

He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us,  
and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit,  
guaranteeing what is to come.

# SECURE

WE HAVE FOUND MERCY  
WE HAVE BEEN MADE CLEAN  
WE HAVE BEEN FULL OF LIFE  
WE HAVE BEEN SMARTENED  
YOU ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE  
YOU ARE BLESSED  
YOU ARE ALWAYS IN THE FRONT  
YOU ARE THE FATHER OF US ALL  
YOU ARE LIGHT IN THIS WORLD  
YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE  
YOU HAVE BEEN REDEEMED  
YOU HAVE FULLNESS IN CHRIST  
WE ARE ELZEN NET PIRE

According to God's Word, the reason you trusted Christ the Holy Spirit was given to you and indwelt you. You are now God's temple. "You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13).



Like the filling of the Jerusalem temple, the Pentecost event in Acts 2 was a unique display of God's empowering presence. Typically, our experience of God's empowering leads to supernatural conviction. Rather, this is something we are to take by faith in what Scripture has promised, and what it's promised is that God lives in you and will never leave.

As best you can, remember: when did you place your faith in Christ? What were the circumstances surrounding your decision?

As you lay your mind full over the fact—that through the Holy Spirit, God actually indwells you—what are some of the immediate implications that come to mind?

Topic: the word "filled" in a single chapter of Acts (think right in the way in which we feel and experience the Spirit's presence)

**God, who was also called Paul, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT . . .**  
**WAS IN THE SYNAGOGUES, THAT HE MIGHT FILL THEM WITH JOY . . .**  
**THE SYNAGOGUES WERE FILLED WITH HIS GLORY AND PRAISE, AND ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL**

How is being filled with the Spirit similar to be filled with joy or love? How is it different?

Why do you think God makes His influence and presence so subtle in our lives, working in concert with our own thoughts and emotions, rather than overriding them?

How have you experienced or felt the Spirit's presence or influence in your life since becoming a Christian?

What activities might affect how much you feel or experience the Spirit's influence? List another way, or three things you can do to increase or decrease the Spirit's influence upon your thoughts and actions?

As the Lord indwells you, your life is set in motion. What about your life right now do you think you would want to change to make it more temple-like of a "Holy Dwelling"?

## The story of God's presence and the temple.

From the time Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, God's presence had dwelled with them in a unique way. A portable tent, or tabernacle, was created for God's residence among them. And yet, it wasn't until some 400 years after their Red Sea crossing that King David's son Solomon built a permanent structure in Jerusalem, a temple, to be the earthly focal point of God's dwelling among his people. Upon the completion of the temple, there was an inauguration ceremony that concluded with Solomon praying as follows:



**HOW LONG I HAVE BEEN HERE AND COME TO YOUR RESTING PLACE,  
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO REMIND ME, REMIND YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD GOD, RECALLED HOW YOU  
SAVATION WAS TO US SINCE WE WERE IN YOUR HANDS, O LORD GOD, DO NOT REJECT  
YOUR ANointed ONE, REMEMBER THE GREAT LOVE PROMISED TO DAVID YOUR SERVANT:**

**WHEN SOLOMON FINISHED HIS PRAYER, HE RAN DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND COMPLETED THE  
KING OFFERING AND THE SACRIFICES, AND THE GROUND OF THE LORD FILLED THE TEMPLE.**

**THE PRESENCE COULD NOT ENTER THE TEMPLE AS THE LIGHT BECAME TOO BRIGHT AND THE  
LORD FILLED IT, WHEN ALL THE ISRAELITES SAW THE FIRE COMING DOWN AND THE  
VOICE OF THE LORD ABOVE THE TEMPLE, THEY KNELT ON THE PAVEMENT WITH THEIR  
FACES TO THE SKY AND THEY WORSHIPPED AND SAID TO EACH OTHER: "THE LORD HAS  
DONE THIS FOR US, AND WE WILL OBEY HIM." (1 Kings 8:11-13)**

It is in a quiet, wild demonstration of God's power as his presence filled the temple. And, by the way, there's a little performance. While God's presence continued to dwell in the temple throughout Israel's history, it was only at the inauguration of the grand opening, so to speak, that we witness such a dramatic scene—God visibly demonstrating that his presence now dwelled in the temple for the people. Another event wouldn't cause like this and other events had been raised. And it's that event that we want to look at next.

### The new temple, *Evangelical*

Reverend was a Jewish-based text celebrating the birth of the coming Messiah. How does this backdrop aid our understanding of the event?

Why do we think God chose speaking in different languages as a sign of his presence among the church?

What other tangible results or consequences of the Spirit's presence do you see in this chapter?

How were the disciples different as a result of the Spirit's presence?

In light of the fear and awe associated with God's presence throughout Israel's history, how do you think the disciples felt when they realized that they were the new temple? (See text? Paraphrase?)

DEAR BO: YOU ENTER A ROOM AND THERE YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE: TWO POLITICAL FIGURES, FERRIS BUCCUK, MAMA AND MERRY FRIEND CLINTON, A COUPLE OF SPORTS SCUMPS, BOB AND TINA, YOUR BOSS, YOUR TWO MOTHERS, BUSBY AND BETTY, DAVE ANTHONY AND GEORGE, AND TWO ACTORS WHO DEFINE BEAUTY SUCH AS BRAD PITT AND ANJOLINA LILOU. TOWNS THE SCENARIOS. NOW

How do you think you would react?

How would you feel in her or her presence? Why?

Which happens a greater sense of awe in you, being in the presence of heavy political genius, or talent? Why?

How do you think it would be like to spend in the presence of God? What does the fear for what that come to you feel? ("worrying"? "blowing"?)

What are your thoughts of what is the equivalent, someone breathing, something, or what is in the air? Why? (How do you feel?)

How do these thoughts of feelings differ from how they come from being in the presence of a cathedral?

### Old Testament encounters.

Look at the following verses and read verses of these things. What does God say to you? What does He say to you? What does He say to you? What does He say to you? What does He say to you? What does He say to you? What does He say to you? What does He say to you?

Exodus 16:1-17 (The manna)

Exodus 17:1-17 (The water)

Exodus 24:1-17 (The mountain)

IN HIM WHO IS CANA ADONAI JEHOVA ROPHE GOD AL-  
MIGHTY FATHER LORD EL SHADDAI EL  
ELYON YEEHIA FIRST AND LAST ALPHA AND  
OMEGA LIVING GOD EL ROY HOLY ONE GREAT  
SWEETHEST LORD OF HOSTS GOD MOST HIGH  
EVERLASTING GOD KURIOS WORD MAKER GOD  
ONLY ONE REDEEMER ADONAI AVINU CREATOR  
HOLY GLORIOUS ETERNAL ANGEL

# PRESENT

And in him you too are being built together to become  
a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

ROMANS 8:29



**Flatland**, an allegory, *exists without aware* "Flatland," an imaginative story of life in a two-dimensional world. The protagonist is A. Square, and as the name suggests, he's square. A flat shape—like an eraser. The story characterizes the difficulty of existing 2-D life for a two-dimensional being. A. Square, for example, can only experience a sphere as a flat circle, for in Flatland the concept of depth is unrecognizable. Flatland is still used in math today as a helpful analogy to explain the difficulty of envisioning a fourth spatial dimension.

Incomprehensible as it may be, there has been no shortage of illustrations offered over the years that attempt to explain the Trinity. To a degree, they are all helpful. But, to a degree, they are all deficient. Below are some of the better known of the illustrations. Look at each, and if you can write down what it tries to communicate and where the analogy fails.

Water illustrates the Trinity in that it can manifest itself in three forms: liquid, vapor, and ice.

An egg illustrates the Trinity in that it is made up of three constituent parts: shell, egg white, and yolk.

Sex illustrates the Trinity because, in the consummation of marriage, two people, to the extent possible, become one.

A play illustrates the Trinity with the Father as the root, the Son as the shoot that breaks forth into the world, and the Spirit as that which spreads beauty and fragrance.

A person illustrates the Trinity in the union and interdependence of intellect, emotion, and will.



Are these illustrations are not all equal in their descriptive insight, which do you find most helpful?

The Trinity is one of many mysteries surrounding God that can freeze the brain when pondered too long. What other mysteries about God do you wrestle with?

How do these persons comprise one God may not be as clear as word like. What is clear is that the doctrine of the Trinity is true and that each member of the Trinity plays a distinct role in our salvation, for we "have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood" (1 Peter 1:2). It is also clear that the mission and ministry of the Spirit are to bring glory to the God. The Spirit abides in us to focus our mind, affections, words, and service toward "our great God and Father Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:9).

### What I know now:

Since we've touched on some abstract ideas, try to process the content through answering these two questions:

How I viewed the whole *Scripture* in the past:

How I view *Scripture* now:

## The person of the Spirit

Personhood is not a matter of having feet or eyebrows but rather of having attributes of being such as intellect, agency, the ability to act, will, emotion, and so forth. Review one or more of the **major biblical passages** that affirm the unique personhood of the Spirit. Look up each and record what aspect of personhood it describes.

Acts 5:3

Romans 8:26

1 Corinthians 12:13, 27-28

Ephesians 4:32

## The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

While the identity of the Holy Spirit is not fully revealed until the New Testament, **read scriptures** that refer to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament passages 4:13 in Genesis 1:26-27. What Holy Spirit information do you see in these opening verses of Scripture?

**GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, OUR LIKENESS, AND LET THEM RULÉ OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, OVER THE LIVESTOCK, OVER ALL THE EARTH, AND OVER ALL THE CREATURES THAT MOVE UPON THE GROUND." SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM, MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. **spirit****

Is there something to be learned about the nature of God or the nature and creation of man?

Why do you think that God did not fully disclose his three-in-one (Trinity) until the coming of Jesus?

### The Trinity

How would you clarify the Trinity to someone who thinks and believes in three gods?

While the term "Trinity" is never used in Scripture, the personhood and deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are clearly taught. If we were to summarize the New Testament doctrine of the Trinity, it would be as follows: God is three distinct persons, each person is fully God, there is only God.

The greatest minds of the last two thousand years have generally conceded that while we can state these three truths with clarity like the mathematical concept of a fourth spatial dimension or the mystery of human consciousness, the Trinity is beyond our human capacity to perceive or envision.





Which image do you think best represents people's general understanding of the Holy Spirit?

In your mind, which images do a better job of representing the Holy Spirit's identity? Why?

Which image best represents the Holy Spirit to you? Why that one?

If you had to create an eBook your new image, what would it be?  
What do you envision when you think about the Holy Spirit?

What are some the unexpected attractions about the Holy Spirit personality none of the images show?

Why is image 9 so often used when depicting the Holy Spirit?

### **Introducing the Holy Spirit.**

Read John 16: 13. In this discourse Jesus gives a formal introduction to the third person of the Trinity. What do you learn from the passage about the Holy Spirit and why he was sent.



# PERSON

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SON, BORN OF THE MARY, WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN IN THE VIRGIN MARY. I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

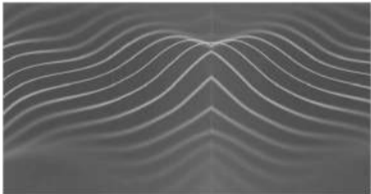
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**SECTION ONE:**  
*inhabit by the spirit*  
PERSON  
PRESENT  
SECURE  
EMPOWERED

**SECTION TWO:**  
*influence of the spirit*  
WAKING  
RELINANCE  
LED  
ATMOSPHERE  
AWAKE  
NAKED

**SECTION THREE:**  
*overflow of the spirit*  
POWER TO WITNESS  
POWER FOR HOLINESS  
POWER TO SERVE  
FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT  
STEPS



play on the computer, torturous sleep?

When we read confessions, do we rely upon God or pick ourselves up with music, coffee, nicotine, Red Bull, new clothes, self-talk, cool speech? To what are we turning to satisfy those thirsts?

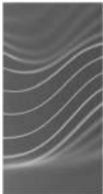
Though we have living water (the Holy Spirit) within us, we satisfy our thirst in much the same ways unbelievers do. Maybe we've stopped having premarital sex or taking illicit drugs—maybe—but that doesn't mean we're not turning to substances. In truth, we're often consuming it daily . . . by the gallon.

And this, when you clear everything else away, is at the core of our dissatisfaction and thirst: we are not filled and do not walk with, or drink from, the Spirit in the way we could or should.

Now, it could be that we just don't know any better. Maybe we never even knew the source of living water was within us. Or maybe we thought we were supposed to get out a godly life in our own strength through discipline and abstinence. Maybe this is all we've ever seen modeled. Whatever the reason, it doesn't matter because we are going to change all that.

For the next two weeks, we are going to learn what it is to be filled, directed, and empowered by the Spirit. We are going to learn how to drink and satisfy our thirst the way God intended.

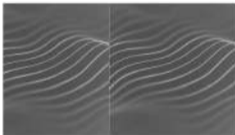
This devotional contains three sections. The first focuses on the scriptural and doctrinal foundations of the Spirit-filled life: what the Bible says concerning God's Spirit indwelling us. The second section will look at how we walk it, and experience the Spirit's empowerment. And the last section explores the practical ways this empowerment overflows in love and service. If you fully engage for the next fourteen days, I guarantee your relationship with Jesus will never be the same.



please stop me at any point.

And so here we are again, back at the basic meaning of Isaiah 21:3. It's not just that our souls need living water or we'll die of spiritual thirst, it's that we're dying of thirst because we drink from alternative wells, chugging down saltwater instead of fresh. What our souls thirst for is Christ, whom we experience by the Spirit.

Like the body, the soul can't go very long without water. And so everyone, most every day, gets thirsty, as experienced in innumerable forms: insecurity, unforgiveness, meaninglessness, loneliness, hopelessness, emptiness, boredom, dissatisfaction, worry, anxiety, and so on. Our souls are constantly crying out for something to drink. So we drink.



But all temporal forms of refreshment (sex, drugs, success, fame, business, entertainment, travel, restoration) are, in the end, saltwater. In the moment, they taste and feel like water to the lips, but they only succeed in making us thirstier. If we persist in drinking them, they are spiritually lethal.

But this isn't the worst tragedy. The greater tragedy by far is that those of us who have come to know Christ continue to drink

the same saltwater that unbelievers drink, though perhaps in more socially acceptable forms.

When we feel the thirst of insecurity, for example, do we turn to the Lord or do we buy clothes, fit weights, clamor for attention, fit, judge others or put others down, or get jealous?

When we feel the thirst of loneliness or dissatisfaction, do we turn to the Lord or do we eat, watch TV,

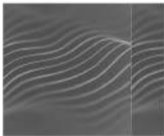
## INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt that this can't be all there is—that somehow there must be something deeper, something more to the Christian life? Something you don't need to act out but a palpable source of energy and life flowing from the heart? Not behavior modification by your own effort and discipline but life transformation through God's power? Jesus clearly taught that there was when he said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37-38). "By this he meant the Spirit" (John 7:39-40). According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the source of that "something more," the source of what's missing.

The phrase Jesus used, "living water," was meant to evoke, among other Scriptures, Jeremiah 2:13: "My people have committed two sins. They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

But even if we didn't know (Jeremiah 2:13), we could have understood Jesus' implication by his use of the phrase "living water." Sounds poetic, even mystical, doesn't it? But Jesus didn't use the term "living water" poetically or mystically. Living water was another term for freshwater, the stuff you use to water plants and animals, grow crops, clean dishes—the stuff you drink to live. And, importantly, it stands in opposition, not to stagnant (dead) water, but to saltwater.

Saltwater looks and feels like fresh, or living, water, but if you drink it for any length of time, it kills you. A person could be stranded in the middle of the ocean floating atop a gallon gallons of it and die of thirst. The more you drink saltwater, the thirstier you get. If there's a better picture for salt,



A dark gray square with white wavy lines. The text "THIRSTY?" is centered in the square.

*THIRSTY?*

## Title page

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BRUCE JAMES

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