

The Spirit of the Lord

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

– Isaiah 11:2 –

The same Spirit of God that rested upon our Lord Jesus resides in the heart of every New Testament believer. He is our continuous Companion, our earnest of the purchased possession of our redemption. He comforts and convicts us along life's daily path. He leads us into all truth. He perfects our feeble prayers and makes them fit for the throne of grace. The flesh lusts against Him, and He against the flesh. The Spirit strives to own our hearts so that we may fulfill His purpose in and through us. He does not leave us, but it is our prerogative as to how full we are of His power. While we live and move and have our being here, we possess the ability to either grieve and quench Him, or to yield to Him and walk in His might.

It is good to stop frequently and take personal inventory of the evidence of the Spirit's working in our lives. Our text in Isaiah 11:2 can serve as one of the guideposts for such an exercise. There are six characteristics of the Spirit of God that are outlined in this short verse. These can serve us well for a hearty self-examination.

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of wisdom. Am I growing in wisdom? Do I see things differently today than I did a year ago, not just because of the march of time and the acquisition of experience, but because of how God has shown me things I would never have learned on my own?

The Spirit of God is a spirit of understanding. He gives me the mind of Christ. Do I see the events unfolding in my life and the world at large more through the prism of God's purposes than I did heretofore?

The Spirit of the Lord is a spirit of counsel. Do I turn to the world for answers, or to Him and His Word alone? Do I have answers for perplexed people that He draws into my sphere of influence?

God's Spirit is one of might. While I may still have this old man, this fleshly nature that I tote around until heaven, am I gaining ground upon it? Do I find Him working in me mightily and transforming me into the image of God's Son?

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of knowledge. Do I know more about God and His ways today than I did a year ago? Do I hunger and thirst for His Word as my necessary food?

The Spirit of God is a spirit that teaches me the fear of the Lord. Is my relationship with God right? Do I fear Him with the awful respect He deserves? Do I humbly revere His holy nature and august position?

May the Spirit of the Lord fill us, move us, and use us to be what He has call us to be today! -- D. Murcek