

1 **Christmas and the Holy Spirit**

2 **"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..."**

- A young couple on a date in Louisville, Kentucky decided after dinner—on the spur of the moment—that they would go and see a new movie—just released.
- Arriving late and having to sit on the front row, they had no idea what they were about to see and how it would start a new era in movie going hysteria.
- That movie was called Star Wars and the year was 1977.

3 **"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..."**

- When Sally and I saw Star Wars for the first time, we thought that the scrolling introduction was so very cool.
- Since then all Star Wars films have used this as an introduction.

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5 **The Force Awakens**

- The Force Awakens promises to be one of the monster films of the Christmas season.
- Set 30 years after the events of Return of the Jedi, this movie features some fresh characters right alongside the heroes of previous Star Wars installments -- Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia.
- You'll also see Stormtroopers, X-wing fighters, R2-D2, light sabers and Chewbacca. They'll all be back.

6 **The Force**

- And, of course, you'll experience "the Force."
- This is a power defined by Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi as "an energy field created by all living things."
- It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together."
- Like "Duct Tape" The Force has a light side and a dark side, and can be used for good or for evil.
- "The Force is strong in my family," says Luke Skywalker in the trailer for The Force Awakens. "My father has it. I have it. My sister has it. You have that power, too."

7 **The Promise**

- However, according to the New Testament an even stronger force has appeared.
- According to John the Baptist this force will be in full operation in the ministry of God's Messiah and will be poured out on all His believers.
- "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry." (Matt. 3:11)
- "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matt 3:12 NIV)

8 **George Lucas - The Force**

- When George Lucas developed Star Wars, he wasn't out to create a new religion or promote an existing one.
- His motives were simply literary and that is to aid in the plot of the storyline.
- Nevertheless, what was produced has become highly controversial.
- Some say his concept of the Force is a reference to the Holy Spirit, while others believe it has more to do with Eastern Religions, such as Buddhism, Taoism, and The New Age.

9 **Nature of The Force**

- In Star Wars the Force is the following.
 - In essence it is power.
 - It lives in all animate and inanimate objects (i.e., pantheism).
 - It is dualistic, it has a good side and a dark side.
 - Its power can be accessed through meditation and the aligning of one's self to one of its dualistic dimensions.

10 **Nature of the Holy Spirit**

- The primary nature of the Holy Spirit is as follows . . .
 - It is not a force but a person—the third person of the Godhead (Trinity).
 - He doesn't exist in everything, but did in power and wisdom create everything.
 - And according to Jesus Christ, He is the promise of the Father—the Comforter who will empower and dwell in those who obey God's word become Jesus' disciples.
 - To them and to all those who love the truth, He will guide them into all truth and give them peace.

11 **The Promise of the Father**

- "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:15–17 NIV)
- But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26 NIV)

12 **Jesus' Last Words**

- On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4–5 NIV)

- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8 NIV)

13 Pentecost

- When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. (Acts 2:1 NIV)
- Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:2 NIV)
- They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. (Acts 2:3 NIV)
- All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4 NIV)

14 Early Church

- Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. (Acts 2:43 NIV)
- All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. (Acts 2:44–45 NIV)

15 Healing of the Crippled Man

- One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. (Acts 3:1 NIV)
- Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. (Acts 3:2 NIV)

16 Healing of the Crippled Man

- When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” (Acts 3:3–4 NIV)
- So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. (Acts 3:5 NIV)

17 Healing of the Crippled Man

- Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” (Acts 3:6 NIV)
- Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. (Acts 3:7 NIV)
- He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (Acts 3:6–8 NIV)

18 Early Church

- The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. (Acts 5:12 NIV)
- . . . people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. (Acts 5:15 NIV)
- Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. (Acts 5:15–16 NIV)

19 Jewish Jealousy and Envy

- Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. (Acts 5:17–18 NIV)
- But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." (Acts 5:19–20 NIV)

20 Peter's Trial

- When Peter was brought before the Sanhedrin to answer for disobeying orders to stop preaching in Jesus' name, Peter answered them by saying . . .
- "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29 NIV)
- God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. (Acts 5:31 NIV)

21 Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (Acts 5:32 NIV)

22 Summary

- According to the movie Star Wars, "The Force" is a power that one can flow in, if you got the contemplative skills to become a Jedi Master.
- According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit's power is something one can flow in as well, if you've got the will and inner conviction to become a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

23 Summary

- The movie Star Wars is fiction, but the Bible is not.
- God does promise incredible great power to them who believe and make Jesus Christ their Lord.
- According to the Apostle Paul, we have incomparably great power for us who believe. (Eph 1:19 NIV)

- That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, (Eph 1:19–20 NIV)

24 **Christmas & The Holy Spirit**

- Jesus Christ came to this earth to redeem sinners, so that through the power of the Holy Spirit, they may have power to be overcomers.
- In other words, Jesus came, to give us The Promise—God’s Holy Spirit that He may live in us helping us to be more than conquerors as we abide in Christ’s Word.
- So then, let us be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, so that the fulness of God’s Spirit may dwell in us richly and bring glory to God as a witness of what God can do through those who serve Him.

25 **Conclusion**

- As the Scripture says, . . .
 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20–21 NIV)
- Merry Christmas and may the force of God’s Holy Spirit live in you richly.