



What is So New About the New Covenant – Part 3 | KIB 525

Indwelling Spirit of God – In and Upon | April 6, 2026

Kingdom Intelligence Briefing

Summary of God’s Promises of the New Covenant

Old Testament Promise	Scripture	New Covenant Reality
New Covenant	Jeremiah 31	New relational covenant
Circumcised Heart	Deut 30:6	Regeneration
New Heart	Ezekiel 36	Transformation
Indwelling Spirit	Joel 2	Spirit baptism
Forgiveness of Sin	Jeremiah 31	Final atonement
New Priesthood	Psalms 110	Eternal priesthood
Law on the Heart	Jeremiah 31	Internal obedience
Universal Knowledge of God	Jeremiah 31	Direct relationship
Covenant for Nations	Isaiah 49	Global people of God
God Dwelling with People	Ezekiel 37	Spiritual temple

I. The Holy Spirit as the Promise of the New Covenant

The ministry of the Spirit represents the **central operational reality of the New Covenant**.

Key Prophetic Promises

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (ESV)

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrew Word Insights

English	Hebrew	Meaning
Spirit	רוּחַ (<i>ruach</i>)	breath, wind, animating power
Heart	לֵב (<i>lev</i>)	inner man, mind, will, conscience
New	חָדָשׁ (<i>chadash</i>)	renewed, repaired, restored

The Spirit’s ministry fulfills the promise of **internalized Torah** — moving obedience from external compulsion to internal transformation.

II. The Spirit Brings Regeneration (New Birth)

Primary Text

John 3:5–8 (ESV)

5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter 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 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Greek Word Study

Term	Greek	Meaning
Born again	γεννηθῆναι ἄνωθεν (<i>gennēthē anōthen</i>)	born from above
Spirit	πνεῦμα (<i>pneuma</i>)	breath, wind, spirit
Flesh	σὰρξ (<i>sarx</i>)	fallen human nature

The Spirit initiates spiritual life — reversing the death introduced in Eden.

Theological Insight

Regeneration is not merely forgiveness but **ontological* transformation** — the believer becomes a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).

* **Ontological:** Ontological refers to anything related to ontology, which is the philosophical study of being and existence. It examines the nature of reality and the classification of entities within it.

Question: When does the Holy Spirit indwell the believer?

John 20:20–24 (ESV)

20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” **22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

John 20:20–23 (AMP)

20 So saying, He showed them His hands and His side. And when the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy (delight, exultation, ecstasy, rapture). **21** Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! [Just] as the Father has sent Me forth, so I am sending you. **22** And having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit! **23** [Now having received the Holy Spirit, and being led and directed by Him] if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained.

NICOT – Book of John

Accordingly, having “breathed,” Jesus added, “Receive Holy Spirit” (v. 22b), and for this reason it is customary to translate the text, “he breathed *on them*,” presumably conferring on them the Spirit with his very breath, much as God in the beginning, having “formed the man from the earth, breathed in his face the breath of life, and the man became a living soul” (Gen 2:7, LXX).¹

Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible

Notes For Verse 22

a [breathed] Greek: *emphusao* (GSN-<G1720>), only here in the New Testament, but used in Gen. 2:7 in the Septuagint for the Hebrew: *naphach* (HSN-<H5301>), to breathe, or blow with force. See Ezek. 37:9.²

Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

The theological significance here is very important.

¹ J. Ramsey Michaels, *The Gospel of John*, The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 1010–1011.

² Finis Jennings Dake, *The Dake Annotated Reference Bible* (Dake Publishing, 1997), Jn 20:22.

Jesus is the creator. In Genesis 2:7, the Creator breathed the breath of life into the body of clay that He had created. Adam was born at that minute.

Now, the resurrected Creator is imparting both His Spirit and the New Birth (i.e., being born from above) into His disciples. It was at that moment that they received the new birth and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Greek Term

ἐνοικέω (*enoikeō*) — to dwell within permanently

The indwelling Spirit fulfills temple imagery:

- Eden
- Tabernacle
- Temple
- Believer as temple

The New Covenant relocates sacred space from geography to people.

The Holy Spirit Within and the Holy Spirit Upon

Acts 1:6–8 (ESV)

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Upon:

LSJ - ἐπί, (epi) to denote the *being upon* or *supported upon a surface or point*.³

Power:

Logos Word Sense – Possession of controlling influence; often understood as manifesting influence over reality; resource; power; meaning.⁴

BDAG: Potential for function in some way: power, might, strength, force, capability, ability, deed of power, miracles, wonder, resource, meaning.⁵

Dimensions of empowerment

Dimension	Function
boldness	Acts 4:31
spiritual gifts	1 Cor 12
supernatural prayer	Rom 8:26
endurance	Eph 3:16

³ Henry George Liddell et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), 621.

⁴ Logos Bible Software Version 49.0. Faithlife, LLC. Copyright 2000-2026.

⁵ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 262.

Dimension	Function
witness	Acts 1:8

When you were baptized, did you drink the water so that it filled you, or were you immersed in the water so that it covered you (i.e., upon)?

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not “getting” the Holy Spirit. It is having the Holy Spirit come upon you in the same way that He came upon people in the Old Testament to accomplish His divine will.

Examples:

- Moses
- The craftsmen building the Tabernacle and its furniture
- Prophets
- Priests
- Kings

III. The Spirit Sanctifies the Believer

Sanctification is the progressive work of spiritual transformation.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

Greek Term

ἁγιασμός (*hagiasmos*) — consecration, separation unto God. ⁶

Mechanism of Sanctification

Means	Scripture
Word illumination	John 16:13
conviction of sin	John 16:8
transformation	2 Cor 3:18
empowerment to overcome flesh	Romans 8:13

The Spirit enables believers to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law (Rom 8:4).

IV. The Spirit Guides the Believer

Romans 8:14 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Greek Term

ἄγω (*agō*) — to lead, guide, bring along a path. ⁷

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

The Spirit's guidance includes:

- wisdom
- discernment
- timing
- restraint
- conviction

John 16:13 (ESV)

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

V. The Spirit Produces Spiritual Fruit

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Fruit represents **character transformation**, not merely behavior modification.

Greek Term

καρπός (*karpos*) — produce, evidence of life

Fruit demonstrates the life of Christ reproduced in the believer.

VI. The Spirit Enables Spiritual Warfare

The Spirit strengthens believers against the world, flesh, and the devil.

Ephesians 6:17–18 (ESV)

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Warfare Dimensions

Function	Scripture
discernment	1 Cor 2:14
authority	Luke 10:19
intercession	Rom 8:26
victory over flesh	Gal 5:16
resistance of enemy	James 4:7

The Spirit applies Christ's victory to the believer's daily life.

VII. The Spirit Forms Christ in the Believer

Galatians 4:19 (ESV)

19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

The Spirit produces conformity to Christ:

Romans 8:29 (ESV)

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Greek Term

μορφώω (*morphoō*) — to shape, transform essential nature.⁸

VIII. 12 Dimensions of the Spirit's Ministry

1. Regenerates the believer
2. Indwells the believer
3. Writes God's law on the heart
4. Sanctifies character
5. Guides decision-making
6. Empowers ministry
7. Produces fruit
8. Gives spiritual gifts
9. Enables prayer
10. Assures salvation

⁸ Ibid.

11. Teaches truth

12. Enables victory in spiritual warfare

Next week: Holy Spirit vs. Counterfeit Spirits.