal impression is that for the most part, God's Spirit abode in all its power upon one individual at a time. This may have been one of the Old Testament Patriarchs, a judge, a Prophet or a king. Let me give you a few examples which demonstrate this point rather clearly.

We all know that God chose Moses to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. However, before this could even happen, it was first necessary for God to break Moses' pride, and purge his Egyptian upbringing out of him, by sending him into the crucible of the desert. It wasn't until about forty years later that Moses was finally ready for the great task for which he had been ordained by God. In fact, as you may recall, Moses had become such a humble, broken man, that when God called out to him from the Burning Bush, Moses was not the least bit interested in becoming the Great Deliverer of the Hebrew people, and he tried his best to persuade God that he was not the man for the job. Consider these verses that are found in Exodus chapters three and four:

"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? . . . And Moses answered and said, But, behold,

they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee . . . And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue . . . And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send."

Exodus 3:11, 4:1, 10, 13, KJV

Please note that my understanding of the last verse above is that Moses was basically saying "Lord, please don't send me. Send somebody else." That is why in the very next verse, we are told that God became angry with Moses. In other words, Moses was trying to tell God how to run His affairs:

"And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart."

Exodus 4:14, KJV

In the end, the Pentateuch -- the first five Books of the Bible -- records that Moses did indeed return to the land of his birth, where after a great many terrifying signs being performed by the Lord, he freed the children of Israel from their cruel Egyptian oppressors. Moses was God's man for the hour. The Spirit of God rested upon him, and Moses' voice represented God's Voice on Earth during that time period. While there were other Prophets and leaders in the Hebrew camp, to my knowledge, none of them had the same powerful anointing as Moses.

In fact, as you will probably know, it was only Moses who ascended Mount Horeb -- or Mount Sinai -- on two occasions in order to receive the Commandments from the Lord. It was also only to Moses that the Lord appeared multiple times above the Mercy Seat in the tabernacle of the congregation. Later, this responsibility was passed to Aaron the high priest, and to his descendants. However, they were only allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year. Consider the following verses:

"And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the

children of Israel."
Exodus 25:21-22, KJV

"And thou shalt put it [the altar] before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee."
Exodus 30:6, KJV

"And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door."
Exodus 33:9-10, KJV

"And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died; And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat."
Leviticus 16:1-2, KJV

"And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him [the LORD], then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,"
Numbers 7:89-8:1, KJV

As many of you will know, once Moses had completed his last mission for the Lord by leading the children of Israel to the eastern border of the land of Canaan, not far from the city of Jericho which lay across the Jordan River, he died on the mountain of Nebo at the summit of Pisgah, at the age of one hundred and twenty years. He was then secretly buried in an unknown valley in the land of Moab. Today, this region is a part of Jordan. Consider the following verses:

"But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter. Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan. But

charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see."

Deuteronomy 3:26-28, KJV

"And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar. And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither. So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day. And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated."

Deuteronomy 34:1-7, KJV

As we briefly read in the previous group of verses, prior to Moses' death, the Lord commanded him to pass the baton of leadership to Joshua, who was the son of Nun. You may recall that due to their murmuring and lack of faith when the spies returned from searching out the land of Canaan, aside from Moses himself, all of the older generation of the Israelites from twenty years old and up were condemned to die in the wilderness, save for Joshua, and Caleb, who was the son of Jephunneh. Consider the following verses:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. But as for you, your carcasses, they

shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still."

Numbers 14:26-38, KJV

So as I was saying, due to his faith and obedience to both the Lord and Moses, God commanded that Joshua be anointed as the new leader of Israel upon Moses' death. Not only was the political and military authority passed on to Joshua, but even more importantly, we are told that Moses laid his hands upon Joshua, and the spirit of wisdom was passed to him as well. Consider the following groups of verses where God Himself is encouraging Joshua:

"And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of

Moses."

Numbers 27:15-23, KJV

"And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

Deuteronomy 31:7-8, KJV

"And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses. And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land, And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel."

Deuteronomy 34:9-12, KJV

"Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good

success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1:1-9, KJV

Thus we see that the concentration of spiritual power was passed from one man -- meaning Moses -- to one man -- that is, Joshua. While it is true that the high priest had his spiritual authority as well, Joshua was the de facto leader who had the anointing, just as Moses had the anointing; and it was Joshua who led the Israelites in their conquest of the land of Canaan for about the next forty years. Just as his predecessor Moses had done, Joshua completed his mission for the Lord, and died at the age of one hundred and ten, as we see by the following set of verses:

"And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age. And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age:"

Joshua 23:1-2, KJV

"So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance. And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathserah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel."

Joshua 24:28-31, KJV

"And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for

Israel."

Judges 2:6-10, KJV

As we learn from the Scriptures, following the death of Moses and his generation, and the death of Joshua and his generation, there was a period during which the Israelites were ruled by judges. The first of these was Othniel, who was the son of Kenaz, who was the brother of Caleb. Other notable judges included Gideon, Deborah, Baruk and Samson. Each of these individuals received the Lord's spiritual anointing in their time.

Eventually, however, the period of the Prophets and kings arrived. Just as Moses had previously laid his hands upon Joshua in order to transfer his authority and spiritual anointing to him, it was likewise the job of the Prophets -- such as Samuel -- to anoint each new king with oil, which itself was symbolic of the Lord's spiritual anointing upon that particular king. It should be noted that Samuel was in fact both the last judge, as well as a Prophet.

As you may know, Saul was the first of the Israelite kings. As I explain in a few other articles, while it was not God's desire that the Israelites have an earthly king to rule over them, sadly, due to their stubbornness and hard-heartedness, God decided to grant them their request. Thus, the Prophet Samuel anointed Saul with olive oil. Sometime after that, the spiritual anointing falls upon Saul as well. Consider the following group of verses where the Lord instructs the Prophet Samuel to grant their misguided request:

"Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them."

1 Samuel 8:4-9, KJV

Despite the fact that the Prophet Samuel then described to the Israelites what kind of a ruthless king Saul would be, nevertheless, those stubborn people still insisted that they wanted an earthly king like the heathen nations around them. Thus, in obedience to the Lord, Samuel acquiesced to their desire, as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city."

1 Samuel 8:19-22, KJV

In the next two chapters, the LORD points out Saul to Samuel, and after Samuel has communed and dined with Saul for a bit, he eventually anoints Saul with oil, signifying that Saul is now to be the first king of Israel. Consider the following group of verses which verify these points:

"Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people."

1 Samuel 9:15-17, KJV

"And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God . . . Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?"

1 Samuel 9:17, 10:1, KJV

Shortly after Samuel anoints Saul with oil, he informs Saul that soon the Spirit of the Lord will fall upon him, which is to signify that God is with Saul. That is exactly what happens, as we see by the following group of verses:

"After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee."

1 Samuel 10:5-7, KJV

"And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets? And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets? And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place."

1 Samuel 10:9-13, KJV

Sadly, as you may know, sometime later, Saul displeased the Lord when he leaned to his own understanding, and refused to destroy some of the enemies of Israel, as he had been instructed to do by Samuel. As a result, the Lord rejected Saul, as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected

thee from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou."

1 Samuel 15:22-28, KJV

While Saul still ruled over Israel for forty years, we are told that God's Spirit -- meaning the anointing -- departed from him, and an evil spirit oppressed Saul instead. At the same time, the Lord instructed the Prophet Samuel to anoint a young shepherd boy named David as the next king of Israel. Thus we see that God's Spirit departed from one person, and settled upon another one instead -- meaning David -- when Samuel anointed David with oil, as we see by this group of verses:

"Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him [David] in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee."

1 Samuel 16:13-15, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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Mechanics of the Spirit : Part 3

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Elijah Resurrects The Son Of The Widow Of Zarephath, Elijah's Anointing Falls Upon Elisha, God's Spiritual Anointing Seemed To Rest On One Primary Person At A Time During Old Testament

Period, John The Baptist Was Filled With The Holy Ghost When He Was Still In Elizabeth's Womb, When Was Jesus Filled With The Holy Spirit?, John The Baptist Is The Only Major Prophet Who Is Active In The Gospels, John Carried The Same Anointing As Elijah, Jesus And Old Testament Prophets Confirmed John's Ministry, Jesus Was Filled With His Father's Spirit Without Measure, Jesus Had All Power And Authority While On The Earth, Jesus Spoke Of The Coming Comforter, The Prophetic Promise Of The Spirit, A Promise Fulfilled, It Is Available To All Flesh Simply By Asking, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part two, yet another Old Testament story with which many Christians will undoubtedly be familiar, concerns how God heavily anointed the Prophet Elijah, so that he was able to perform a number of amazing feats, such as bringing back to life the son of the widow of Zarephath. We find this account in 1 Kings 17, as we see by the following verses:

"And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee . . . And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth."

1 Kings 17:8-9, 17-24, KJV

The time eventually arrived when Elijah's earthly ministry

likewise came to an end, and God called him home to Heaven. As you may know, on the day that this event occurred, the anointing that was upon Elijah was passed to Elisha, as we see by the following group of verses:

"And the LORD said unto him [to Elijah], Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou ANOINT TO BE PROPHET IN THY ROOM . . . So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him."

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, KJV

"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him."

2 Kings 2:9-15, KJV

With these different Bible accounts -- Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Saul, David, Elijah, Elisha -- the key point I would like you to see is how the mechanics of the Spirit seemed to operate. During Old Testament times, in each case, it appears that a very heavy spiritual anointing rested upon one individual at a time during different stages of Israelite history. I'm not saying that they were the ONLY individual with some kind of special anointing, but they were clearly the person with the MOST anointing of God's Spirit. This is what I am referring to when I say the mechanics of the Spirit. In other words, how God's Spirit seemed to operate during those times.

Turning to the New Testament, we see the very same mechanics at work with John the Baptist. As you may recall, in John's case, the Scriptures inform us that he was anointed with the Holy Spirit while he was still in his mother's womb, as we see by the following group of verses:

"But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and HE SHALL BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, EVEN FROM HIS MOTHERS WOMB. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord . . . And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, THE BABE LEAPED IN HER WOMB; AND ELISABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST:"
Luke 1:13-17, 41, KJV

Back in 1997 I wrote an article called "Was Jesus Filled With the Holy Spirit From Birth?". Over the years since that time, it has evolved into a four-part series. Now, the reason why I wrote that particular article is because I was very intrigued by the fact that while John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost while still inside his mother's womb, the Gospels seemed to inform us that Jesus Himself wasn't filled with the Holy Ghost until He was about thirty years of age. At least that was my understanding twenty-seven years ago.

So I dug into the Scriptures in order to try to figure it out, because it didn't make sense to me that the very Son of God, who was miraculously formed in Mary's womb, had to wait for thirty years, while John was anointed even before he was born. If you are interested in finding out what my personal conclusions were, I encourage you to read that series. But as far as this current series is concerned, the main point I wish to draw to your attention is the fact that prior to the Lord beginning His public ministry, and very similar to what we see occurring in the Old Testament, aside from John the Baptist, there appears to be no other major Prophet who is active throughout the four Gospels. It is just John.

However, if you stop to think about it, this point is in fact a confirmation of what I have been saying all along. That is, that the mechanics of God's Holy Spirit back then was to rest on one primary individual at a time as God carried out His divine plans and purposes for humanity. The baton of spiritual anointing and authority was passed from one person to another. In fact, as I state in the series entitled "Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?", there really wasn't any need for another major Prophet during Gospel times, because even Jesus confirmed that John the Baptist carried the same anointing as the Prophet Elijah, and was prophesied by several Prophets of the Old Testament, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."
Isaiah 40:3-5, KJV

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."
Malachi 3:1, KJV

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and

smite the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4:5-6, KJV

"For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Matthew 3:3, KJV

"But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come."

Matthew 11:9-14, KJV

"And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them."

Matthew 17:10-12, KJV

Notice how Jesus quotes Malachi almost word for word. Then, to make sure that the people really understand Him, at the very end the Lord says to them "if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." Jesus could not have made it any clearer than that. Just as the Lord quoted from the Book of Isaiah in Luke chapter four when He preached in the synagogue in Nazareth and confirmed His own ministry, here we see Him quoting from the Book of Malachi to confirm John the Baptist's ministry as well.

In the very next Gospel, we discover that Mark was even more specific than Matthew. Whereas Matthew only quoted from the Prophet Isaiah, Mark appears to be quoting from both Isaiah and Malachi. Notice that Mark says "prophets" and not just "prophet". He also uses the word "messenger" which is found in Malachi's prophecy, but not in Isaiah's prophecy. Thus, it appears that Mark is combining both of these Old Testament sources:

"As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
Mark 1:2-3, KJV

Eight chapters later in Mark chapter nine, the Lord again confirms that John the Baptist is indeed the Elias -- or Elijah -- who was spoken of by the Prophet Malachi, as we see here:

"And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come? And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought. But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him."
Mark 9:11-13, KJV

If we turn to the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we find that the Angel Gabriel is speaking in the temple with Zacharias, who is the father of John the Baptist. As Gabriel describes the future ministry of John to Zacharias, notice what he says to him:

"And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
Luke 1:17, 76, KJV

Shortly after that, John's own father, Zacharias, is filled with the Holy Spirit and say the following after his speech is returned to him:

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;"
Luke 1:17, 76, KJV

Turning to Luke chapter three, we again see Luke quoting from the Prophet Isaiah, and thus confirming the ministry of John the Baptist:

"As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the

prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Luke 3:4-6, KJV

It should be clear to you by now that John the Baptist did indeed carry the very same mighty spiritual anointing as the Prophet Elijah, exactly as had been prophesied of him. Well, if the pattern and mechanics I have been discussing in this series is true -- as I am convinced it is -- then according to this pattern, the baton should next fall to someone else. As we know, that is precisely what happened. In fact, John the Baptist foresaw this day. Thus, once he announced Jesus as the Lamb of God, and had baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, we find him saying the following:

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

John 3:30, KJV

So John realized that his mission had been completed, and that it was now time for him to recede into the background. It was not long after that, that evil King Herod had John thrown into prison -- and eventually beheaded -- because John dared to publicly expose Herod's sin of adultery when he married his brother Philip's wife, Herodias, as we see by the following group of verses:

"At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her

mother. And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus."

Matthew 14:1-12, KJV

From that point forward, after He has passed Satan's tests in the wilderness area of the Jordan River valley, it is Jesus Himself who shines in the pages of the Gospels. Furthermore, we know from reading the Bible, that while Jesus was -- and still remains -- the Son of the God, during His brief time on Earth, He was filled with the Spirit of His Father without measure. In other words, His spiritual anointing, power and authority was totally unlimited, which is why the Lord was able to perform so many miracles. This fact is confirmed by the following group of verses:

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."

John 3:34, KJV

"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;"

Colossians 1:19, KJV

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Colossians 2:9, KJV

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Matthew 28:18, KJV

"But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house."

Mark 2:10-11, KJV

"But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house."

Luke 5:24, KJV

"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."

John 5:26-27, KJV

Thus far, we have seen how the Spirit of God has worked pretty much the same throughout the Old Testament period, and up to the time of John the Baptist and Jesus Himself. The pattern and mechanics has not changed much, if at all. During each time period, one individual has received the anointing of God's Spirit beyond anyone else in their own generation. However, it is in the Gospels where we actually begin to notice a change in the Spirit's mode of operation. Jesus Himself spoke of the change which was coming, and it was in fact prophesied to come, even in the pages of the Old Testament. Furthermore, I mentioned it to you in part one of this series. Allow me to share those verses with you again to refresh your memory, along with some additional ones that clearly reveal to you exactly what this coming change was, and is:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that HE may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth HIM not, neither knoweth HIM: but ye know HIM; for HE dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

John 14:16-17, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, HE shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, HE shall testify of me:"

John 15:26, KJV

"Howbeit when HE, the Spirit of truth, is come, HE will guide you into all truth: for HE shall not speak of HIMSELF; but whatsoever HE shall hear, that shall HE speak: and HE will shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"

Matthew 3:11, KJV

"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you

with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:"

Luke 3:16, KJV

"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. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

Joel 2:28-32, KJV

"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 2:16-21, KJV

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Luke 11:13, KJV

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

John 16:7-8, KJV

"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:"

John 20:22, KJV

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence . . . But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:4-5, 8, KJV

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 2:1-4, KJV

"Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

Acts 8:14-17, KJV

"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues,

and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve."

Acts 19:1-7, KJV

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels [meaning the Spirit in our bodies of flesh], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV

"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the spirit in our hearts."

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, KJV

And there you have it, my friends. Whereas the anointing of God's Spirit had previously been restricted for the most part to just certain individuals such as Patriarchs, Prophets and kings, once Jesus departed from this Earth, we see that the dynamics changed, and God's Holy Spirit thus became available to ALL FLESH. In short, the pattern and the mechanics totally changed. Please notice in the above verses from the Gospel of John that Jesus even clearly stated that He had to go away, in order for the Comforter to come. In other words, Jesus too completed the pattern, and the spiritual baton was passed on, first to the Apostles, then to other Disciples, and down to us -- His children -- today as well, so that we too can now receive the Holy Spirit, exactly as Jesus stated in Luke 11:13 above. All we have to do is ask for it in faith. Have you done so yet?

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you have found it informative, enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: God's Promise of the Spirit

Abundant Life Doctrine: Scripturally Exposed!
Are the Gifts of the Spirit for Today?
Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?
Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled?
Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?
Facebook and the Battle for Our Youth
Facebook False Prophets and Misguided Teachers
Have You Read the New Scriptures Yet?
Holy Ghost: The Spirit of Jesus Christ?
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word
In the Ages to Come
Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?
Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism
Please Stop Misinterpreting the Scriptures
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Holy Trinity
Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed
The Office of Prophets and Teachers
The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!
Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?
Was Jesus Filled With the Holy Spirit from Birth?

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