

Kingdom
The Kingdom in Power

1 Corinthians 4:20 - *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.*

Mark 9:1 - *And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see **the kingdom of God present with power.**"*

- This could only refer to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurring on the Jewish feast called Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2:1-4
*¹ On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, * as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. (NLT)*

So, we see the Holy Spirit IS the power of God.

Where & how God expresses His power:

- Three realities, described in 1 Thessalonians. 5:23 - *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - We are made in the image of God in this regard
- Spirit is the highest reality, followed by soul, then body.
 - Soul is our personality, emotions, will, etc.

The Holy Spirit exerts His power to the material world

- Creation
Heb. 11:3
By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (ESV)
Gen. 1:1,2
*¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.***
I mention this because we will see a pattern here of how the Holy Spirit works with the spoken Word of God.
The Bible says that Jesus "*upholds the universe by the word of his power*" (Heb. 1:3, ESV)
The force that holds protons and neutrons together must be very strong. Well, in a brilliant stroke of imagination, physicists have named this force "the strong force."
¹(webs.morningside.edu)
The destruction of the material world is simply the absence of God's creative/sustaining power.
- Healing & miracles

The Holy Spirit exerts His power to our spirit

¹ (<http://webs.morningside.edu/slaven/Physics/atom/atom2.html>)

- **The New Birth**

- John 3:3-5

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, 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.**

So, this is Spirit to spirit.

Like the original creation, the new creation is a result of the Holy Spirit, Who is now hovering over humanity, responding to the Word of God.

John 5:24

John 14:15-18

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

For all His power and ability, the Holy Spirit is not just an experience. He is a Person. We will look in more depth next week at His role in our lives.

The question today is – is He in you, or just ‘with’ you?