



THE HOLY SPIRIT

The mighty power of God

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GOD'S SPIRIT AT WORK

THE SPIRIT IN THE BEGINNING

The Bible account of Creation starts with the Spirit of God in action

It moves water, dries land, and creates life on earth

See Genesis 1:1-7

These acts required vast sums of energy

Energy can be in the form of heat, light or movement

THE SPIRIT IN THE BEGINNING

Energy and matter are inter-changeable

$$E=MC^2$$

See Hebrews 11:3

Evolutionists have no explanation for a source of the energy without which there would be no universe

GOD'S POWER TO KNOW US

The Psalmist says God's Spirit keeps Him
in touch with the world

See Psalm 139:3-9

GOD'S POWER GIVEN TO MEN

In Bible times men were given God's power to make things, to win battles, to work miracles

See Exodus 31:2-4

See Judges 6:34

See 1 Corinthians 12:6-10

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

GOD'S POWER BRINGS JESUS INTO THE WORLD

Jesus had no human father

He was born by the power of the Holy Spirit
acting on Mary's womb

See Luke 1:32 and vv 34,35

WHAT IS 'HOLY' SPIRIT?

WHAT IS 'HOLY' SPIRIT?

'Holy' means set apart, special to God

'Holy Spirit' occurs frequently in the New Testament

For example:

See Luke 3:22

See Acts 1:5,8 and Acts 2:2-4

See 2 Peter 1:20, 21

WHAT IS 'HOLY' SPIRIT?

The phrase 'Holy Spirit' only occurs twice in the Old Testament:

“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your **Holy Spirit** from me” Psalm 51:11 ESV

“But they rebelled and grieved his **Holy Spirit** ... he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his **Holy Spirit**”, Isaiah 63:10,11 ESV

WHAT IS 'HOLY' SPIRIT?

Probably it means God's spirit power used specifically to help and encourage men and women

PERSONIFICATION

PERSONIFICATION

'Spirit' is intangible, like electricity, or heat or light

Sometimes the Bible uses real objects to represent the Spirit

A **dove** descended on Jesus

Tongues of fire fell on the 12 at Pentecost

Paul says we are **anointed** with the Spirit

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as **water** coming from his pierced side

PERSONIFICATION

Sometimes the Bible speaks of the Spirit as if it speaks and hears

See John 14:26

The Greek word here is neuter ('it') and means 'advocate'

Note the Comforter is sent from God and confers **the same supernatural powers** as the Old Testament prophets

It is not a separate person

PERSONIFICATION

See also Revelation 2:7

Here Jesus uses a familiar phrase 'He who has an ear to hear' but adds '**what the Spirit says**'

However, it is Jesus himself who is speaking – compare ch 2:1 and ch 1:12-16

The risen Christ is immortal, and uses God's Spirit to encourage and warn us

PERSONIFICATION

See also Romans 8:26

Here the Spirit is our advocate before God

But see v 34

It is Jesus, the risen Christ, who through the Spirit knows our problems and speaks for us to God

*THE SPIRIT IS NOT PART
OF A TRINITY*

THE TRINITY

Long after the First Century, the Church developed the idea that there are three Gods in one

The Athanasian Creed (c. 500 AD) says the Spirit and Jesus and God are co-equal and co-eternal

But this idea is not found in the Bible

THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY

DO WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY?

We have seen that the early Church was given special powers by Jesus to help it become established

These included:

- prophecy
- miracles of healing
- speaking in foreign languages

See 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

DO WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY?

These special powers were given by the 12
Apostles

See Acts 8:14-19

Like the similar powers given to people in
the Old Testament, these powers were
temporary

No one today speaks as a prophet of God,
or raises the dead, or understands a
foreign language without training

DO WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY?

Is the Holy Spirit active in our lives today?

Yes, God's uses his Spirit to know what we are doing, and to understand our thoughts

God's angels use his power to influence the circumstances of our lives

“And to which of the angels has he ever said,
“Sit at my right hand ...Are they not **all**
ministering spirits sent out to serve for the
sake of those who are to inherit salvation?”

Hebrews 1:13,14 ESV

DO WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY?

We have no direct revelation from God today, but the Bible was written by the power of the Holy Spirit, and it teaches us what to do

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work”
2 Timothy 3:16,17 ESV

SUMMARY

God's Spirit is his mighty power

**'Holy' Spirit probably means God's power
when used to guide and encourage
people**

**The Holy Spirit is sometimes personified
when Jesus is at work**

It is not in the Bible part of a triple God

**Holy Spirit powers were given to God's
people at times for a specific purpose**

We do not possess these powers today

THE END

