



Wanna do some more study, follow a few rabbit trails and get a more rich understanding of this past week's sermon? Here are some of the things that either got briefly mentioned in the sermon or had to get omitted due to time. Have fun!

### The Spirit: Wind, Fire, Water & Oil

Wind, fire, water, oil, -- these four are constant Scriptural symbols for the Spirit of God. What are we to say about the present state of them in the church? Is Pentecost a vanished glory? Has that 'rushing mighty wind' blown itself out? Has that leaping fire died down into grey ashes? Has the great river that burst out dried up like some of those rivers in the East? Has the oil dried in the cruse? Check out this link: <https://bit.ly/3nktifc>

### Our Holy Humanity

Often in our modern world we pit our flesh against our spirit as if it is these two things at war with one another. In the Bible to be influenced by God's Spirit means that I am more human, not less. Looking specifically at Paul's treatment of our Spirit-filled humanity in the book of Colossians, should we pit our humanity against our spirituality?

### Filled with the Holy Spirit in the OT

The first two mentions of someone being filled by the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament are Joseph when he interprets the dreams of Pharaoh and Bezalel when he is filled with the Holy Spirit to be able to build the things for the Tabernacle. Check out these stories and try to grasp an Old Testament view of the Holy Spirit and how He works in the lives of His people.

**Joseph: Genesis 41**  
**Bezalel: Exodus 31**

For fun- check out the book of Judges and look for the word "Spirit" or "Spirit of God" and look at who is filled with the Spirit and their character (there are some pretty terrible people that God fills with His Spirit to do His work... it's crazy!)

### 'In Christ' in Pauline Literature

Anyone who reads Paul's readings thoughtfully will begin to see a crimson thread running through his writing. The term "in Christ" occurs upwards of 216 times in Paul's writings alone and is inferred dozens of more times. Paul uses this term in many different ways always alluding to a believer's union with Christ. Paul never fully explains what he means by the phrase and he uses it many different formulaic ways:

- 1 'A is in Christ': for example, Paul speaks of the saints 'in Christ Jesus' (Phil 1:1), of 'those who are in Christ Jesus' (Rom 8:1) and of himself as 'a man in Christ' (2 Cor 12:2).
- 2 'A does something to B in Christ': the apostle urges the Thessalonians 'in the Lord Jesus' (1 Thess 4:1; cf Eph 4:17).
- 3 'A does something in the Lord': in this way Paul exhorts the Philippians to 'rejoice in the Lord' (Phil 3:1; 4:4-10; cf 2 Cor 10:17).
- 4 'A is X in Christ': Appelles is said to be tested and approved 'in Christ' (Rom 16:10) and Paul's ultimate aim for his ministry is 'to present everyone perfect in Christ' (Col 1:28; cf 1 Cor 3:1).
- 5 'God gives us (does to us) something in Christ': eg he forgave us in Christ (Eph 4:32; cf 1:6).
- 6 '...the gift of God ... in Christ' (eg Rom 3:24).
- 7 'A, B, C ... are in Christ' (eg Gal 1:22). It is interesting at this point that the Thessalonian church is said to be 'in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1).
- 8 The formula sometimes has cosmic significance, as it does in Colossians 1:16-17: 'in him all things hold together' (cf Eph 1:9-10; 3:10-11).
- 9 The use of the phrase in Colossians 2:9 deserves singular mention: 'For in Christ all the fullness of the deity lives'.