

Symbols of the Holy Ghost

The Scriptures gives us symbols for the Spirit so that we can understand the Spirit's operation towards us. As we study the symbols, we see what we can expect the Spirit of God to do in our lives. We also see what power we have in God as we are baptized with His Spirit.

Water

(John 7:37-39) In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

There can be no life without water. In the same way, there can be no spiritual life without the Spirit. Also, we cannot make water. We are totally dependent upon God for it. We also are totally dependent on God for the Spirit, the Living Water.

Water is used for cleansing. (Titus 3:5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

(Hosea 10:12) Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Water aids in growth. (Psalm 1:3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

(Isaiah 44:3-4) For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: (4) And they shall spring up *as* among the grass, as willows by the water courses.

Water is refreshing. (Psalm 46:4-5) *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High. (5) God *is* in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, *and that* right early.

The Living water is given freely. (Isaiah 55:1) Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wind

(John 3:5-8) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (8) The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

In this passage, the Greek work for wind and Spirt is the same word. The same is true in the Old Testament which is written in the Hebrew language. As no man can direct the wind, also no man can direct the Spirit. A sailor does not command the wind to blow. He waits for the wind to blow, and then he put up his sails and adjust them according to the blowing wind. Likewise, when the Spirit moves, we just put up our hands, worship the Lord, and allow the Spirit to minister to us and through us.

The Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In Acts chapter one, about 120 disciples were worshipping and praising the Lord. This atmosphere of worship and praise continued till the Spirit was poured out. This is the atmosphere that the Lord is looking for. When the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, the Bible tells us that “there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind.” In other words, the Spirit came like the sound of a violently blowing wind and it filled the whole house. We need to do what the first disciples did. We worship and praise the Lord till He comes. Then we continue to worship Him under the moving of the Spirit.

As the Spirit moves in our midst, we can still hear winds blowing from heaven and the sounds of heaven speaking to us through the Speaking Gifts of the Spirit which are: Divers kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Prophecy. (Acts 2:17) 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.

Fire and Light

(Acts 2:1-4) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

(Matthew 3:11) 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.

Fire is used to purify. (Proverbs 25:4) Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

(Zechariah 13:9) And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

(Malachi 3:2-3) But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: (3) And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Fire is used for light or illumination. (Exodus 13:21-22) And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: (22) He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

David said, (Psalms 78:14) In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

The Holy Spirit will guide us in the light of truth. (John 16:13) 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.

As the Spirit moves in our midst, we see that the Spirit still illuminates and shows us things to come through the Knowing Gifts of the Spirit which are: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of spirits.

Dove

(John 1:32) And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. The Spirit of God descending like dove was the sign that God told John that he would see when he saw the Christ.

Why is a dove a good symbol of the Spirit? A dove is quiet and gentle. This is what the Spirit produces in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

With the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we go out into the world as people that are like Christ. (Matthew 10:16) Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. The word in Matthew 10:16 translated as “harmless” (KJV) can be translated as “pure” or “without a mixture of evil.” This is a good description of Jesus. It is also an example of what the Spirit of Christ can do in our lives.

Oil

(Matthew 25:1-4) Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. (2) And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. (3) They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: (4) But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Oil for light. The wise virgins symbolize people who received the grace of God and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Lamps in the time of Christ did not give light without oil. In the same way, a Christian cannot bring light (God’s message) to the world without the Spirit in his or her life. (Matthew 5:14-16) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. (15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Anointing oil. Oil was to be used to make anointing oil. (Exodus 30:25, ASV) and thou shalt make it a holy anointing oil, a perfume compounded after the art of the perfumer: it shall be a holy anointing oil. This holy anointing oil was used to anoint the High Priest, priests, and kings. The anointing oil is a symbol that the Spirit of the Lord is upon them for a special calling. (1 Samuel 16:13) Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him 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.

Oil is a symbol of the Spirit. We pray with oil in the name of the Lord Jesus, we are petitioning the Lord in prayer, seeking for the Spirit to come upon us for a healing touch. (James 5:14-15) Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (15) And the

prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

As the Spirit moves in our midst, we see the operation of the Power Gifts of the Spirit which are: Faith, Gifts of Healing, and Working of Miracles.

Seal and Guarantee

(2 Corinthians 1:20-22) For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (21) Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; (22) Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

If we have the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, then we have the promise of heaven. (Romans 8:10-11) And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The promise comes from what Christ did for us at Calvary. Now we can be cleansed from our sins and filled with the Holy Spirit of promise. And with this promise, we can inherit eternal life with the Lord.

Symbols, Fruit, and Gifts

The symbols, the fruit, and the gifts of the Spirit. With the symbol of the Spirit as a dove, we see the fruit of the Spirit operating in our lives. With the symbol of the Spirit as oil, we can see the operations of the Power Gifts of the Spirit which are: Faith, Gifts of Healing, and Working of Miracles. With the symbol of the Spirit as fire and light, we can see the Knowing Gifts of the Spirit which are: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of spirits. And with the symbol of the Spirit as wind, we see the Speaking Gifts of the Spirit which are: Divers kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Prophecy.

As we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, we see what He has for us. There is such great power available to us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We would have to ask the question, why doesn't everyone seek for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

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