

The Holy Spirit  
Genesis 1:1-2  
Psalm 51:1-13  
John 14:15-18, 25-26  
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A boy one day was flying his kite and it was really windy. The kite went higher and higher, until all you could see was just a dot. A man came by and all he could see was a boy holding a string and looking up into the sky. The man asked the boy what he was doing. The boy answered, "Flying a kite," the boy replied, "Because I can feel it."

There are many things that we know are there, but we just can't see them --- a mother's love, a high wind, the voice of a soprano in a choir, the note from an organ. Just because we can't see something doesn't mean there not there. Think about it: Can you see hate? Or bias? Or malice? Got any doubt they exist.

So, why when it comes to the Holy Spirit, do we get scientific or empirical, and say, because I can't see it, that proves it's not there? It is. The Bible is full of references to the Holy Spirit. From the first few words to the final scenes of the second coming of Christ, the writers of the 66 Books of the Bible referred often to the Holy Spirit and the work of the Spirit and by including the Spirit throughout, affirmed the Spirit existed. The point is, the Holy Spirit is a part of God, a part that was there in the beginning. Our first reading is from Genesis 1:1-2. As I read it, listen to hear what God's word says about the Spirit.

Genesis 1:1-2

God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, was there in the beginning, active, ready to work and do the Father's bidding. As soon as God, the Father, gave the word, "Let there be" ---- the Holy Spirit went to work. You see, the Holy Spirit is God's worker bee, God's enabler, God's power at work. The Holy Spirit is God, a major part of God, and being a part of something else means we have to explain what this means.

Let's go at it this way. In my life if third parties were asked who is this Wallace, some would say a Minister, others a lawyer, or a genealogist, or a business man or a sailor or a pilot? That's six different people, but it's still just me, one person. God is no different. God is one, not three. We know God as Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, but it's the same God, doing it all. So we know God as Father in creating and sustaining, we know God as Son in redeeming and salvation, and we know God as Holy Spirit, when it comes to getting things done, when it comes to empowering and enabling believers. One God, yet multiple ways to be known.

Need more help -- consider water: we drink it as a liquid, we cool our drinks with it as a solid called ice, and we can turn it into a vapor for a sauna. Liquid, solid, gas --three different appearances-- yet all just water, all still with the chemical formula of H<sub>2</sub>O. So, let's go back. One God: known to us in multiple ways, one of which is the Holy Spirit. And know this: God's Spirit was active in the creation of Genesis 1:1 and has been a major actor in the events of both the Old and New Testament. Moses was helped by the Spirit in getting Israel out of Egypt. Joshua was Spirit filled and Spirit led. Sampson was given the Spirit from time to time. David was empowered by the Spirit. Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophesied and shared the word God gave them after being Spirit filled..

David captures the Old Testament understanding of the Holy Spirit in Psalm 51:1-12, which we will read next.

Psalm 51:1-13

David's plea was for God not to take his Holy Spirit away.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was there, but the Spirit is seen only in specific people or as a part of specific events. The Holy Spirit of the Old Testament seemed always available, as God determined, but not universally so, and the spirit came and went. When we get to the New Testament that coming and going continued as least through Christ's life. Mary became pregnant through the office of the Spirit. Jesus was filled with the Spirit at his Baptism. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tested by the Devil. Those specific appearances and actions of the Spirit continued the practice of the Old Testament, but something new was coming. The availability of the Spirit was to be changed. The Spirit was not going to come and go. Jesus told his disciples at the last Supper that he was about to leave them, that the time had come for his supreme sacrifice, but Jesus told them he would not leave them alone, without hope, as if they were orphans. Listen to Jesus' words in John 14 and see if you hear something different about to happen with the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-18. 25-26

Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans. I will ask the Father to send you another, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to come and be with you, "TO TAKE MY PLACE" means Jesus would be going the next day but one would be sent to take his place, one sent for us, to us, to do what Jesus had been doing---The Holy Spirit!. The Spirit of the New Testament is the same as the Spirit of the Old Testament, but now the Spirit would not come and go or be for special people or be sent for special occasions. Now the Spirit has been sent and the Spirit will remain and will be available to all who believe and this would be true for all time. The Holy Spirit first seen in Genesis is now available to us and for us and will dwell within us and will enable and empower us

To do what?

- To teach us about Christ –not just the facts but the meaning and significance of the events and the words
- To enable us to take the Good news to the world and to preach it and teach it and live it.
- To give us the energy and the strength to do what God has called us to do.
- To convict the sinner of his or her sin and to convince them to change—to repent. We get so mixed up here- it's not our job to save others; fact is, we can't. It's our job to go, and to take the good news, and to tell it, and to live it, but it is the Spirit's job to convert, to save, to carry out God's plan of redemption.

The Holy Spirit from the resurrection on is permanent, is available to every believer, and is God's saving grace in action. Let me give you an example of how good the Spirit is. Can you guess the typical

personality type of the majority of preachers according to the Myers-Briggs personality profiling test? It is an I, which stands for Introverts. Most ministers are Introverts, meaning they're shy and find it difficult to stand before a crowd and speak. Yet, the Holy Spirit enables them to get up in front of you and proclaim the gospel, and some do it wonderfully.

Now let's think a minute about what the Holy Spirit has accomplished:

Look at the Apostles Creed in your bulletin. There are three parts to it. The first part contains what we believe about God the Father: Almighty, Creator, Father of Christ, sender of Christ. The second part states what we believe about Christ—conceived by actions of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered for us, crucified for us, died for us, was raised for us, lives for us. The rest of the Creed is about the work of the Holy Spirit. Listen! The Holy Spirit brought about the church and keeps on bringing it, the Holy Spirit has brought us saints from everywhere and united us into one communion. The Holy Spirit enables us to forgive others of their sins against us and is the actor who changes us so that God's forgiveness might wash away all of our sins. And a final action, the Holy Spirit unites us now with Christ and does so again in death and in the end will be the agent which causes our bodies to rise from the grave. So, remember, the last section of the Apostles Creed is all about the Spirit at work.

I want to close with an example. I am holding in my hand an object. Know what it is? A glove! Now I want you to tell me what can a glove do? Keep us warm? Protect our hands from injury or damage? Help us to get a better grip? Dress us more completely? Actually, the right answer is NOTHING. A glove can't do anything by itself, except just be there. It's not until you put a hand in it, that it is able to do all these wonderful things. We are like this glove. We can be the most highly educated, best trained, most experienced, but if the Holy Spirit is not in us, then we can do nothing.

Christ promised he would ask his Father to send the Spirit and he did and the Spirit has come. It won't go away. It awaits your invitation—come Holy Spirit, come and live within me. If I am a glove, then fill me and use me to do what I can do. The Spirit is for each of us, but we have to let the Spirit in. Jesus told Nicodemus about being born a second time as a necessity for being a Christian. The first birth is of water, the second by the Spirit. Have you been born again? Does the Spirit live within you, or do you just pass it by? It's not too late to make a choice. .

**Genesis 1:1-2**

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep(Chaos)  
And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters,
- 3 And God said, Let there be light.....

**The Word Of The Lord!**

**Psalm 51:1-13**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love,  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
So you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.
- 5 Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 Yet, you desired faithfulness even in the womb,  
You taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean,  
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness, let the bones you have crushed, rejoice
- 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
So that sinners will turn back to you.

**The Word Of The Lord!**

John 14:15-18, 25-26

- 15 If you love me, keep my commands.
- 16 And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever,  
17 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.
- 18 I will not leave you as orphans.  
I will come to you.
- 25 All this I have spoken while still with you.  
26 But the Advocate, 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.  
27 Peace! I leave with you, my peace I give you.

The Word Of The Lord!