

*The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a "Niagara Falls" immersion-it comes down from above, enveloping the believer.*

*Derek Prince in You Shall Receive Power*

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Prayer Study #274

## **SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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*"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

John 7:37-38

(The following was taken from studies on the Holy Spirit at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia.)

These symbols reveal the scope and His NATURE and MINISTRY, and the character He wants to work in us.

- 1. Wind:** Since the word *spirit* means *wind* or *breath*, let us begin with this symbol. Jesus said of the New Birth in John 3:8, *"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."* The New Birth is mysterious, for an unseeking sinner spiritually dead in sins is suddenly responding to an unseen Power and is made a new creation with the capacity of knowing the Living God. And concerning the Pentecostal experience of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Disciples we read, *And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit* (Acts 2:2,4). Who can control the wind? Where does it go? Where did it come from? What power is in the wind? No wonder Jesus said, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."* (Acts 1:8a).
- 2. Dove:** Generally regarded as a symbol of peace, love, and faithfulness, the dove is thought of as a timid bird. The dove mates only once in its life-time, and when one of a pair dies, it is said that the other flies to it for a farewell, and then it flies off to a higher place and sings itself to death. This reminds us that the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is easily grieved, though the Bible does not say he is grieved away for He is the Abiding Comforter whom Jesus said would abide with us forever. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit came on Jesus alighting like a dove: *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens*

were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17). Here we find the Pattern Son, conceived by the Spirit of God in the virgin's womb, having the Spirit come upon Him in the form of a dove.

3. **Oil:** Anointing with oil in the times of the Old Covenant was always a symbol of the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the tabernacle pure oil was used in the lamp just outside the veil in the holy place to symbolize the presence of God, who was present by His Spirit. God commanded the people through Moses to bring "oil for light." Oil was used for anointing kings and for setting apart sacred things. The word *anoint* comes from the word translated *Christ*. H. Ockenga says that the individual anointed was *Christed*. The Old Testament kings were anointed with oil and called "the Lord's anointed." For this reason, David refused to hurt Saul, *the Lord's anointed*, even though Saul was trying to kill him and David had opportunities to kill Saul. Oil was used for healing in Old and New Testament times. In the book of James, the Church was told to anoint the sick with oil as they prayed for them. The good Samaritan poured oil on the wounded man.
4. **Fire:** John, comparing water baptism and the Holy Spirit baptism, said, "*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire* (Matthew 3:11). At Pentecost *there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them* (Acts 2:3). Fire consumes, purifies, gives light and heat, attracts attention, and produces power in steam when applied to water.
5. **Wine:** At Pentecost onlookers mocked those newly baptized in the Holy Spirit as being drunk on wine. Wine intoxicates, leaving people with no inhibitions and easy communication. It brings joy and boldness. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul encouraged the believers, "And do not get drunk with wine for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."
6. **Water and Rain:** The absence of rain means famine, thirst, and ruin. Jesus said, "*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water*" (John 7:37b-38). Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 44:3, *For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the*

*dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring.* Joel speaks of when the Spirit is poured out for both planting seeds of evangelism and harvesting souls in Joel 2:23: *Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD, your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

7. **Salt:** Salt preserves, purifies, gives taste, irritates (convicts), and creates a thirst. Jesus warned us in Matthew 5:13, **“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”**
8. **Seal:** A seal on something denotes ownership, authentication, and authority. *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise* (Ephesians 1:13).
9. **Covering:** A covering provides clothing, protection, and beauty. The Greek word for *endued* in Luke 24:40 is *clothed upon*. **“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high”** (Luke 24:49).
10. **Porter:** A porter opens the doors (of the heart and ministry) and is a watchman and a guard. **“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out”** (John 10:1-3) *Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips* (Psalm 141:3).
11. **Finger:** A finger points in conviction, writes (inspiration of Scripture and writing the Word on the heart and writing prophecy). **But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you** (Luke 11:20).
12. **Witness:** A witness gives assurance and confirms things. *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God* (Romans 8:16).