

“The Spirit of God”

1A. The Holy Spirit’s Identity

1B. He is the third *Person* of the Godhead or the Trinity.

1C. He possesses the attributes of personality.

1D. Intellect (1 Cor. 2:10-11; Rom. 8:27).

2D. Emotions (Rom. 15:30; Eph. 4:30)

3D. Will (Acts 16:6-11; 1 Cor. 12:11)

2C. He performs actions of a person, such as the following:

1D. He teaches (John 14:26).

2D. He Reminds (John 14:25).

3D. He guides (John 16:13; Rom. 8:14).

4D. He prays (Rom. 8:26)

5D. He gives gifts (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12).

3C. He is treated as a person.

1D. He can be obeyed (Acts 10:19-21a).

2D. He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).

3D. He can be resisted (Acts 7:51).

4D. He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30).

5D. He can be insulted (Heb. 10:29).

4C. Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit as a person, i.e., as “He” or “Him” (John 14:16-18).

1D. The Spirit of God is not an influence, ethereal force, or power that we can somehow harness and utilize to fulfill our own desires.

2D. In referring to the Spirit, Jesus said “I will come to you” (John 14:18).

3D. The Holy Spirit is the very presence of Jesus in the disciples.

4D. The Spirit’s presence in the believer places us in a personal relationship with Christ and the Father.

2B. He is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son, possessing all of attributes of deity.

1C. The Holy Spirit has divine names (Acts 8:9, 16:7; Luke 4:18).

2C. The Holy Spirit has divine attributes (Psa. 139:7; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; Heb. 9:14).

3C. The Holy Spirit performs divine acts (Gen. 1:2; Luke 1:35; John 3:6).

4C. The Holy Spirit is equated with God by association (Matt. 3:17, 28:19; Acts 28:25-26).

3B. From the Westminster Confession

“The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son, of the same substance and equal in power and glory, is, together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, loved, obeyed, and worshiped throughout all ages.”

2A. The Holy Spirit’s Purpose and Work in Believers

1B. He makes Jesus increasingly real in, to and through believers.

2B. He kindles within us a passion in to glorify Christ and be like Him.

3B. The Holy Spirit does what He does in the lives of believers for:

1C. The glory of Jesus

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15, CSB)

2C. The supernatural and global advancement of His glorious gospel

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, CSB)

1D. The Spirit of God sets us apart as messengers of the truth.

2D. The Spirit empowers us to proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ.

4B. The Holy Spirit is to a Helper Like Christ.

1C. The word “Helper” (“*paraclete*” in the Greek) is one “called to the side of” another for the purpose of helping.

2C. In John 14 and 15, the term “*paraclete*” conveys the idea of a Friend at court who does whatever is necessary to promote our best interests.

3C. The Holy Spirit who had been with the disciples throughout Jesus’s earthly ministry was going to be *everything that Christ was* to them.

4C. The work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of followers of Christ is too vast to be fully explained here. As a brief summary, the Spirit of God is:

- 1D. Like a wise *instructor*, He teaches us and reminds us of the things of Christ (John 15:26).
- 2D. Like a perfect *judge and advocate*, He convicts hearts of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).
- 3D. Like an experienced *guide*, He shows us the way of truth both in the present and for the future (John 16:13; Rom. 8:14).
- 4D. Like a caring *mentor*, He shows us His will in the Word of God explains how to walk in it (Rom. 12:1-2; Rom. 8:29; 1 Thess. 4:3-8).
- 5D. Like a *godly parent*, He shows us how to avoid and, when necessary, to overcome destructive powers of the flesh while journeying in an evil world (Gal. 5:16-18).
- 6D. Like a *generous benefactor*, He gives us supernatural gifts that we might steward those blessings to serve selflessly and build up one another (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

(This list was adapted from *Transforming Presence* by David Henderson, p. 82-83)

- 4C. The world, by contrast, cannot receive the Spirit and is quite unaware of the His existence and activity. It does not know Him and cannot relate to Him.
- 5C. Jesus told His disciples that it would be better for them that He ascend into heaven rather than remain on the earth because He would send the Spirit of truth (
 - 1D. Jesus meant that having the Holy Spirit *within* His disciples would be better than having Him walking beside them.
 - 2D. The Holy Spirit would provide the continual presence and power that every follower of Christ needs in order to please God.
- 6C. The Holy Spirit empowers us, as followers of Christ, to testify to the glory of Christ among those whose minds have been blinded to the truth.

In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor. 4:4, CSB)

- 1D. The Spirit enables our sharing the Gospel without losing heart (2 Cor. 4:1).

- 2D. The Spirit empowers us to live as humble servants and to declare the truth in a way that deeply affects the conscience of the unbeliever. (2 Cor. 4:2)
- 3D. With God's power and truth residing in our hearts, we become agents of "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:6)

3A. Being Filled with the Spirit

For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since he gives the Spirit without measure. (John 3:34)

1B. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit deals primarily with the believer's standing or position in Christ. In contrast, the filling of the Spirit deals with our state or performance in the course of daily living.

1C. "Being filled" refers to the Holy Spirit ruling the heart, mind, and action of a Christ follower in a consistent way so as to produce the fruit of Christ's character and affect his or her relationships with others."¹

2C. Filling of the Spirit can also result in sudden, supernatural ministry impacts (Luke 1:15; 1:41; 1:67, 4:1; Acts 2:4, 4:8, 31).

2B. As followers of Christ, we all need to live in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and are commanded to be filled.

1C. Ephesians 5:18

And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:

2C. This Scripture uses the imperative form of the verb, thus it commands us to be continually being filled. It is not optional!

3C. Use of the passive voice in this text indicates that we do not cause the filling to occur or "drum it up" in some way. Rather, the filling happens to us as we yield to the indwelling Spirit of God.

4C. Being filled by the Spirit is a continuous necessity and not a one-time event (indicated by the present tense of the verb).

5C. When we yield or surrender our whole lives to the will of the Lord, the Holy Spirit is free to operate in us and through us to promote Christ.

3B. Let us pursue full submission to the Holy Spirit who transforms us into Christlikeness from the inside out and uses us to reach others for Christ.

¹ Daniel Henderson, Transforming Presence, p.134-135.