

HALF LIFE

Name of the Wind

Recap

What would it take for you to **believe** in the miraculous?
Or more to the point, the **power** of the Holy Spirit?

The book of Acts records at least **20 specific** miracles
and tells of **9** times when clusters of them occurred.

The book of Acts covers from **30 AD to 62 AD**
(approximately), that's about 32 years. So the **miracle math**
(including clusters) is **0.9** miracles per year on average

Recap

Community

And they felt that what they **owned was not their own**, so they **shared** everything they had. 4:32b

Suffering

The apostles left the high council **rejoicing** that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus 5:41

Salvation

The greatest miracle is when someone submits their **will**, **agendas** and **ego** to Jesus and **truly surrenders** all that they are

Recap

they left with this final word from Paul: "The **Holy Spirit** was right when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, 'Go and say to this people: When you **hear** what I say, you will **not understand**. When you **see** what I do, you will not **comprehend**. For the **hearts** of these people are **hardened**, and their **ears cannot hear**, and they have closed their eyes—so their **eyes cannot see**, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and **they cannot turn to me** and **let me heal them**.' [Acts 28:25b-27](#)

What If You Don't 'Feel' the Holy Spirit?, Dinuki Suraweera

I've wrestled with nothing more in my walk with the Lord than a clear **understanding** of the power of the Holy Spirit. I spent many of my early years as a believer hearing about how more mature Christians had a **supernatural encounter** with the Holy Spirit. With a child-like wonder, I decided that someday I would reach that level of Christianity too.

Power from the Holy Spirit had become an **elusive, mystical rite of passage** that every "real" Christian was supposed to walk through someday.

What If You Don't 'Feel' the Holy Spirit?, Dinuki Suraweera

If you identify with a similar **lacklustre** journey of faith, I'm willing to bet that there are many more of us; but what if our belief that we aren't filled with the Spirit is more a result of a **biblical misunderstanding**?

I believe that the prevalence of these **qualities** in our day-to-day life is the most telling sign of being full of the Holy Spirit.

What If You Don't 'Feel' the Holy Spirit?, Dinuki Suraweera

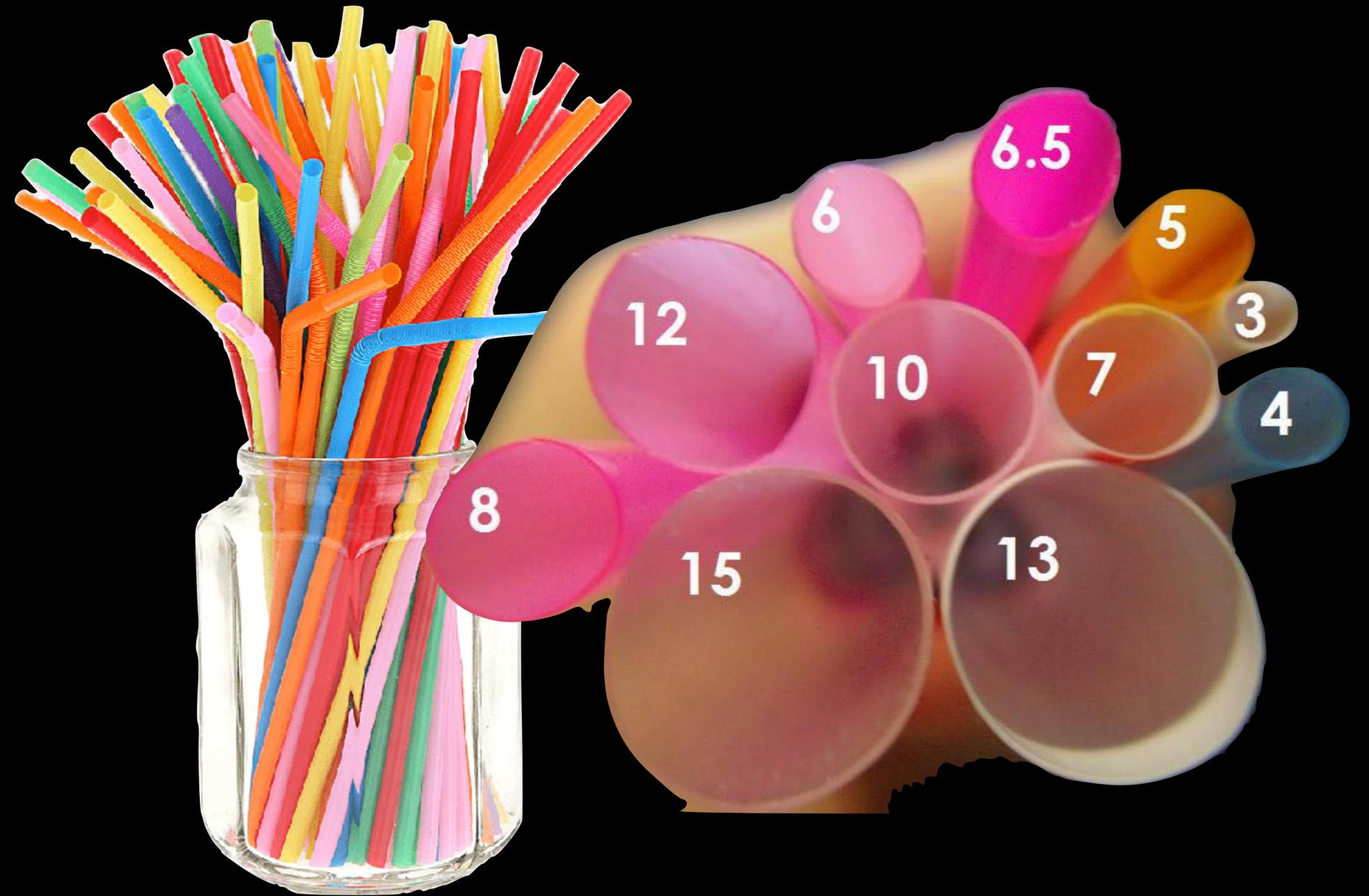
The best evidence of God's power is your **obedience**.

It is far more difficult to persevere in relentless obedience with an **absence** of validation and recognition in the midst of trial than to speak in an effortless, unintelligible language in your prayer closet. The validation of His power in the form of speaking in tongues, healing powers or other supernatural abilities are undoubtedly gifts from above but to endure in the absence of them? That's what I call **spiritual grit**.

When you **think** of the Holy Spirit, what do you think of?



A battery is **stored** power, **accessible** upon **need**



A straw is an **empty** container that merely **directs** the contents **when** they are **available**

The Holy Spirit is triggered by **need** (salvation)

Comfort resists the Spirit (growth)

There are **three major metaphors** for the Holy Spirit throughout the bible. They demonstrate why it is difficult to define the **outer edges** (function) of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit as Oil

The first two times the word "oil" appears in Scripture, it symbolizes **God's presence**. Genesis 28:18 , Genesis 35:14

The phrase "anointing oil" appears **eighty-five times** in the Old Testament alone. Fifty-four of the eighty-five occurrences of the phrase "anointing oil" are in the Pentateuch and are directly related to God's holy presence in the tabernacle.

So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and **anointed** David with the oil. And the **Spirit of the Lord** came powerfully **upon** David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah. [1 Samuel 16:13](#)

Holy Spirit as Oil

I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl of **oil** on top of it. Around the bowl are seven lamps, each having seven spouts with wicks. And I see two olive trees, one on each side of the bowl." Then I asked the angel, "What are these, my lord? **What do they mean?**" "Don't you know?" the angel asked. "No, my lord," I replied. [Zechariah 4:2b-5](#)

Then he said to me, "This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my **Spirit**, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. [Vs 6](#)

Holy Spirit as Oil

“Then the **Kingdom of Heaven** will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were **foolish** didn't take enough olive **oil** for their lamps, but the other five were **wise** enough to take along **extra oil**.” **Matthew 25:1-4**

Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our **lamps are going out**.’ **Vs 8**

“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was **locked**.” **Vs 10**

“But he called back, ‘Believe me, **I don't know you!**’ **Vs 12**

Holy Spirit as Oil

But the **anointing** that you received from him **abides (meno)** in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. [1 John 2:27 ESV](#)

Abides (meno), a characteristic Johannine term, portrays habitual fellowship with Him as an active relationship that endures, keep on, continue in an activity or state, as an aspect of an action

So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the **difference between** truth and lies. [Vs 21](#)

So you must remain faithful to what you have been **taught** from the beginning. [Vs 24](#)

Holy Spirit as Oil

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on **oil** and wine. [Luke 10:33-34a](#)

Holy Spirit as Wind/Breath

The **wind** blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the **Spirit**. [John 3:8](#)

Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty **windstorm**, and it filled the house where they were sitting. [Acts 2:2](#)

Then he **breathed** on them and said,
"Receive the **Holy Spirit**." [John 20:22](#)

All Scripture is **breathed** out by God [2 Timothy 3:16a](#)

Holy Spirit as Wind/Breath

The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the **Spirit of the Lord** to a valley filled with bones. [Ezekiel 37:1](#)

Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the **winds**, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O **breath**, from the four winds! **Breathe** into these dead bodies so they may **live** again.'" [Vs 9](#)

I will put my **Spirit** in you, and you will live **again** [Vs 14a](#)

Holy Spirit as Fire

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with **fire**. [Matthew 3:11b](#)

For our God is a devouring **fire**. [Hebrews 12:29](#)

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty **windstorm**, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like **flames** or tongues of **fire** appeared and settled on each of them. [Acts 2:1-3](#)

Holy Spirit as Fire

The Lord will wash the filth from beautiful Zion and cleanse Jerusalem of its bloodstains with the hot breath of **fiery** judgment. [Isaiah 4:4](#)

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart. [Proverbs 17:3](#)

There the **angel (malak) of the Lord (Jehovah)** appeared to him in a **blazing fire** from the middle of a bush...When the **Lord** saw Moses coming to take a closer look, **God (Elohim)** called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" [Exodus 3:2a, 4](#)

Holy Spirit as Fire

Shekinah (Shechinah) is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning "the one who dwells" or "that which dwells"

Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live **among** them. [Exodus 25:8](#)

The "glory" of the Old Testament carries with it the idea of "**weightiness**,"

Holy Spirit as Fire

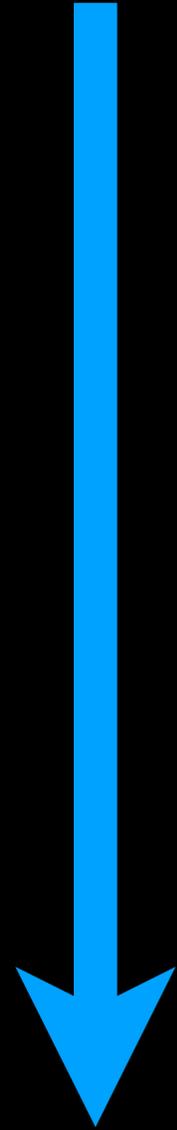
Various writers [in second-Temple Judaism] spoke of God's word, God's wisdom, God's law, God's tabernacling presence (shekinah), and **God's Spirit**, as though these were at one and the same time independent beings and yet were ways in which the one true God could be with his people, with the world, healing, guiding, judging and saving. [N.T Wright](#)

Take the anointing **oil** and anoint the Tabernacle and all its furnishings to **consecrate** them and make them holy. [Exodus 40:9](#)

Then the **cloud** covered the Tabernacle, and the **glory** of the Lord filled the Tabernacle [Vs 34](#)

Now whenever the **cloud** lifted from the Tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted. The cloud of the Lord hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night **fire glowed** inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys. [Vs 36-38](#)

Life Cycle of the Disciple of Jesus



Oil: consecration (calling/chosen), God's presence

Wind: new life, power

Fire: purification, passion

The Holy Spirit is triggered by **need** (salvation)

Comfort resists the Spirit (growth)

Oil, wind and **fire** addresses both of these

And I know that nothing good lives **in me**, that is, in my **sinful nature**. I want to do what is right, but I can't. **Romans 7:18**

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will **free me** from this life that is dominated by **sin and death**? **Vs 24**

For all who are **led** by the **Spirit of God** are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." **8:14-15**

For his **Spirit** joins with our **spirit** to affirm that we are God's children. **Vs 16**

Baptism

Sunday July 10th





UCC in the Park

July and August

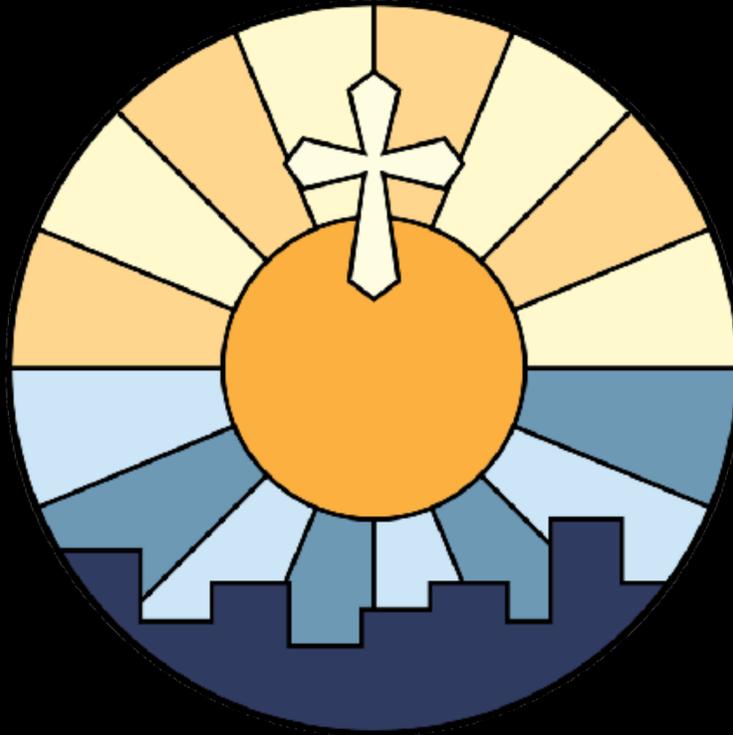


Kids Volunteers

On **June 26th**, UCC will
cease to live stream its services

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