

## God in Us – Who is the Holy Spirit?

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Rikk Watts

Three considerations as we first approach this subject:

- The Holy Spirit is often the “forgotten” member of the Trinity. “The Father, Son and Holy Scripture...”
- There has been division over who he is and what he does.
- This has been the “Pentecostal Century” because of the impact of the movement around the globe.

The Trinity – A biblical reality

- Father – Israel’s Father (Exodus 4.22). God first calls Israel his firstborn son.
- Son – Jesus, the new Israel, taking up the whole story into himself, showing us what it means to be truly human.
- Spirit – Is also a person (can be grieved). Not a power or an “it”.

How does the Trinity work?

- We can’t explain Spirit as we live in a world of matter. Therefore God’s nature is hard to explain. If so, we shouldn’t try and make guesses!
- God is uncreated Spirit and all we know is created matter.
- We must read biblically about God’s nature and understand him that way, rather than coming up with our own ideas – like Pythagoras’ triangles!

A biography of the Holy Spirit

- Creation
  - The Spirit broods over the deep and is the architect of creation, bringing into being what God intends.
- God’s Temple
  - Made in his image, we are the physical manifestation of God’s presence on earth, indwelt by his Spirit. We don’t make an image of God and put him in a temple we’ve made, he made us a temple (the cosmos) and puts us in it with his Spirit.
- Exodus
  - Moses used by God’s Spirit.
  - The Judges and Kings empowered by the Spirit (1 Sam 10, 1 Sam 16)
  - Prophets used and empowered by the Spirit (Micah 3.8)
- Only some
  - Not all people had God’s Spirit in, just a few and it was described in language of power.
- Future
  - The Messiah had the Spirit on him (Isaiah 1-2, Isaiah 42.1).
  - It would be for *all people* one day (Ezekiel 36.26-27, Joel 2. 28-30).
- Famine
  - Amos 8. 11-12, 1 Mac 9, 27 – God is silent for 400 years.

- New Hope
  - Mark 1. 4-8
  - “Baptism in the Spirit” is John’s language.
  - Why a dove at Jesus’ baptism? A dove knows two things, where to do and how to fly their fast. Israel needs to always fly quickly to God in need, it’s all they really had. It’s all we really have too!
- What comes of God’s Spirit in us?
  - We will be people of character if we have God’s Spirit in us. We can’t claim to be filled with God’s Spirit and not be people of character – there must be fruit!
  - The fruit of the Spirit is that we look like the God who has put his Spirit in us.

### **Questions**

- What do you know of the Holy Spirit? What have you heard or learned in the past?
- What did you learn from this sermon?
- What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?