

The Trinity Revisited The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity (Latin: *Trinitas*, lit. 'triad', from *trinus*, "threefold")

One God in three Divine Persons. The three persons are distinct, yet are all one in substance, essence and nature (*homoousios* - same essence/stuff). One being, three persons.

We are monotheists (One God) Deuteronomy 4 :35, Psalm 86 :10, 1 Timothy 1 :17, Deut 6 :4 'God is one'. Hebrew *echad* Hebrew word is plural e.g. one bunch of grapes. 'Echad' used in Genesis 1 :5, 2 :24 Exodus 26 :6,11 One can contain different elements.

Important to note God, is a person, not 'a force'. Cannot have a relationship with force!

Scripture clearly talks about the persons of the trinity without laying it out as a formal doctrine.

2 Corinthians 13 :14, Matthew 28 :19, 1 Peter 1 ;1-2 Jesus is God Matthew 1 :23, John 8 :58-59 Titus 2 :13

The three persons are seen working together. Genesis 1 :1-2, 26 (plural) Isaiah 61 :1, Matthew 3 :16-17

The doctrine of the Trinity was talked about by Ignatius in 100 AD, later it was formalised in a systematic way by Tertullian in 200 AD. He was the first to use the word 'trinity'. Included in Church doctrine at Nicaea.



Questions

Have you ever tried to explain the Trinity to someone? How do we do it?

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the hardest of the three persons of the Godhead to understand, because we have an image of a father, and can see pictures of what Jesus might have looked like.

John 14 :16-17 The Greek word is *Paraklētos* (lit 'Called to one's side') It means one who pleads another's cause before a judge. It also conveys the idea of a helper, assistant, supporter. Notice, he is another counsellor, as we still have Jesus. However the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus John 16 :13-14. There is an order within the trinity. John 14 :28, 5 :19. Deference however does not mean of less value.

The Bible has images of the Spirit:- dove, fire, wind etc, but the word Spirit is linked with breath and wind.

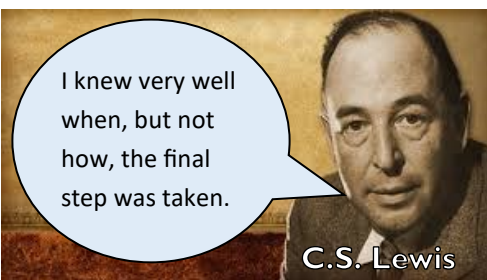
He is God. Acts 5 :3-4, He is everywhere Psalm 139 :7, He was before creation Genesis 1 :2 . He is holy

What does He do?

1. Regenerates. When we become a Christian we are born of the Spirit. John 3 :8 Titus 3 :4-7

The Spirit makes us alive to God, and makes us a new creation, born again. (Note, never call yourself a 'Born again Christian', you are not a Christian unless you are born again!) Before we are regenerated, we were dead in our

transgressions and sins (Ephesians 2 :1) but this deep work of God changes us. Linked with the work of the Spirit, is our repentance from sin and faith in Christ for salvation. It is then we are transferred from one kingdom to another, Colossians 1 :13. People's experiences may differ, but it is always a work of the Spirit, through the Son (provision), from the Father (plan).



2. Teaches and reminds John 14 :26. It is through the work of the Spirit that what seems foolish to a non believer makes sense to a regenerated person 1 Corinthians 2 :14. He can remind us of scriptures or sermons when we need to remember certain truths. The Spirit brought remembrance what Jesus said to write the gospels. The Spirit uses the Bible, Ephesians 6 tells us the Word of God is the 'Sword of the Spirit'.

3. **Gift Giver** The N.T. talks about Gifts of the Spirit. 21 different gifts are listed over three books. Every believer should be an active part of the Church, using the gifts, talents, and ministries he has given us. Pre-Pentecost only some believers had the Spirit for particular tasks e.g. Numbers 11 :24-26. Post Pentecost all believers are priests with service for God to do.
4. **Empowers** Jesus promised power when the Spirit came Acts 1 :8. It was power for a purpose, to preach the gospel. We can be bold in our faith, 2 Timothy 1:7
5. **Witnesses to, and assures** Romans 8 :16, An inner witness of God's spirit to our spirit. 1 John 4 :13
6. **Reveals and convicts of sin** It is the Spirit that speaks to us of our sin. John 16 :7-9. The Greek word used for convict in the Bible is *elegchō* which means to bring to light or to expose. The Spirit will convict us, to bring us to repentance.
7. **Causes creativity** The first person in the Bible described as being filled with the Spirit was for artistic purposes. Exodus 31 :1-5. The Arts reflects the character of God; harmony, order, symmetry, relationship, proportion, and beauty. Without God, there is chaos, disorder, ugliness, and darkness.
8. **Puts words in mouths** Jesus promised the Spirit would give us the words to say when we are called to account. Luke 12 :11-12. He can also help when we pray Romans 8 :26-27.
9. **Leads and guides** The Bible is full of examples of the Spirit giving guidance to people, some very direct e.g. Philip Acts 8 :29, 13 :2. Other examples are less dramatic, day to day living. Romans 8 :4 & 14. The Spirit can guide through the circumstances of life. E.g. The persecution of the church led to its spread.
10. **Bears fruit and sanctifies** The Holy Spirit does a work of sanctifying us, making us more like Jesus. 1 Peter 1 :2 Such as producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives Galatians 5 :22-23

Questions

How you have you experienced any of this, in your own life?

The Holy Spirit and us Christians have long debated whether or not, Christians should seek a second experience of the Holy Spirit after they have become a Christian. (See the study on Sanctification) However no one disputes all Christians should always seek to be full of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18, We can ask for more of the Spirit Luke 11 :11-13 All Christians have the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9, but does the Spirit have us?

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me,
fill me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.



Unconfessed sin and unbrokenness limit and dampen down His work in us.
1 Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 4:30

When we are broken before God, he can use us, and the Holy Spirit can flow out from us.

Case Studies of the Holy Spirit moving in particular places

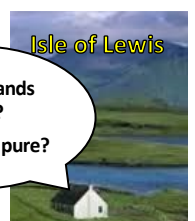
Welsh Revivals The Holy Spirit moved in Wales, causing a series of revivals. Notably 1859 & 1904. 1859 Humphrey Jones & David Morgan. Over 100,000 people turned to Christ. 1904 Evan Roberts was a man who the Spirit used, Again 100,000+ became Christians, whole communities changed.



Scottish Isles revivals Two elderly sisters (Peggy and Christine Smith) prayed earnestly on Lewis for revival on the Isle of Lewis. In 1949 revival broke out and Duncan Campbell came to the islands. It was noted for repentance and the Holy Spirit convicting many people of their sin. Hundreds of people, often young, for no apparent reason ran to the church and cried out to God, to save them. Around 20,000 turned to God over 2 years on the islands, crime fell, drunkenness became rare, and the islands were vastly changed.



Campbell & the sisters



Isle of Lewis

Are my hands clean?
Is my heart pure?

Read more- <https://romans1015.com/lewisrevival/>

Questions & Comments?

November - The life and work of Jesus