



THE SPIRIT WITHIN

GOD'S NEW CREATION

Francis Chan, *Forgotten God*:

“If I were Satan and my ultimate goal was to thwart God’s kingdom and purposes, one of my main strategies would be to get churchgoers to ignore the Holy Spirit.”

*THE
SPIRIT
WITHIN*

A stylized flame graphic in the bottom left corner, composed of overlapping shapes in shades of blue, purple, and orange, resembling fire or the tongues of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Words for "Spirit"

- Old Testament: Hebrew, *ruach*
- New Testament: Greek, *pneuma*

These words also mean "wind" and "breath."

The Holy Spirit is God's agent of creation / new creation.

- Genesis 1:2 - The Spirit (*ruach*) hovers over the waters.
- Genesis 6:17; 7:22 - Living things have the Spirit (*ruach*).
- Acts 2:38 - Baptism and the gift of the Spirit (*pneuma*).

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

Matthew 3:13-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Baptism of Jesus:

- Jesus identifies with the people. He is numbered with the transgressors (Isa. 53:12) in order to fulfill all righteousness, meaning He fulfills God's plan to make sinners righteous (Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- All three members of the Trinity are present: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.
- God the Father announces the identity of Jesus by quoting from Psalm 2, a royal psalm.

Psalm 2:1-8

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

Psalm 2:1-8

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession."

At His baptism, Jesus is anointed as
a new king, the king of new creation.

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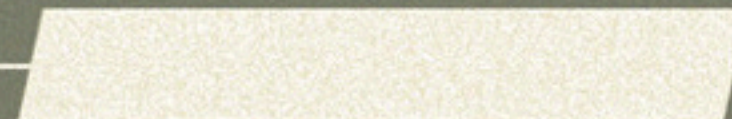
1. The Holy Spirit is divine, a member of the Trinity.

- The Father, the Son, and the Spirit share in the same divine nature.

The divine attributes of the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).
- The Holy Spirit is omni-present (Psalm 139:7-8).
- The Holy Spirit is holy (John 14:26).

See also 2 Cor. 13:14, Acts 5:3-4.



2. The Holy Spirit is personal, a "who" not a "what."

Verbs used in the NT in connection with the Spirit:

1. Testifies - Rom. 8:16
2. Intercedes - Rom. 8:27
3. Searches - 1 Cor. 2:10-11
4. Distributes gifts - 1 Cor. 12:11
5. Can be outraged - Heb. 10:29
6. Forbids - Acts 16:6
7. Prevents - Acts 16:7
8. Sends - Acts 13:4
9. Put to the test - Acts 5:9
10. Grieved by sin - Eph. 4:30

2022: 60% of American Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is a "force," not a "being."

These verbs require a person to carry them out. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force.

3. The Holy Spirit is the agent of new creation.

- The Spirit was active in the original creation (Gen. 1).
- The Spirit was active in the conception of Jesus (Matt. 1) and the church (Acts 2).
- And the Spirit is God's agent of new creation in us to this day, sanctifying us and forming us into the image of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit does this by pointing us to Jesus.

