

Bible Text New International Version	How is the Holy Spirit revealed in these Scriptures?
<p>Luke 1:57-80</p> <p>The Birth of John the Baptist</p> <p>⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.</p> <p>⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."</p> <p>⁶¹ They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."</p> <p>⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	

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<p>Luke 1:57-80 (continued) Zechariah's Song ⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: ⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^a of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— ⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." ⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit^b; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.</p> <p>a. <i>Horn</i> here symbolizes a strong king. b. <i>Or in the Spirit</i></p>	

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<p>Luke 3:15-18</p> <p>¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with^[d] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.</p> <p>c. Or <i>in</i> d. Or <i>in</i></p>	

Reflections

In Luke 1:57-80 seeing the Holy Spirit heal, restore, and empower Zechariah is an opportunity to reflect on God's grace. How have you experienced the grace of restored speech, spirit, or life? How have you shared that grace with others?

For what would you praise the Holy Spirit in your life recently?

