

Holy Spirit part 3

Someone once said that the average church member's understanding of the Holy Spirit is so vague uncertain or unclear it seems to be nearly non-existent.

The word Trinity itself never occurs in the Bible although the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are separate persons but one God.

The study of the Holy Spirit raises certain basic questions. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is the biblical evidence for the personhood of the Spirit? What did the Holy Spirit do in regard to creation and revelation? What is the Holy Spirit's role in a person's conversion and sanctification? What about spiritual gifts?

The Personhood and Deity of the Spirit

First of all, The Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity and as such is a person. The Spirit has attributes that only a person could have. He has intelligence [1Corinthians 2:10-13](#), feelings [Ephesians 4:30](#), and a will [1 Corinthians 12:11](#); [Acts 16:6-12](#). He prays [Romans 8:26](#).

The Work of the Holy Spirit in regard to Man's Salvation

The Bible also describes the Holy Spirit as very active in man's salvation. His work can be divided into three general categories of activity:

The Pre-Conversion Work of the Holy Spirit

Prior to anyone placing his or her faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is involved in setting the conditions that allow for someone's faith response to the gospel. [1 Thessalonians 1:5](#).

The Conversion Work of the Holy Spirit

Regeneration may be defined as "the impartation of new life" or "the new birth." [Titus 3:5](#). [Acts 2:38-42](#).

Upon conversion the believer in Jesus Christ is said to be baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. [1 Corinthians 12:13](#).

This baptism forms our union with Christ and with fellow believers. Related to the baptism of the Spirit is the indwelling of the Spirit. Upon and after conversion, the Holy Spirit indwells the life of the believer. [1 Corinthians 3:16](#). ([Romans 8:9](#),

Spiritual Gifts

Lastly, every person who has been born again receives a spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit. [1 Corinthians 12:1-4, 7](#), [Ephesians 4:1-4](#)

The Post-Conversion Work of the Holy Spirit

What is the role of the Holy Spirit following conversion? The filling, empowering and guiding of the believer is included in this part of the Holy Spirit's ministry.

While the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs once at conversion, the filling of the Spirit can happen multiple times after conversion and also is commanded. [Ephesians 5:18](#)

The point is don't let wine control you but rather have the Holy Spirit do so. [Galatians 5:16, 22-23](#). [Romans 8:14](#)

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Four prominent symbols that refer to the Holy Spirit are the dove, fire, wind and water.

Dove; [Matthew 3:16](#), **Fire** [Acts 2:1-4](#), **Wind** [John 3:8](#), **Water** [John 7:37-39](#)).

Christians should not be afraid of the Holy Spirit but rather look to the Spirit for guidance and spiritual strength.