



The awesome power of God's Holy Spirit

What mankind most needs is spiritual power from our Creator God—the force He offers that can govern our lives, solve our problems and lead us to real peace. It is the fuel of spiritual transformation. And most importantly, for those who receive that Spirit, "If he plants in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit he will gather the harvest of eternal life" (Galatians 6:8, Today's English Version).

It's exciting to understand the reality of the Holy Spirit and how God uses it! But what exactly is it?

First of all, it is not something we are born with. It can only be received as a divine gift from God after one believes the truth of the Bible, repents of his sins and is baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38-44).

Secondly, contrary to popular tradition, the Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit is not a third person in a Trinity. (In fact, the word "trinity" is never mentioned in the Bible. It is hardly mentioned in historical records until about three centuries after the writing of the Bible was finished!)

In reality, the Bible shows that the Holy Spirit is the nature and essence of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. In fact, "God is Spirit" and the source of the Holy Spirit (John 4:24, emphasis added throughout). "The Spirit," "the Spirit of God" and "the Spirit of Christ" are used synonymously in Romans 8:9.

In the Bible, God's Spirit is compared with water (that one is "baptized with"), rivers (that "flow"), oil (that is "poured out"), a cloud (that "filled" the temple) and fire (that one can "quench" or "stir up" to rekindle). These comparisons would not make sense were the Holy Spirit a person.

God's Spirit emanates from Him and radiates everywhere, which explains the omnipresence of God—how God can, in effect, be present everywhere at all times. As David wrote: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?" (Psalm 139:7).

God's "broadcasting" by His Spirit has been easier to understand since the invention of radio and television. We can enjoy sights and sounds in our own homes as much as if we were in the faraway TV studio. We can get perfect "reception" from God no matter where we are.

God uses His Spirit as His "remote control." When "God created the heavens and the earth," He used the power of "the Spirit of God"



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(Genesis 1:1-2). After praising God's creation, the psalmist wrote, "You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth" (Psalm 104:30).

Ever since creation, God has used His Spirit to sustain and maintain the universe—everything from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. All creation functions perfectly according to the laws of nature—which God put in force and keeps in force.

God not only disseminates knowledge by His Spirit, but His Spirit brings Him awareness of all things. "You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off . . . For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether" (Psalm 139:2-4). Thus, by His Spirit God is omniscient, which means He has total knowledge!

And God is omnipotent—having universal and unlimited power! He is El Shaddai —God Almighty. Therefore, "with God, all things are possible" (Mark 10:27), whether it is parting the Red Sea, changing water to wine, healing the sick or resurrecting the dead. With every miracle, God is using the infinite power of His Spirit.

Perhaps the most far-reaching miracle was the incarnation of God when the Father sent His Spirit to impregnate a young virgin named Mary (Matthew 1:18, 20). That was Jesus Christ's first coming. The next great highlight in His story will be His second coming!

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